

# St. John's Episcopal Church

8 Sunnyside Avenue, Pleasantville, NY 10570

The Rev. Mary B. Gregorius, Rector



**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: PROPER 19**

**MORNING PRAYER: RITE TWO 9:30AM**

September 13, 2020

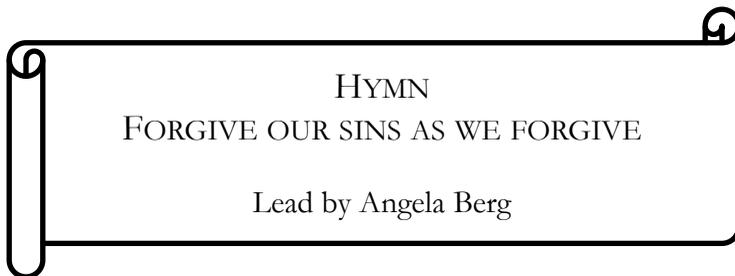
Our mission is to restore all people to unity with God and each other, in Christ. (BCP 855)

This morning we celebrate with an abridged service of Morning Prayer. This service is taken from the *1979 Book of Common Prayer*. **Words printed in bold are spoken by the congregation.**

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### THE OPENING SENTENCE

*Officiant:* If we live, we live to the Lord and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then whether we live or die, we are the Lords. (Romans 14:12)



### CONFESSION OF SIN & ABSOLUTION

*Officiant:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*All:* **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.**

*Officiant:* 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 INVITATORY AND PSALTER

*Officiant:* Lord, open our lips.

*People:* **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

**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.**

*Officiant:* Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:

*People:* **Come let us adore our God.**

### **Psalm 103:1-13** *Benedic, anima mea*

- 1 Bless the Lord, O my soul, \* and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.
- 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, \* and forget not all the benefits of the Lord.
- 3 The Lord forgives all your sins \* and heals all your infirmities;
- 4 redeeming your life from the grave \* and crowning you with mercy and loving-kindness;
- 5 satisfying you with good things, \* and renewing your youth like an eagle's.
- 6 The Lord executes righteousness \* and judgement for all who are oppressed.
- 7 O Lord, you made your ways known to Moses \* and your works to the children of Israel.
- 8 You are full of compassion and mercy, \* slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 9 You will not always accuse us, \* nor will you keep your anger for ever.
- 10 You have not dealt with us according to our sins, \* nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, \* so is your mercy great upon those who fear you.
- 12 As far as the east is from the west, \* so far have you removed our sins from us.
- 13 As parents care for their children, \* so do you, O Lord, care for those who fear you.

### **A READING FROM THE EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS 14:1-12**

*Reader: Ryan Fannon*

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live; says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.

So each of us will be accountable to God.

*Reader:*           The Word of the Lord.  
*People:*           **Thanks be to God.**

## **CANTICLE 11 The Third Song of Isaiah**

**Arise, shine, for your light has come, \***  
**and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.**  
**For behold, darkness covers the land; \***  
**deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.**  
**But over you the Lord will rise, \***  
**and his glory will appear upon you.**  
**Nations will stream to your light, \***  
**and kings to the brightness of your dawning.**  
**Your gates will always be open; \***  
**by day or night they will never be shut.**  
**They will call you, The City of the Lord, \***  
**The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.**  
**Violence will no more be heard in your land, \***

**ruin or destruction within your borders.  
You will call your walls, Salvation, \*  
and all your portals, Praise.  
The sun will no more be your light by day; \*  
by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.  
The Lord will be your everlasting light, \*  
and your God will be your glory.  
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.**

### **A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW 18:21-35**

*Reader: The Rev. Deacon Lynn Werdal*

Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything. And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe. Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt.

When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt.

So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

*Deacon:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

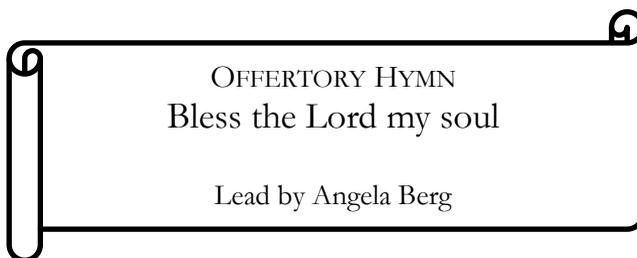
THE HOMILY

The Rev. Mary B. Gregorius

The Peace

May the peace of the Lord be always with you.  
And also with you.

