

# The Holy Friendship

of

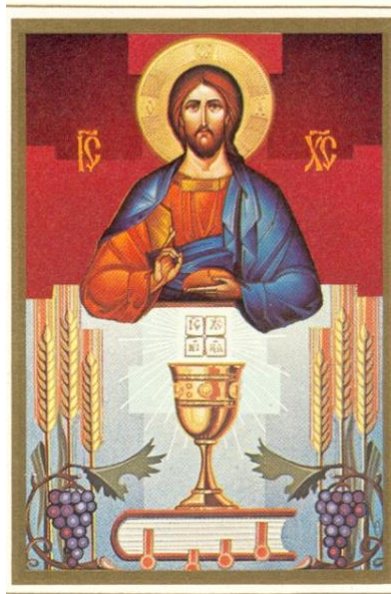
## St. James Episcopal Church

95 Route 2A | Preston, CT 06365  
860-889-0150 | email: office@stjamespreston.org

&

## Grace Episcopal Church

4 Chapel Hill Road | Yantic, CT 06389  
860-887-2082



## The Eleventh Sunday in Pentecost

August 8, 2021 at 9:00 am

Join us for In-person worship at St. James, Live on Facebook:  
St. James Episcopal Church Preston,  
Grace Episcopal Church Yantic or on Zoom  
11:00 am 2<sup>nd</sup> In-person at Grace Episcopal Church

The Rev. Kim J. Litsey, Priest in Charge  
Mike LaFleur & Peter Liebert, Musicians

*Please join us for fellowship and refreshments in the Parish Hall following this service including our "Friends on Zoom"*

## The Liturgy of the Word

### Welcome

#### Opening Hymn #522 Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen**

### The Gloria

Glory to god in the highest,  
and peace to his 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.**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

### The Collect

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### The Lessons

#### 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33

The king, David, ordered Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, "Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom." And all the people heard when the king gave orders to all the commanders concerning Absalom. So the army went out into the field against Israel; and the battle was fought in the forest of Ephraim. The men of Israel were defeated there by the servants of David, and the slaughter there was great on that day, twenty thousand men. The battle spread over the face of all the country; and the forest claimed more victims that day than the sword. Absalom happened to meet the servants of David. Absalom was riding on his mule, and the mule went under the thick branches of a great oak. His head caught fast in the oak, and he was left hanging between heaven and earth, while the mule that was under him went on. And ten young men, Joab's armor-bearers, surrounded Absalom and struck him, and killed him. Then the Cushite came; and the Cushite said, "Good tidings for my lord the king! For the Lord has vindicated you this day, delivering you from the power of all who rose up against you." The king said to the Cushite, "Is it well with the young man Absalom?" The Cushite answered, "May the enemies of my lord the king, and all who rise up to do you harm, be like that young man." The king was deeply moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept; and as he went, he

said, "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!"

The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God**

### Psalm 130

- 1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O LORD;  
LORD, hear my voice; \*  
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.
- 2 If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss, \*  
O Lord, who could stand?
- 3 For there is forgiveness with you; \*  
therefore you shall be feared.
- 4 I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him; \*  
in his word is my hope.
- 5 My soul waits for the LORD,  
more than watchmen for the morning, \*  
more than watchmen for the morning.
- 6 O Israel, wait for the LORD, \*  
for with the LORD there is mercy;
- 7 With him there is plenteous redemption, \*  
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

### Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil. Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God**

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ, according to John.

**People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

### John 6:35, 41-51

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" Jesus answered them, "Do not complain among yourselves. No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the

Father. Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Homily**

The Rev. Kim Litsey

*~ a short silence will be kept ~*

**Nicene Creed**

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We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. **Amen.**

### **The Prayers of the People**

Celebrant: Come Holy Spirit fill our hearts with the assurance of your grace and mercy as we pray to you our almighty and wondrous God. May your life-giving Holy Spirit fall like rain upon all the people throughout the world so that we are united to one another in our desire for peace, love, and joy. Come, Holy Spirit and fill us with your love.

