



Holy Eucharist Rite II, 7:45 AM and 9:30 AM
The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Third Sunday of Creation Season
St. John's Episcopal Church
September 17, 2023

Please move to the center of each pew and leave room on the ends for those arriving after you. Thanks!

Prelude

For the beauty of the earth

setting by Paul Manz

All stand as able at the ringing of the bell.

Processional Hymn (9:30 AM)

#416, The Hymnal 1982 vss. 1, 2, 4, 6

(This hymn is sung to the tune of #288, The Hymnal 1982)

For the beauty of the earth

Words: Folliot Sandford Pierpoint

Music: Lucerna Laudoniae

1 For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies,

4 For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild, **[Refrain]**

**Refrain: Christ our God, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.**

2 For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light, **[Refrain]**

6 For each perfect gift of thine
to the world so freely given,
faith and hope and love divine,
peace on earth and joy in heaven, **[Refrain]**

Opening Acclamation

p. 355 Book of Common Prayer

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

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

Celebrant 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

S-280, The Hymnal 1982 (spoken at 7:45 AM; sung at 9:30 AM)

setting by Robert Powell

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 Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant 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, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated for the readings.

Children's Procession to Sunday School. Please join in singing: (9:30 AM)

*I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.
In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the City of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

The First Lesson: A reading from the Book of Genesis

Genesis 50:15-21

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103: 8-13 (*read in unison*)

p. 733, Book of Common Prayer

- 8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.**
- 9 He will not always accuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for ever.**
- 10 He has 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 his mercy great upon those who fear him.**
- 12 As far as the east is from the west, *
so far has he removed our sins from us.**
- 13 As a father cares for his children, *
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.**

The Second Lesson: A reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans

Romans 14:1-12

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 then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

All stand as able for the

Sequence Hymn/Canticle (9:30 AM)
#885 Wonder, Love & Praise vs. 1&2

A Song of Creation

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr.
Music: Whitehead

1 Let all creation bless the Lord,
till heav'n with praise is ringing.
Sun, moon, and stars, peal out a chord,
stir up the angels' singing.
Sing, wind and rain! Sing, snow and sleet!
Make music, day, night, cold and heat:
exalt the God who made you.

2 All living things upon the earth,
green fertile hills and mountains,
sing to the God who gave you birth;
be joyful, springs and fountains.
Lithe water life, bright airborne birds,
wild roving beast, tame flocks and herds:
exalt the God who made you.

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

Matthew 18:21-35

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Peter came and said to Jesus, "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 Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sequence Hymn continues vs. 3

O men and women everywhere,
lift up a hymn of glory;
let all who know God's steadfast care
tell our salvation's story.
No tongue be silent; sing your part,
you humble souls and meek of heart;
exalt the God who made you.

The Sermon

The Rev. Mawethu Ncaca, Assoc. Rector

All remain seated for a moment of silence following the sermon.

All stand as able for

The Nicene Creed

p. 358 Book of Common Prayer

**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.**

Prayers of the People

Leader Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

Silence

We pray for the church. Bless the missions and ministries of diverse congregations, that they may be equipped by your Spirit to do all you call them to do. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought, and healing to rivers clogged with pollution. Enrich the soil for trees and plants, and protect the crops needed to feed the hungry. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for all who govern. Encourage those in positions of power to lead with empathy, practice forgiveness, and care for those who struggle. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for our neighbors who face illness of any kind. For those strained financially; for all living with chronic pain, mental illness, the disease of addiction, or otherwise afraid or in harm's way, especially Grace Edwards, Carol Paulonis, Michael Corso, Alice Jordan, John & Sue Adams, Carolyn Stoklas, Jim Ricci, Alex Husinko, our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, Bobby Kelly, Andrew Petercuskie, and Judy Covarrubias and all those we name to you now... *(the congregation may add prayers, spoken or in silence).*

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation. Open our hearts to practice intentional invitation. Help us to forgive each other, practice patience, and choose welcome over judgment. Move us to care for those in our community seeking refuge and safety.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the worship leaders of our parish, both clergy and lay; for those whose labors are visible, and those whose labors are less visible, that all our gifts together would make a fragrant offering of love and praise to you.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Life-giving God, we pray for those in our parish celebrating birthdays this week: Cate Heynen, Bill McLaughlin, Brent Goodwin, Thomas Polizio, Paul Homes, Dewey Jordan, Gail Gilbert, Corinne LaFemina, and Cliff Rogers.

