

The Holy Friendship

of

St. James Episcopal Church

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&

Grace Episcopal Church

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The Fifteenth Sunday in Pentecost

September 5, 2021 at 9:00 am

Join us for In-person worship at St. James,
Live on Facebook: St. James Episcopal Church Preston, or on Zoom

11:00 am 2nd In-person worship at Grace Episcopal Church

The Rev. Kim J. Litsey, Priest in Charge
Myra Day, Organist

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 #371 Thou, Whose Almighty Word

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 us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches,
and favour is better than silver or gold.

The rich and the poor have this in common:
the LORD is the maker of them all.

Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity,
and the rod of anger will fail.

Those who are generous are blessed,
for they share their bread with the poor.

Do not rob the poor because they are poor,
or crush the afflicted at the gate;

for the LORD pleads their cause
and despoils of life those who despoil them.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

Psalm 125

- 1 Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, *
which cannot be moved, but stands fast for ever.
- 2 The hills stand about Jerusalem; *
so does the LORD stand round about his people,
from this time forth for evermore.
- 3 The scepter of the wicked shall not hold sway over the land allotted to the just, *
so that the just shall not put their hands to evil.
- 4 Show your goodness, O LORD, to those who are good *
and to those who are true of heart.
- 5 As for those who turn aside to crooked ways,
the LORD will lead them away with the evildoers; *
but peace be upon Israel.

James 2:1-10, 14-17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

Sequence Hymn #603 When Christ was Lifted from the Earth

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Mark 7:24-37

Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your

daughter.” So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

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 #423 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

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** †

Eucharistic Prayer A

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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:

Santus | BCP Page S130

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.

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 #74 LEVAS Jesu, Jesu

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.

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 #493 O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

The Dismissal

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Announcements

News & Announcements

Please join us for our annual **Friendship Gathering Picnic** which will be held immediately after Morning Prayer service at St. James Parish, September 12. Hope to see you there!

Mark your calendar! The **2021 Crop Walk for Hunger** will be held on Sunday October 17 in Gales Ferry starting at 1:00 pm. St. James and Grace Church will be forming a joint team this year. More information to follow.

We remain cautious and will be postponing Thursday's September 9th OWL luncheon.

The Preston Public Library, in partnership with Hartford Healthcare, will host a vaccination clinic for Covid-19 on Thursday September 23, 1:00 pm-3:30 pm. The Pfizer & Johnson & Johnson vaccine will be available. There is no registration required. ID and insurance, if applicable, to be presented. All those receiving Dose 1 at the first clinic will be scheduled for Dose 2 at second clinic (not applicable for Johnson & Johnson). Consent forms required to be signed, minors must have guardian present to sign consent form at clinic. Refreshments, created by Puffins Restaurant of Seabird Enterprises, will be provided. For additional questions, please call the library at (860) 886-1010 and ask for the director.

Gentle Adaptive Yoga: Tuesdays, 5-6:15pm [SJ parish hall]
For more info, call Karen 860-204-0797 or yogahealsus@yahoo.com

Scripture & Compline: Thursdays, 7pm via Zoom

Guided Healing Prayers: Fridays, 8am via Zoom

Happy Labor Day!