

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 20

September 19, 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

Bless the Children—Alix Beaujour

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 #478 VS 1&3

“Jesus our mighty Lord”



1 Je - sus, our might - y Lord, our strength in sad - ness, —
2 Good shep-herd of your sheep, your own de - fend - ing, —
3 Glo - rious their life who sing, with glad thanks-giv - ing, —



the Fa - ther's con - quering Word, true source of glad - ness; —
in love your chil - dren keep to life un - end - ing. —
true hymns to Christ the King in all their liv - ing: —



your Name we glo - ri - fy, O Je - sus, throned on high;
You are your - self the Way: lead us then day by day
all who con - fess his Name, come then with hearts a - flame;



you gave your - self to die for our sal - va - tion.
in your own steps, we pray, O Lord most ho - ly.
the God of peace ac - claim as Lord and Sa - vior.

Words: Clement of Alexandria (170?-220?); para. F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984), rev. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund.
Music: *Monk's Gate*, Sussex folk melody; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) Copyright © by permission of Oxford University Press.
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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

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; 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 Wisdom of Solomon 1:16-2:1, 12-22

The ungodly by their words and deeds summoned death; considering him a friend, they pinned away and made a covenant with him, because they are fit to belong to his company.

For they reasoned unsoundly, saying to themselves, "Short and sorrowful is our life, and there is no remedy when a life comes to its end, and no one has been known to return from Hades. Let us lie in wait for the righteous man, because he is inconvenient to us and opposes our actions; he reproaches us for sins against the law, and accuses us of sins against our training. He professes to have knowledge of God, and calls himself a child of the Lord. He became to us a reproof of our thoughts; the very sight of him is a burden to us, because his manner of life is unlike that of others, and his ways are strange. We are considered by him as something base, and he avoids our ways as unclean; he calls the last end of the righteous happy, and boasts that God is his father. Let us see if his words are true, and let us test what will happen at the end of his life; for if the righteous man is God's child, he will help him, and will deliver him from the hand of his adversaries. Let us test him with insult and torture, so that we may find out how gentle he is, and make trial of his forbearance. Let us condemn him to a shameful death, for, according to what he says, he will be protected."

Thus they reasoned, but they were led astray, for their wickedness blinded them, and they did not know the secret purposes of God, nor hoped for the wages of holiness, nor discerned the prize for blameless souls.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 54

- 1 Save me, O God, by your name; *
in your might, defend my cause.**
- 2 Hear my prayer, O God; *
give ear to the words of my mouth.**
- 3 For the arrogant have risen up against me,
and the ruthless have sought my life, *
those who have no regard for God.**
- 4 Behold, God is my helper; *
it is the Lord who sustains my life.**
- 5 Render evil to those who spy on me; *
in your faithfulness, destroy them.**
- 6 I will offer you a freewill sacrifice *
and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.**
- 7 For you have rescued me from every trouble, *
and my eye has seen the ruin of my foes.**

A READING FROM THE LETTER TO JAMES

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

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 image shows two staves of musical notation for a Celtic Alleluia. The first staff is in 6/8 time and contains the lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!'. The second staff continues the melody, with lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - - ia! _____'. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature changes from 6/8 to 9/8 in the second staff.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 7: 24-37

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

People: Glory to you Lord Christ.

Jesus and his disciples passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

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 IV)

Let us pray for the Church and for the world

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

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 those who are in the hospital or home recuperating, especially: **Frederic, Peter, 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 **Paul** Seltzer as he enters Marine Boot Camp this week.

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 who have died, especially the over 630,000 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.*

CONFESSIOIN 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.

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.**

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

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you.

In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory again.**

Celebrant Continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.**

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.

THE COMMUNION ANTHEM “Steal away, steal away home” Negro Spiritual
Solo by Angela Berg

✠ *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 #637 VS 1, 2 & 5

“How firm a foundation”

Descant

5 “The soul that to Je - sus hath fled for re - pose,

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,
2 “Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dis - mayed!
3 “When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,
4 “When through fier - y tri - als thy path - way shall lie,
5 “The soul that to Je - sus hath fled for re - pose,

5 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

1 is laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent word!
2 For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
3 the riv - ers of woe shall not thee o - ver - flow;
4 my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;
5 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

5 soul, _____ to shake, no,

1 What more can he say than to you he hath said,
2 I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
3 for I will be with thee, thy trou - bles to bless,
4 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign
5 that soul, though all hell shall en - deav - or to shake,

5 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake.”

1 to you that for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 2 up - held by my right - eous, om - ni - po - tent hand.
 3 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.
 4 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.
 5 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake.”

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

IN OUR LETTER FROM JAMES this morning we are reminded; “Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. “ Such is the mark of good stewardship. The Confirmation Class is learning that our responsibility to care for God’s creation is both individual and collective. As individuals we are called to be aware of our impact on the earth and the creatures of God, and we are called to demand that our elected officials and our corporations behave with equal awareness and responsibility. We are called to do this with a “gentleness born of wisdom.” Neither James, not the ancient Rabbi’s will let us escape this stewardship by delegating responsibility to others, to the great, “they.” The task is ours. Please celebrate the Season of Creation by upping your game! Reduce, reuse & recycle. Compost!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HEARTS AND HOMES FOR REFUGEES COAT DRIVE: Consider donating Coats or Boots on October 2, 2021 at St. John's Episcopal Church 4 W Fountain Square, Larchmont They also accept gift cards - (Target and Burlington) and need volunteers.

GREEN THUMB NEEDED: If you have a green thumb St. John's needs your help with the fall weeding! Please contact Matt Ruvo (mattsunset@yahoo.com) if you are able to help the property team discern which plants to keep and which plants to weed!

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS OCTOBER 3RD 10:30 Please join us in the cloister on Sunday October 3rd at 10:30 for the Blessing of the Animals.

MIDNIGHT RUNDONATIONS: We are collecting Men's socks, underwear and T-Shirts (average size L) for the October Midnight Run. Please put them in the bin at church.

CONFIRMATION: Confirmation Classes began September 14th, 2021 for anyone 7th grade and above. Classes are held the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month; from 5:45PM-7:45PM. We start in the Kitchen. Please contact Mother Mary+ for more information

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: St. John's needs your help! Contact Warden Matt Ruvo; mattsunset@yahoo.com or The Rev Mary B. Gregorius, mothermarystjohns@gmail.com to volunteer

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: 11:00AM; meet us in the Pleasantville Diner. We have started 1 Samuel.

ST. JOHN'S STAFF:

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