The Offertory: LET US WITH GLADNESS PRESENT THE OFFERINGS AND  
OBLATIONS OF OUR LIFE AND LABOR TO THE LORD



THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, 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.**

THE PRAYERS

*Officiant:* The Lord 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.**

SUFFRAGES: SET A

Show us your mercy, O Lord;  
**And grant us your salvation.**

Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
**Let your people sing with joy.**

Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
**For only in you can we live in safety.**

Lord, keep this nation under your care;  
**And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

Let your way be known upon earth;  
**Your saving health among all nations.**

Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
**Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
**And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

PRAYER LIST

We pray for all those suffering with COVID-19, those who are quarantined and those anxious in the uncertainty of this constantly evolving pandemic, especially **Maria Lamorgese-Gibbons** (from Holy Innocence), **Fr. Luke & Fr. Hoyt** (Holy Innocence).

We pray for all those struggling to overcome violence in their community, for peacemakers, peacekeepers, and peace seekers. We pray for all Police Officers may they be filled with hope and be kept safely in God's care. We pray for all those who have suffered, been injured or died from the violence overwhelming our Nation. We pray for peace and unity among us as we seek a new way forward as people of faith. We pray for those who are in the hospital or home recuperating, especially: **Laura** O'Malley (John & Clare McAndrew's niece), **Deacon Lynn, Yumi, Linda Hill, Ronald Garvey, Max, Anne, Cathy, Barbara, Ellie Ruvo, Steven Schubert, and Shlomo Teladano.** We pray for those who are homebound: **Esmerilda, Margaret Vaccaro, John & Lee Williams, Dorothy Dushin, Ronald Acheson, Jim, Marge, Joe Smith, Carolyn Damiano, Deanna Ammirato and Bill & Dorothy D'Amato.** We pray for those struggling with chronic illness, especially: **Liz & Jeff Daniele, Andrew Tom, Rena Kaplan, Rebecca, Vince Servio, Sarah Paruolo, Annaliese Haag, Martha, Gerald, Marilyn Griffin, Joyce, Paul Ruvo, Helene, Jason, and Jeff.** We pray for **Edwin Sanchez and the students at El Hogar School,** and the **American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.** We pray for those in our hearts whom we now name, either silently or aloud.

#### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

**O God, because without you we are not able to please you mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

#### A COLLECT FOR PEACE

**O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

#### A PRAYER FOR THE UNEMPLOYED

**Heavenly Father, we remember before you those who suffer want and anxiety from lack of work. Guide the people of this land so to use our public and private wealth that all may find suitable and fulfilling employment, and receive just payment for their labor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## THE BLESSING & DISMISSAL

*Deacon:* Let us bless the Lord!

*People:* **Thanks be to God!**

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✦ Please join Deacon Lynn and Mother Mary+ for St. John's virtual **Coffee Hour** today at 10:30am!
  
- ✦ **Offering:** During this time when we are not meeting together the church still incurs expenses. Please continue to support the church. You can mail your offering to the church office. If you would like to make an online pledge you can do so by going to our website [stjohnspleasantville.org](http://stjohnspleasantville.org) and clicking on the "Donate" button. Thank you for your continued generosity during this anxious time. You may also support the church by shopping with AmazonSmile, the link is also found on our website.
  
- ✦ **Lawn Care at St. John's:** Thank you to all who have sponsored a week or more of lawn care for St. John's, We would still happily accept your donation of time and talent for hedge clipping, and pruning. Come at your convenience and remember physical distancing, no more than 5 people, wear masks and gloves! Great way to see one another and stay safely apart at the same time! Let Mother Mary+ know when you are coming! [mothermarystjohns@gmail.com](mailto:mothermarystjohns@gmail.com) Thank you in advance!
  
- ✦ **St. John's Thrift Shop** is closed for both shopping and donations during this pandemic. We hope to open in October and will need many new volunteers to make this safely possible. Please contact Linda Spione to sign up; [spionelinda@gmail.com](mailto:spionelinda@gmail.com)
  
- ✦ **Tuesday Parish Office Hours** from 10am to 1pm. Should you need to stop in or call for information, please do so during these hours.
  
- ✦ **Tuesday Noon Zoom Prayers:** We will be reading the Psalm for the day, keep an eye on your inbox, the Zoom link will be emailed Tuesday morning at 11AM.
  
- ✦ **Wednesday Bible Study Group Discussion at 11am:** We have just begun The Letter of James who has a lot to say about faith and good works. Keep an eye on your inbox, the Zoom link will be emailed Wednesday morning at 10AM.

✦ **The Pleasantville Interfaith Emergency Food Pantry NEEDS YOUR HELP**

Please donate food: Cases of sterilized milk, soups, tuna, chicken, beans, peanut butter, coffee, etc. can be drop shipped to St. John's if that is easiest for you.

OR

Pick up ShopRite Gift Cards for distribution

OR

[Make a monetary donation through the Pantry's website](#)

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