**People: Grant us your peace.**

Pour out your Spirit upon our President and the leaders of the nations and for all who govern and hold authority over the welfare of the people, that they may ensure the dignity of all by lifting up the need for economic balance, food security, and a healthy environment. Renew a sense of care and kindness.

**People: We bid you gracious God.**

For the holy friendship of Grace and St. James, and for all who gather for the breaking of the bread throughout the community. May the Holy Spirit invite us to holy work that we cannot foresee or imagine. Enliven our hearts to dream dreams and see visions.

**People: May you be glorified in all that we are invited to do.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that they may share with all your saints in your eternal Kingdom. May they and all who mourn feel the presence of the Holy Spirit, and let the peace that passes all understanding be with them.

**People: We pray to you gracious God.**

Comfort and heal all those who are suffering from any illness or adversity that they may find your life giving Spirit in the midst of their challenges. Specifically, we ask for prayers for those on our prayer list and please add others either silently or aloud... Give them a sense of hope in the redeemer and our advocate.

**People: Now and forever good Lord.**

Celebrant: Almighty and eternal God, you sent the Holy Spirit to be our comforter and to lead us into truth and enable us to grow into the likeness of Christ. Look with compassion upon your people and help us to be empowered by your Holy Spirit to follow the way of Jesus. **Amen.**

### **Confession of Sins**

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*~ silence ~*

### **Celebrant and People:**

**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.**

### **Absolution**

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

### **The Peace**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## † THE HOLY COMMUNION †

### **Offertory Hymn #662 Abide with Me**

#### **The Presentation of the Gifts: The Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Him all creatures here below,  
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts.  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen**

## † THE GREAT THANKSGIVING †

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth through Jesus Christ our Lord. In fulfillment of his true promise, the Holy Spirit came down on this day from heaven, lighting upon the disciples, to teach them and to lead them into all truth; uniting peoples of many tongues in the confession of one faith, and giving to your Church the power to serve you as a royal priesthood, and to preach the Gospel to all nations. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit

all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**The Lord's Prayer**

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**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 Breaking of the Bread**

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us,

**People: Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*~ silence ~*

**Communion Hymn #371 Amazing Grace**

**A Prayer for Communion**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

**People:** God of love and grace, of justice and peace, we give you thanks that in the Holy Sacrament you assure us of your presence within us, within the body of Christ, and the faithful through all the generations. Grant that we who have witnessed anew these holy mysteries, even when unable to receive the physical elements of the Sacrament, may be moved by your indwelling Spirit ever more fully to embody your holy and life-giving presence, reshaping in your likeness the world around us, until we are gathered at last into the fullness of your glorious and eternal presence; through Christ our Risen Lord. **Amen.**

**The Prayer after Communion:**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

**Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.**

**Blessing †**

May the Spirit of truth lead you into all truth, giving you grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, and to proclaim the wonderful works of God; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn #716 God Bless Our Native Land**

## The Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## Announcements

### News & Announcements

**Mark your Calendars!** For our annual **Holy Friendship Gathering and Picnic!** It will be on September 12 at 10:00am. This year's event will be held at the Yantic Fire Department. More information to come!

**OWL Luncheon:** Thursday, August 12 at Noon. Masks will be required except while eating. Please call Sylvia to RSVP at 860-887-0279.

You are invited to the **237 Annual Convention** of the Episcopal Church in CT which will be held on October 22 & October 23 at the CT Convention Center, Hartford. For more information & to register, please visit the ECCT website at: [www.episcopalct.org](http://www.episcopalct.org)

**Morning Prayer Service** on August 22 at 9 am, which is the fourth Sunday of the month. The service will be at St. James In-person, virtually on Zoom & Facebook Live. Coffee hour will immediately follow. Morning Prayer will be offered every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month. This is an opportunity to celebrate the gift of our Lay worship leaders.

**Free CT Food Bank Drive-Thru Food Distribution:** Every Monday in Norwich until August 31. Address: 28 Stonington Road, Norwich, CT 06360 - in the parking lot across from Pistol Pete Bar & Grill Hours: 9:30am - 12pm

**Scripture & Compline:** Thursdays, 7pm via Zoom

**Guided Healing Prayers:** Fridays, 8am via Zoom