

The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

18-19 July 2020

The SERVICE of EVENING and MORNING PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAYER CONCERNS & THANKSGIVINGS

OPENING SENTENCE

Stand *Officiant* Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
Philippians 1:2

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

All **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.
Amen. Alleluia.**

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION of SIN

Officiant: Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these."
Mark 12:29-31

Most merciful God,

All: **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.**

The priest offers Absolution.

Officiant: Come, let us sing to the Lord; *

All: **let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.
For the Lord is a great God, *
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *
and the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it, *
and his hands have molded the dry land.
Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.*
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!**

Sit PSALTER **Psalm 86: 11-17** *read responsively observing the verse*

Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; *
knit my heart to you that I may fear your Name.
**I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart, *
and glorify your Name for evermore.**

For great is your love toward me; *
you have delivered me from the nethermost Pit.
**The arrogant rise up against me, O God,
and a band of violent men seeks my life; *
they have not set you before their eyes.**

But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion, *
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.
**Turn to me and have mercy upon me; *
give your strength to your servant;
and save the child of your handmaid.**

Show me a sign of your favor,
so that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed; *
because you, O Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

**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.**

FIRST READING

Romans 8:12-25

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh -- for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ-- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Here ends the Reading.

CANTICLE

Gloria in excelsis

BCP p.94

Officiant: Glory to God in the highest,

All: **and peace to God's people on earth.**

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks,

we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father;

receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Sit SECOND READING

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Jesus put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

His disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

Here ends the Reading.

Stand The APOSTLES' CREED

Officiant: I believe in God,

All: **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.**

MEDITATION

The PRAYERS

Officiant God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Officiant and People

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The SUFFRAGES - B

BCP p. 98

Verse. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

Response. **Govern and uphold them, now and always.**

V. Day by day we bless you;

R. **We praise your Name for ever.**

V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;

R. **Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.**

V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;

R. **For we put our trust in you.**

V. In you, Lord, is our hope;

R. **And we shall never hope in vain.**

Three Collects follow:

(of the Day, for Peace, for Mission)

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our

weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Most holy God, the source of all good desires, all right judgments, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, so that our minds may be fixed on the doing of your will, and that we, being delivered from the fear of all enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the mercies of Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

O God and Father of all, whom the whole heavens adore: Let the whole earth also worship you, all nations obey you, all tongues confess and bless you, and men and women everywhere love you and serve you in peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS & THANKSGIVINGS - Form II

BCP p. 386

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; for all ministers and people; for this parish family and for all who remain isolated from their community of faith.

Pray for the Church.

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. for Donald, the President of the United States, the Congress, Thomas our Governor, and Sarah, mayor of our Borough.

Pray for justice and peace.

I ask your prayers for the poor; the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison, especially Justin and Mitch; for the sick, the infirm and the elderly, especially Addison, Rob, Russ and Libby.

Pray for those in any need or trouble.

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. Pray that they may find and be found by him.

I ask your prayers for teachers and school administrators.

Pray that they may find creative new ways for educating our children and youth.

I ask your prayers for the departed, especially those killed by violent acts and those who succumbed to the coronavirus.

Pray for those who have died.

I ask your thanksgiving for Christian Marsh who celebrates a birthday this week.

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.

Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Lord, hear the prayers of your people. And what we have asked faithfully, may we receive effectually to the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 offer this prayer meant to unite us in common prayer and revive us for common mission, wherever and however we may be gathered.

Officiant: God of all power and love,

All: **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.***

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

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

Amen.

Let us go forth in peace rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRIVATE COMMUNION - The Sr. Warden and Fr. Erb have concurred that it would be possible for Communion to be brought to individuals and families in their home, while observing the cautions of group gatherings. We invite you to contact Fr. Erb to arrange a convenient time for him to visit. (570) 241-2685 or rector@gracechurchhonesdale.org

GRACE NOTES - electronic copies of the latest edition of the parish "No-So-Much News-Letter" were sent out yesterday. If you'd like a printed copy see Fr. Erb or the Greeter. If you don't receive e-mails from the parish and would like to, fill out a pew card with your contact information and place in the Offering Plate on your way out.

DAUGHTERS of the KING - Will meet in the Parish Hall Courtyard this Sunday, July 19th at 11:15. They will be reviewing the book from the National Church, *Walk in Love*. All women and girls are welcome. Masks must be worn, and social distancing will be observed.

BROTHERS of St. ANDREW - Dave Faux is asking guys when would be convenient to meet, considering summer vacations. Possibilities are Saturdays, July 25th or August 1st or 8th at 11:00 and/or noon.

BIBLE STUDY - Would you like to "Zoom" through the Bible? Several have asked if we could gather Virtually in a new way. One suggestion was Tuesday Zooms for 30-40 minutes at noon. Bring your own sandwich. Interested? Let Fr. Erb know if this time is good, or you'd like another time. And what book of the Bible really intrigues you?

