

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 17

August 29, 2021

Holy Eucharist 9:30^{AM}



St. John's Episcopal Church

8 Sunnyside Avenue, Pleasantville, NY 10570
(914) 769-0053 www.stjohnspleasantville.org

The Rev. Mary B. Gregorius, Rector
George Dunlop Leslie (1835–1921) - Lady Lever Art Gallery UK

AN INVITATION TO THIS SERVICE

This service is taken from the *1979 Book of Common Prayer*. **Words printed in bold are spoken by the congregation.** All are welcome at Christ's table. We welcome baptized

Christians of any tradition to share in the bread and wine. If you have not yet been baptized, or would prefer to receive a blessing from the Priest, indicate this by crossing your arms over your heart.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

PRELUDE

THE WORD OF GOD

✠ *Please stand as you are able and join in singing:*

OPENING HYMN LEVAS #136

“I have decided to follow Jesus”

1 I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus,
No turning back, no turning back!

2 Though no one join me, still I will follow,
Though no one join me, still I will follow,
Though no one join me, still I will follow,
No turning back, no turning back!

3 The world behind me, the cross before me,
The world behind me, the cross before me,
The world behind me, the cross before me,
No turning back, no turning back!

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

People: **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

**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.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

✠ *Please be seated for The Lessons.*

A READING FROM THE HEBREW TESTAMENT

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

Moses said: So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you.

You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 45: 1-2,7-10

**1 My heart is stirring with a noble song;
let me recite what I have fashioned for the king; *
my tongue shall be the pen of a skilled writer.**

**2 You are the fairest of mortals; *
grace flows from your lips,**

because God has blessed you for ever. you!

7 You love righteousness and hate iniquity. *

**Therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness above your companions.**

8 All your garments are fragrant with myrrh, aloes, and cassia, *

and the music of strings from ivory palaces makes you glad.
 9 The daughters of rulers stand among the ladies of the court; *
 at your side is the queen, adorned with the gold of Ophir.
 10 "Hear, O daughter; consider and listen closely; *
 forget your people and your father's house.

A READING FROM THE LETTER TO JAMES 1:17-27

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

✠ *Please stand as you are able and join in singing:*

SEQUENCE HYMN MHSO #20

Celtic Alleluia

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! _____

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People: Glory to you Lord Christ.

When the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile." For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

Deacon: The Gospel of our Lord.

People: Praise to you Lord Christ.

✠ *Please be seated for:*

THE SERMON

The Rev. Mary B. Gregorius

✠ *Please stand as you are able and say:*

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 (FORM III)

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

We pray for all those suffering with COVID-19.

We pray for peace and unity among us as we seek a new way forward as people of faith.

We pray for our Nation may we work to build harmony.

We pray for those who are in the hospital or home recuperating, especially: **Bob Gowen, Yumi, Ronald Garvey, Max, Anne, Linda Hill, Cathy, Barbara, Howard Flemming, Hudson Beauregard; Ellie Ruvo, Joyce Makimi, Rosemary Recine, Robert Lynch, and Angela Carrozzo**

We pray for those who are homebound: **Esmerilda Hastings, Margaret Vaccaro, John & Lee Williams, Dorothy Dushin, Roberta Darrigrand; 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, Rebecca, Vince Servio, Sarah Paruolo, Annaliese Haag, Gerald, Marilyn Griffin, Joyce, Paul Ruvo, Helene, Jason, Peter, Hannelore, Carol White, Steven Schubert, and Jeff.**

We pray for **Edwin Sanchez and the students at El Hogar School, and the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.**

The banns of marriage between Joseph Baiocco and Laura Corbelli are officially announced. We pray for them as they prepare for their marriage that will take place at St. John's Episcopal Church on Saturday the 4th of September 2021

We pray for the McAndrew family, especially Clare, whose Mom, Edwina Bosco, passed peacefully this week. All six of her children were there over the last two days to see her. She had a blessed life, living to 92 with a great partner. She got to see all her kids settled in their lives and her youngest grandkid just reported for freshman year in college. A full life indeed.

We also pray for others who have died, especially the over 610,000 in this country who have died from COVID-19

Officiant: Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

CONFESSION OF SIN

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

Silence

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**

✠ *Please greet one another with:*

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you**

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Celebrant: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us; an offering and a sacrifice to God

OFFERTORY HYMN #694

“God be in my head”

God be in my head, and in my un - der - stand - ing;

God be in mine eyes, and in my look - ing;

God be in my mouth, and in my speak - ing;

God be in my heart, and in my think - ing;

God be at mine end, and at my de - part - ing.

