

The Holy Friendship
of
St. James Episcopal Church



&

Grace Episcopal Church



**The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 2020 at 9:00 am**

95 Route 2A ~ Preston, CT 06365
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The Rev. Kim J. Litsey, Priest in Charge
The Rev. Deacon Ronald Steed

Mike LaFleur & Peter Leibert, Musicians

Join us live on
Facebook: St. James Episcopal Church Preston & on
Zoom continuing after worship for our Coffee Hour.

The Liturgy of the Word

Welcome

Opening Hymn #522 Glorious Things of Three Are Spoken

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

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

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray

The Collect

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **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.**

The Lessons

Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

- 1 Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
- 2 I will open my mouth in a parable; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.
- 3 That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.
- 4 We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, *
and the wonderful works he has done.
- 12 He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, *
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.
- 13 He split open the sea and let them pass through; *
he made the waters stand up like walls.
- 14 He led them with a cloud by day, *
and all the night through with a glow of fire.
- 15 He split the hard rocks in the wilderness *
and gave them drink as from the great deep.
- 16 He brought streams out of the cliff, *
and the waters gushed out like rivers.

Philippians 2:1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,

but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death--
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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

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

Matthew 21:23-32

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. 'What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Homily

The Rev. Kim J. Litsey

~ A short silence will be kept ~

The Nicene Creed

**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

Deacon: Almighty God, fill us with your Holy Spirit and set our hearts on fire to seek justice, share the good news of your love with others, and bring peace throughout the world.

Come Holy Spirit and fill our hearts with compassion for others.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Gracious God, we pray for all of the children and young adults returning to school who are challenged by this new learning environment. We pray for their parents who are afraid and are being challenged as they attempt to provide adequate support to the children while they are working at home. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we ask you to bless and empower all of the teachers and administrators in our schools at all levels who are responding to the call to teach in less than ideal circumstances and with new technology. Give them patience and fortitude and inspire them as they adapt to new ways of teaching.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Merciful God, we ask you to help sustain and preserve our local farmers by providing rain for their crops and the assistance they need to preserve their livelihoods. We give thanks to those that continue the vocation of farming the land and raising animals to supply us with food to eat. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Lord of grace, help our nation heal from systemic racism, and help us as the body of Christ and as a nation to grieve the loss of life and the dignity of Black Americans throughout our history.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord of peace, may we reform our justice system on local, state and national levels.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Loving God, we pray for those suffering illness, pain, insecurity and those on our parish prayer list and those in our hearts.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Holy Spirit, inspire us to create new beginnings in our homes, workplaces, and places of worship using all that we have come to know and love in the midst of the pandemic.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Oh Lord our redeemer, comfort the souls of all who have died from COVID-19 and other illnesses during the

pandemic. Please name others silently or aloud. Comfort their families and friends who are unable to say goodbye and are now grieving without a funeral. Pour upon them your grace and love.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Gracious and loving God, give the poor, the unemployed, and the sick an abiding sense of your presence.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant:

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, for you transform our lives and makes us new: Hear our prayers which we offer in confidence and breathe upon us with your Holy Spirit; glory to you for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Confession of Sins

Deacon: Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept

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 Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

† The Holy Communion †

Offertory Hymn #660 Oh Master Let Me Walk with Thee

The Doxology

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

† The Great Thanksgiving †

Eucharistic Prayer A

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 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.

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 for ever. **Amen.**

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

The Lord's Prayer

**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

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Celebrant and the 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, though 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.

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 for ever. Amen.

Announcements

Blessing †

Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who journey the way with us. So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind. 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 #558 Faith of Our Fathers

The Dismissal

Announcements

Drive-Thru Flu & Pneumonia Clinic at the Preston Senior

Center, 42 Long Society Rd, Preston will be conducted on Wednesday, October 14th from 10 am until 12 pm.

All insurances will be

excepted. You must register in advance at 860-887-5581 ext 6.

Our Work: Learning About Antiracism workshop meets every other Monday at 7:00 pm via Zoom. The next meeting will be on Monday, September 28. Assignment: chapters 21-25. from "Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America" by Ibram X. Kendi. Call Rev. Kim if you are interested in joining the group.

Dwelling in the Word & Compline Thursdays, 7:00–8:00 PM

This a short study of a biblical text followed by Compline. It is a

quiet reflective and prayerful evening. The Zoom link which has both phone and video access is sent out weekly.

Guided Healing Prayer Meditation Fridays 8:00 AM via Zoom. Zoom link will be sent out weekly.

The Rev. Kim Litsey is available during the week typically Tuesday-Friday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM.