

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

25-26 July 2020

Officiant: Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; **All:* **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.****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: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:8,9*

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.**Sit* PSALTER **Psalm 119: 129-136** *read responsively observing the verse*

Your decrees are wonderful; *

therefore I obey them with all my heart.

When your word goes forth it gives light; ***it gives understanding to the simple.**

I open my mouth and pant; *

I long for your commandments.

Turn to me in mercy, ***as you always do to those who love your Name.**

Steady my footsteps in your word; *

let no iniquity have dominion over me.

Rescue me from those who oppress me, ***and I will keep your commandments.**

Let your countenance shine upon your servant *

and teach me your statutes.

My eyes shed streams of tears, ***because people do not keep your law.****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 8:26-28, 31-39

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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.

so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind;

"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

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.**

Sit SECOND READING

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-47, 51-52

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree,

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 - A

BCP p. 97-98

Verse. Show us your mercy, O Lord;

Response. **And grant us your salvation.**

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

R. **Let your people sing with joy.**

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

R. **For only in you can we live in safety.**

V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;

R. **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

V. Let your way be known upon earth;

R. **Your saving health among all nations.**

V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

R. **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;

R. **And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

Three Collects follow:

(of the Day, for Guidance, for Mission)

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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; for those suffering from financial anxiety and fear for their livelihood; 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 Jared Peer 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 Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. ***Amen.***

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

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOLY COMMUNION - The Bishop has made protocols available for the public distribution of Holy Communion for parishes who remain in "The Green." On a limited trial basis, the first Sunday of each month the Sacrament will be offered following Evening and Morning Prayer for those who wish to remain and receive. Individual 'cups' for Communion wafers as well as disposable plastic cups of wine will be offered, with the Sacramental elements being consecrated and covered four days in advance. Next weekend (August 1-2) will be our initial trial.

PRIVATE COMMUNION - Nonetheless, it is still possible for Communion to be brought to individuals and families in their home, while observing the protocols. We invite you to contact Fr. Erb to arrange a convenient time for him to visit. (570) 241-2685 or rector@gracechurchhonesdale.org

FORWARD DAY BY DAY - The quarterly devotional book for August-October is available at the entrance of the Church in regular and large print versions.

BROTHERS of St. ANDREW - Dave Faux is asking guys when would be convenient to meet, considering summer vacations. Possibilities are Saturdays, 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. Beginning Tuesday, August 4th we will join together for 30-40 minutes at noon. "Bring" your own sandwich. Interested? See Fr. Ed. What book of the Bible would you like to dig into?

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.

GRACE CHURCH
Proper 12-A

Honesdale, PA
25-26 July 2020

Romans 8:26-39
Psalm 119: 129-136
Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

MYSTERY YEAST

I got in trouble at the start of it all.
Baking way too much.
Sue was concerned about each of us gaining the Covid-19 pounds.
I was bored, had all Grandma and Mom's recipes
 most of which I'd never tried,
 and who knew when flour was going to be available again.
Everyone - you? - were baking.
I resisted pulling down my favorite old bread machine though.
Then I tried baking with some old packs of yeast I had in the cupboard.
Yeah, there is an expiration date for a reason.
So I gave up when I couldn't find any in the store.
Do you know how hard it was to find yeast?
Crazy.
But I finally got some.
Yeast is a strange thing.
Of course, I could always use my Beer-Bread recipe.
 No yeast needed - well, except what's in the beer.
Maybe with today's Gospel heroine, I'll try a loaf or two.

So, we'll forgo the pearl-fisher, the farmer in the field,
 the merchant, and the fisherfolk,
 and take the very short parable of the baker-woman:
 The Kingdom of Heaven is like when a woman takes some yeast and mixes in three
 measures of flour until all of it is leavened. *Matthew 13: 44*
One translation reads, "a bushel of flour,"
 other commentators state that it is 80-100 pounds of flour.
One commentator reminds us that she'll mix in some 40 cups of water.
This is not the daily bread for her family,
 it is enough to make 100 loaves of bread -
 for a party,
 for a wedding feast,
 to feed her community?
The wedding feast in the Kingdom of Heaven, is what I think
 Jesus is suggesting.

Blessed St. Julian of Norwich in her famed *Showings*
 holds a hazel-nut in her hand and contemplates:

“In this he showed me something small... lying in the palm of my hand... I looked at it with the eye of my understanding and thought: ‘What can this be?’ I was amazed... that because of its littleness it would suddenly have fallen into nothing... I was answered in my understanding: It lasts and always will, because God loves it; and thus everything has being through the love of God.

In this little thing I see three properties. The first is that God made it, the second is that God loves it, the third is that God preserves it. But what did I see in it? It is that God is the Creator, and the Protector, and the Lover.”

Showings, p. 183

In that moment, Julian envisioned the expanse of the Universe
in the smallest insignificant element - the common hazelnut.

So what do we see in a large clump of bread dough?
I see God as the Baker-woman.
I see the flour and water, earth and sea, as Creation.
I see you and me as the yeast leavening and enhancing the world.
As long as our time hasn't expired while we sit on the shelf
 hiding ourselves, doing no good,
 not allowing God to mix us into the batter.
Some time ago, a mystery of yeast came to me.
We had a shipment of frozen bread dough given to us
 for our Saturday luncheons.
One would think that the function of yeast would be killed
 as the dough is frozen and reserved.
Not like the yeast packets in my cupboard.
I was surprised when we took some out
 as Sue and I prepped for a week's Community meal,
 that lo, and behold!
Bread to be shared.
God is good!

Hear now the parable of this baker-woman.
She desired to bake loaves and the yeast did not work.
So she went to the freezer and took out lumps of dough,
 expecting no response.
She followed the directions given, commandments as it were.
Lo and behold, God did a miracle!
Where and why and how would this work?
Yet God made it work.
And God's people are fed with a mystery!

+ 3 +

Taste and see; taste and see the goodness of the Lord.
Taste and see; taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us all praise God's name.
Taste and see that God is good;
in God we need put all our trust.

Taste and see; taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

James E. Moore, Jr. para. of Psalm 34