

**The THIRD Sunday after PENTECOST, 2020**

21 June 2020

*In "Virtual Grace"*

Organ Prelude -

*"Faith of our Fathers"*

Hymnal 1982 #558

*ANNOUNCEMENTS*

Hello and welcome to "Virtual Grace"  
from Grace Episcopal Church in Honesdale, PA,  
on this 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in "Ordinary Time" - and Fathers' Day.

I'm Fr. Ed, the rector of our parish.

We are grateful to all who have walked "Virtual Grace" these many weeks  
and we offer thanksgiving that we can now open our doors for worship -  
sadly, still with limitations and regulations for the safety of all.  
For that reason, we are glad to continue offering these video services.

If you are in any pastoral need at all, call me, 24/7.

I am more than ready to come to your spiritual aid and visit you -  
sadly, still with a mask!

We are grateful for those who have been able to make your sacrifices  
in offerings and contributions.

If you are able, help us to continue the various ministries of Grace Church  
through your gifts, remembering those in need around our community.

Come now, and let us bless the Lord together.

In the name of God the Creator, ✚ God the Sustainer, God who Sanctifies. Amen.

*CONFESSIO*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor:

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

May Almighty God in mercy receive our confession of sorrow and of faith,  
strengthen us in all goodness, ✚ and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep us  
in eternal life. Amen.

Join with me, as you are able, in offering God praise with the canticle *Jubilate*.

*CANTICLE* -

*Jubilate Deo*

BCP p.82

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; \*  
serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song.  
Know this: The Lord himself is God; \*  
he himself has made us, and we are his;  
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.  
Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise; \*  
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.  
For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; \*  
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

*COLLECT*

Proper 7-A, p. 230

Let us pray:

O Lord, make us have perpetual love and reverence for your holy Name,  
for you never fail to help and govern those whom you have set upon the  
sure foundation of your loving-kindness; through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and  
ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

*Romans 6: 1b - 11*

<sup>1</sup> Should we continue to live in sin so that God's grace will increase? <sup>2</sup> Certainly not! We have died to sin - how then can we go on living in it? <sup>3</sup> For surely you know that when we were baptized into union with Christ Jesus, we were baptized into union with his death. <sup>4</sup> By our baptism, then, we were buried with him and shared his death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from death by the glorious power of the Father, so also we might live a new life. <sup>5</sup> For since we have become one with him in dying as he did, in the same way we shall be one with him by being raised to life as he was.

<sup>6</sup> And we know that our old being has been put to death with Christ on his cross, in order that the power of the sinful self might be destroyed, so that we should no longer be the slaves of sin. <sup>7</sup> For when we die, we are set free from the power of sin. <sup>8</sup> Since we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup> For we know that Christ has been raised from death and will never die again - death will no longer rule over him. <sup>10</sup> And so, because he died, sin has no power over him; and now he lives his life in fellowship with God. <sup>11</sup> In the same way you are to think of yourselves as dead, so far as sin is concerned, but living in fellowship with God through Christ Jesus.

Here ends the Reading.

PSALM 86: 1-10, 16-17

- <sup>1</sup> Listen to me, Lord, and answer me, \*  
for I am helpless and weak.
- <sup>2</sup> Save me from death, because I am loyal to you; \*  
save me, for I am your servant and I trust in you.
- <sup>3</sup> You are my God, so be merciful to me; \*  
I pray to you all day long.
- <sup>4</sup> Make your servant glad, O Lord, \*  
because my prayers go up to you.
- <sup>5</sup> You are good to us and forgiving, \*  
full of constant love for all who pray to you.
- <sup>6</sup> Listen, Lord, to my prayer; \*  
hear my cries for help.

