

The Holy Friendship
of
St. James & Grace Episcopal Church



All Saints Day

November 1, 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 #423 Immortal, Invisible

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

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **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

Revelation 7:9-17

After this I, John, looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom

and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

"For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.
They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;
for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 34:1-10,22

- 1 I will bless the LORD at all times; *
his praise shall ever be in my mouth.
- 2 I will glory in the LORD; *
let the humble hear and rejoice.
- 3 Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD; *
let us exalt his Name together.
- 4 I sought the LORD, and he answered me *
and delivered me out of all my terror.
- 5 Look upon him and be radiant, *
and let not your faces be ashamed.
- 6 I called in my affliction and the LORD heard me *
and saved me from all my troubles.
- 7 The angel of the LORD encompasses those who fear him, *
and he will deliver them.
- 8 Taste and see that the LORD is good; *
happy are they who trust in him!
- 9 Fear the LORD, you that are his saints, *
for those who fear him lack nothing.
- 10 The young lions lack and suffer hunger, *
but those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good.
- 22 The LORD ransoms the life of his servants, *

1 John 3:1-3

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.
The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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

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

Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

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 who are challenged by the new learning environment, and their parents who are juggling their children's schedule with their work commitments.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Loving God, we ask you to bless and empower all of the teachers and administrators in our schools. Give them patience, fortitude and inspiration as they adapt to new ways of teaching.

Lord, hear our prayer.

God almighty, we pray for staff and residents in assistance living facilities and nursing homes that they remain in safe from the virus. Have mercy on them in their time of need.

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 with illness, pain, insecurity, and isolation. We pray for

those on our parish prayer list, and those in our hearts either silently or aloud _____.
In your mercy,

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 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** †

The Necrology - Remembering our Loved Ones

Offertory Hymn #371 Thou Whose Almighty Word

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.

Silence

Being Good Stewards of God's Gift to Us

He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.' *Mark 12:41-44*

Silence

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 #569 God the Omnipotent

The Dismissal

Announcements

Join us Today at noon for our annual **Blue Jean Sunday!** For safety, bring your own tools and gloves!

Our Work: Learning About Antiracism workshop meets every other Monday at 7:00 pm via Zoom. The next meeting will be on Monday, November 9, 2020. Assignment: the final 4 chapters from "Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America" by Ibram X. Kendi. The group will take a hiatus during Advent and Christmas, and will resume in January, 2021.

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. The Zoom link is sent out weekly.

The Rev. Kim Litsey is available during the week, Monday's through Thursday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Please call the church office.