DOXOLOGY

Old Hundredth

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, you heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER A

In this prayer, the lines in bold are spoken by the People.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Priest inserts Proper Preface

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 Continues

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 Continues

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 Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

✱ *Please join in singing:*

THE COMMUNION HYMN #140 VS 1&3

“Wilt thou forgive”



1 Wilt thou for - give that sin, where I be - gun,
2 Wilt thou for - give that sin, by which I won
3 I have a sin of fear that when I've spun



which is my sin, though it were done be - fore?
o - thers to sin, and made my sin their door?
my last thread, I shall per - ish on the shore;



Wilt thou for - give those sins through which I run,
Wilt thou for - give that sin which I did shun
swear by thy - self, that at my death thy Son



and do run still, though still I do de - plore?
a year or two, but wal - lowed in a score?
shall shine as he shines now, and here - to - fore.



When thou hast done, thou hast not done, for I have more.
When thou hast done, thou hast not done, for I have more.
And hav - ing done that, thou hast done, I fear no more.

Words: John Donne (1573-1631) Music: *Donne*, melody and bass John Hilton (1599-1657), alt.; harm. Roy F. Kehl (b. 1935), after Elizabeth Poston (b. 1905)
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✠ *Please stand as you are able*

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: Almighty and ever living 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.

THE BLESSING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.** 2 Corinthians 13:14

✦ *Please join in singing:*

THE CLOSING HYMN #344

“Lord dismiss us with thy blessing”

1 Lord, dis - miss us with thy bless - ing; fill our hearts with
2 Thanks we give and a - dor - a - tion for thy Gos - pel's
3 so that when thy love shall call us, Sa - vior, from the

joy and peace; let us each, thy love pos - sess - ing,
joy - ful sound; may the fruits of thy sal - va - tion
world a - way, fear of death shall not ap - pall us,

tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace: O re - fresh us,
in our hearts and lives a - bound: ev - er faith - ful,
glad thy sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,

O re - fresh us trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.
ev - er faith - ful to thy truth may we be found;
may we ev - er reign with thee in end - less day.

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Alleluia, alleluia! Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

POSTLUDE

STEWARDSHIP

“But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children’s children.” (Deut 4:9) Sage advice, let us not forget what the Lord our God has done for us. Do not let the distractions of the day call you away from the awe & wonder of the gift of life so graciously given us. Let us not fail to teach our children of the miraculous wonder of our Creator and of creation. Let us honor God’s gift in offering to God’s work in the world from our abundance, with great joy.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Thrift Shop: The thrift shop is open Saturdays from 10-2. We are seeking volunteers for 2 hour shifts to help out our regular staff. We have had staff changes since Covid-19 and have a smaller pool to draw from. Here is a link to our updated [Sign Up Genius](#).

General Volunteers: Are you an organizer? Perhaps you are a gardener? A techie who likes filming/videography? A knack for marketing/communications? Would your Spanish get you more than a cup of coffee? A numbers person, you say? Accounting whiz? Enjoy getting to know new folks? Then St. John’s needs your help! Please contact Warden Matt Ruvo; mattsunset@yahoo.com or The Rev Mary B. Gregorius, mothermarystjohns@gmail.com to sign up to volunteer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME BACK SUNDAY: SEPT. 12 9:30AM—SAVE THE DATE—There will be blessings, there will be baptisms, there will be joy! Please mark your calendar for this first Sunday of the program year so we can welcome each other back after a fun summer of travel, adventures and rest!

BAPTISM: The beginning of our new life in Christ will be celebrated at St. John's Episcopal Church on Sunday September 12th, 2021. Please contact Mother Mary +for information

CONFIRMATION: Confirmation is when we celebrate the beginning of our adult journey with Jesus Christ. The Church takes preparation for this transition in our lives seriously. Classes will begin September 14th, 2021 for anyone 7th grade and above. Please contact Mother Mary+ for more information

TUESDAY MORNING PRAYER 8:00AM As we begin to pick up our in office work schedules, please consider beginning your day in prayer together. ZOOM link in TW@SJ or [click here](#). Meeting ID 847 0590 3160

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY: Return to the Old Time 11:00AM; ZOOM link in This Week @ St. John's. Please join us in discussing First Kings.

ST. JOHN'S STAFF:

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