<sup>7</sup> I call to you in times of trouble, \*  
because you answer my prayers.  
<sup>8</sup> There is no god like you, O Lord, \*  
not one has done what you have done.  
<sup>9</sup> All the nations that you have created will come and bow down to you; \*  
they will praise your greatness.  
<sup>10</sup> You are mighty and do wonderful things; \*  
you alone are God.  
<sup>16</sup> Turn to me and have mercy on me; \*  
strengthen me and save me, because I serve you just as my mother did.  
<sup>17</sup> Show me proof of your goodness, Lord; \*  
those who hate me will be ashamed  
when they see that you have given me comfort and help.  
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

## SECOND READING

*Matthew 10: 24-39*

 <sup>24</sup> Jesus said to his disciples, "No pupil is greater than his teacher; no slave is greater than his master. <sup>25</sup> So a pupil should be satisfied to become like his teacher, and a slave like his master. If the head of the family is called Beelzebul, the members of the family will be called even worse names!

<sup>26</sup> "So do not be afraid of people. Whatever is now covered up will be uncovered, and every secret will be made known. <sup>27</sup> What I am telling you in the dark you must repeat in broad daylight, and what you have heard in private you must announce from the housetops. <sup>28</sup> Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather be afraid of God, who can destroy both body and soul in hell. <sup>29</sup> For only a penny you can buy two sparrows, yet not one sparrow falls to the ground without your Father's consent. <sup>30</sup> As for you, even the hairs of your head have all been counted. <sup>31</sup> So do not be afraid; you are worth much more than many sparrows!

<sup>32</sup> "Those who declare publicly that they belong to me, I will do the same for them before my Father in heaven. <sup>33</sup> But those who reject

me publicly, I will reject before my Father in heaven. <sup>34</sup> "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the world. No, I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. <sup>35</sup> I came to set sons against their fathers, daughters against their mothers, daughters-in-law against their mothers-in-law; <sup>36</sup> your worst enemies will be the members of your own family.

<sup>37</sup> "Those who love their father or mother more than me are not fit to be my disciples; those who love their son or daughter more than me are not fit to be my disciples. <sup>38</sup> Those who do not take up their cross and follow in my steps are not fit to be my disciples. <sup>39</sup> Those who try to gain their own life will lose it; but those who lose their life for my sake will gain it.

Here ends the Reading.

*MEDITATION*

“REST”

*Man was made to mourn: A Dirge*

Robert Burns, 1784

Many and sharp the num'rous ills  
Inwoven with our frame!  
More pointed still we make ourselves  
Regret, remorse, and shame!

And man, whose heav'n-erected face  
The smiles of love adorn, –  
Man's inhumanity to man  
Makes countless thousands mourn!

Today's Gospel is a challenge, especially in light of rallies, protests,  
looting and destruction.

It is one of the most troubling teachings of Jesus,

who we know to be “Wonderful, Counselor, the Prince of Peace.” *Isaiah 9:6*

But we must put all of Scripture into context.

The past weeks, Jesus has called his followers - you and me - to go out:

“to preach the Good News of salvation, to heal the sick, release the prisoners...

“See, I am sending you out like sheep in the midst of wolves...

“They will hand you over to the councils and flog you in the synagogues...”

All this portending his own arrest, trial and crucifixion.

And as he tells us today the we, the servant, is not better than He, the Master.

In the immediate context of Matthew’s community,

we are late in the first century.

Christians were booted out of the household of God,

the Romans have destroyed the Temple in Jerusalem,

and we are subject to persecution and death.

And today, Jesus tells us not to be afraid,

God is caring for the cheapest bird in the Temple sacrifice - the sparrow -

and that God counts even the hairs of our head.

Families have fought and will over Jesus and his commission.

The community is afraid of the new movement.

And the faithful *are* afraid as a community in crisis.

An old country Gospel song is often sung at funerals

by those who mourn their loss, reflecting on today’s Gospel reading:

“His Eye Is on the Sparrow” *Civilla Martin (d.1948) & Charles Gabriel (d.1932)*

Why should I feel discouraged; why should the shadows come?

Why should my heart feel lonely; and long for heaven and home?

When Jesus is my portion, a constant friend is He

His eye is on the sparrow and I know He watches over me.

I come to the seventh and last book in the series from the National Church

in *The Way of Love*.

Today’s book is entitled, *Rest*.