PARISH "YARD" SALE - Get rid of all the stuff you have cleaned out of your attic, basement and garage these past months. We'll rent 8' tables on Ninth Street for \$15 each - possibly on Saturday, August 8th. Stay tuned and let Fr. Erb know if you would like to reserve a space.

Psalm 86: 11-17
Romans 8: 12-25
Matthew 13: 24-43

WEEDS !!

+ + +

I don't listen well to Jesus sometimes.
OK, most times.
If only I had today's gardening tip, I may not have lost some grapes,
and a few black raspberries.
But I just had to get rid of those weeds,
I didn't care that they were actually in the neighbor's side of the line
when I realized my trespass.
I have this thing about Blood Plant.
This insidious plant grew around my home parish church
and the sexton worked for years to get rid of it.
It was ugly, it was tall, it invaded everything,
there was no way of getting rid of it - it kept coming back.
I found out that this Blood Plant is Japanese Knot Weed,
and I found out that it is the most invasive weeds in the world!
I know now where it got its common PA Dutch name of Blood Plant -
it's a bloody pain to get rid of.
Here it was creeping across my neighbor's and my yards.
It's gotta go!
It grew underneath and around the rocks,
it invaded the wild grapes and black raspberries,
Some Victorian - and I'm a Victorian at heart -
some Victorian thought it was a wonderful addition
to the garden and countryside.
But you just can't get rid of it!
Even when we were moving down to the Rectory I was still fighting it.
For the 8 years on the hill, I'd been digging and digging and digging.
It's rather like the sin that we think we've controlled,
and all of a sudden we find out that there is a remnant of a root -
the tiniest rhizome which hides and continue to find nourishment.
You work at it, you dig, and fight with it, pull, and throw away,
and still the remnant of that weed in your life remains.
Where are all the good things you try to plant?
Still there:
the good seed you planted is still growing along with the bad.
Yet some evil has planted the seed of sin in with the good.
It's there and it looks very much like wheat.

The ones who listened to Jesus knew what he was talking about.
The bearded darnel is a weed that grows in the Middle East
and looks very similar to wheat
until it comes to bear the ear of grain.
Only at the end of the harvest can the weed and wheat be distinguished.

It is, oh, so very subtle, that sin is.
Looks very much like good intentions
until we come to maturity and see the fruit of what's been planted.
Then we know the truth.
Earlier in St. Paul's letter to the new Christians in Rome he confesses:
"I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do.
Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that
dwells within me."

Romans 7:19-20

Who planted that bloody Japanese Knot Weed anyway?!?
Whoever it was, *they* should be made to dig and dig again, keep digging,
pull out all the roots and destroy them for good.
Instead, I'm left with all the collateral damage!
I've got enough weeds of my own,
now do I have to deal with the weeds of others, Lord?
"Yes, you do."
But it's not my responsibility.
"Oh, yes it is."

Now, I hate to go against Jesus, but I will.
(I said I don't listen well.)
One would think at the surface level,
that Jesus is saying to us,
"Ah, let it go. The angels will take care of it in the end."
And we can sit back and do nothing about the evil ones
of this or any generation.
But of course, we know that Jesus, God does not allow us
to be complacent and lazy in the harvest for the kingdom.

Last week, we know that Jesus scattered the seed on good soil -
our soil, within us.
And yes, we need to pull the weeds of sin within ourselves,
as soon as we can,
carefully, slowly, perhaps
and keep at it.

For we're not dealing with wheat - an annual crop.

We're dealing with a perennial harvest of the fruit in our souls.
Our roots run deep and strong,
 if we keep nourishing them, watering them,
 giving them, "Son-Light" on a regular basis.

I thought I had gotten it all.
All the rocks were pulled away, I had dug several feet down to get it,
 carefully packing the roots of the grapes and raspberries,
 transplanting where I could in good clean soil.
And yet the Knot Weed continued to send up tender shoots.
There was a secret mother load which I hadn't found.
Frustrated, I attacked the plants one more time,
 pulled the grapes out of the way,
 transplanted two old raspberry shoots,
 and dug and pulled and dug some more.

Ah, here it is!
Dirt flying, shovel working against stones and more dirt flying
 and I found it.
Yank. Bend. Pull. Snap.
Dig a little more to pull what remained of the off-shoots.
Wait a weekend to see if any new life would appear.
None!
Hallelujah! God's name be praised.
We got it - God and I.
The year before we sold the house.

The weeds will be gathered at the end of the age
And the children of God will be tended by the angels
 and will be gathered into the God's silo
 where our fruit will feed many.
Allow the Spirit to sow seeds of good fruit in you.
Don't let the evil one choke you:
 grow your roots strong so your good deeds will choke those weeds.
The final question at the end of the day is,
 What weeds do you have that need to be plucked
 and thrown in the fire?
By the way,
 burning is the only way to get rid of those bloody Wart Weeds!