I take that as my theme in these days of unrest and turmoil.

Rest.

Rest, pull back; rest and pull back.

Pull back in silence and contemplate, meditate, pray,

and sit for a moment or moments in the silence of God's presence.

Empty ourselves of our fears and the drives that motivate us -

push us from outside and from internal struggles.

Rest; pull back; sit and pray.

Not telling God,

but allowing God to tell us,

in the sheer silence which Elijah heard

when he craved hearing God in the thunder, the fire and the earthquake.

These are troubling times, to be sure,

as troubling as Matthew's community of faith experienced.

But we take the confidence that God is with us,

if we walk with God,

and allow God to walk with us.

for, "His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me."

Amen, and AMEN.

### *The CREED*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit

and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection ☩ of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## *PRAYERS*

*BCP Form II, adapted*

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for Justin the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael our Presiding Bishop and Kevin our Bishop; for the Diocesan staff; and for all ministers and people.

I ask your prayers for this parish family, and for all who remain isolated from their community of faith.

I ask your prayers for those who govern and hold authority in the nations; that they may be led to govern with equity and justice for the benefit of the entire human family. Inspire them to discover new ways of overcoming divisions and mistrust. We pray for Donald, the President of the United States, the Congress, Thomas our Governor, and Sarah, mayor of our Borough.

I ask your prayers for those who rejoice this week; for those who celebrate birthdays and anniversaries: especially Trisha Hill, Karen Hafler and Jared Peer.

I ask your prayers for the poor, for those who are on furlough or have lost their jobs; for the sick, especially Libby, Russ, Mike, Alice, and Fr. Arthur Jones of Susquehanna County Ministries; the hungry; the oppressed, and anxious; and those in prison, especially Justin and Mitchell. I ask your prayers for those anticipating death, especially Jim.

I ask your prayers for the departed, especially \_\_\_\_\_ ; those who have died by violent acts, and those who have succumbed to the complications of COVID-19.

I ask your thanksgiving for families with whom we live and love; thanksgivings for first responders, health-care workers and all who offer of themselves for the betterment of others.

To sum up all these petitions,  
let us now pray the words which Christ himself taught us, saying:

Our Father...

“A Prayer for the Power of the Spirit among the People of God”

*From Pentecost Sunday through the first Sunday in September, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and his Lutheran counterpart Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton welcome congregations and individuals to regularly pray “A Prayer for the Power of the Spirit among the People of God.” This prayer – crafted by a team of Lutheran and Episcopal prayer leaders in light of the COVID pandemic – is meant to unite us in common prayer and revive us for common mission, wherever and however we may be gathered.*

God of all power and love,  
we give thanks for your unfailing presence  
and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss.  
Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire.  
Revive us to live as Christ’s body in the world:  
a people who pray, worship, learn,  
[break bread], share life, heal neighbors,  
bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit.  
Wherever and however we gather,  
unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission,  
that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*A BLESSING for FATHERS*

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:  
You give us life and provide for us a home,  
    instructing us in the ways of righteousness and truth.  
In Abraham, the father of Isaac,  
    you taught us to trust entirely in your promise,  
    to rejoice in the blessed gift of children  
    and to obey you even when it calls for offering you our life's desire.  
In Joseph, husband of Mary,  
    you showed us how to silently give love, protection,  
    and to provide for and teach the children given into our care,  
    even as those responsibilities demand taking our lives  
    and occupations to foreign places.  
Lord God, Abba Father,  
    now grant to all whom you call to fatherhood  
    to accept these same challenges and responsibilities  
    as a means of demonstrating their trust,  
    obedience and love to their children.  
In these and all gifts may they experience the joy of serving you  
    and your peace which surpasses all that we can ever understand.  
In your holy Name we pray, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. AMEN.

The blessing of God Almighty ☩ be upon you all and remain with you forever.  
*Amen.*

Organ Postlude -            "*His Eye is on the Sparrow*"

Lift Every Voice & Sing #291

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The Third Sunday after  
PENTECOST

21 June 2020