Merciful God. **Receive our prayer.**

We pray for those who have died, especially in the recent earthquake in Morocco, from the dam break in Libya, and all for all others we name to you now... *... (the congregation may add prayers, spoken or in silence).*

Merciful God. **Receive our prayer.**

Silence

Celebrant

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and all the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known to us through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

p. 360 Book of Common Prayer

Celebrant 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.

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

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

Remember to sanitize hands, before and after touching common items like offering plates or after shaking hands at the Peace.

Please be seated

Welcome & Parish Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

If you are viewing our livestream, you may wish to prepare your financial offering for mailing at this time. Anyone may give online at www.stjohnswf.org/give OR Text "STJOHNSWF" to 73256 to give using your mobile device.

The altar flowers are given today by Jane & Paul Lambert in honor of their 45th Wedding Anniversary.

Offertory Anthem (9:30 AM)

Come, O come, our voices raise

Text by George Wither/Music by Malcolm Archer
Cantate

*Come, O come, our voices raise, sounding God Almighty's praise;
Hither bring in one consent heart, and voice, and instrument.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Sound the trumpet, touch the lute, let no tongue nor string be mute,
Nor a voiceless creature found, that hath neither note nor sound.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*So this huge wide orb we see shall one choir, one temple be;
Where in such a praiseful tone we will sing what God hath done.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Thus our song shall overclimb all the bounds of space and time;
Come, then, come, our voices raise, sounding God Almighty's praise.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia. Amen, amen.*

Please stand as able

The Doxology

(7:45 am—spoken)

All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee.

(9:30 am—sung—Hymn 380 vs. 3)

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

All stand as able for

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer for Creation. Used with permission.¹

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 God thanks and praise.

Celebrant Praise and thanks are yours, our Creating God....

....Through the Spirit you continue to call us into covenant with you—for the restoration of Creation and the reconciliation of all people. And so we give you thanks, rejoicing with all of Creation, as we join the saints and angels in their unending hymn:

**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.**

The People stand or kneel. The Celebrant continues

Celebrant In the night that Jesus was betrayed, he took bread, and gave thanks to God...
....So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**All Christ has died.
Christ has risen.
Christ will come again.**

The Celebrant continues

Merciful God, we come to this table seeking reconciliation: with you, with one another, and with all creation....
....Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, everlasting God, now and forever. **AMEN.**

Celebrant As the Wisdom before Creation teaches us, we pray.

Alternate form of The Lord's Prayer for Creation Season. Used with permission.²

Celebrant Our Father and Mother in heaven

People You are also at home in the air, soil, forests and oceans

Celebrant Hallowed be your name

People By the care we take of your Creation

Celebrant Your kingdom come

People All that you see is good

Celebrant Your will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven

People Your will to till and care

Celebrant Give us this day our daily bread

People That all may have enough to live life in fullness

Celebrant Forgive us our trespasses

People Our greed, our exploitation, our lack of concern for other species and for future generations

Celebrant As we forgive those who trespass against us

People By reconciliation with justice and peace.

Celebrant Lead us not into temptation

People The temptation to equate dominion with exploitation

Celebrant And deliver us from evil

People The evil of destroying your gift of creation

Celebrant For yours is the kingdom

People Yours, Lord, not ours

Celebrant The power and the glory

People In the cross and resurrection

Celebrant For ever and ever

People You are the beginning and you are the end. Amen.

All stand as able

The Breaking of the Bread

At 7:45 AM, spoken:

Celebrant Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Christ our Passover is
sacrificed for us;

**People Therefore let us keep the feast.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

At 9:30 AM, sung, S-155 (9:30 AM)

Setting by Gerald R. Neal
(front of The Hymnal 1982)

Fraction Anthem **Christ Our Passover** **Hymnal S-155**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is
 sac - ri - ficed for us; There - fore let us keep the feast.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Communion of the People (please sanitize your hands before coming forward)

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion or to receive a blessing (instead of the bread and wine) the altar rail. If you prefer to receive a blessing, simply cross your arms over your chest to signal the clergy. If you need a gluten free wafer, please extend your hands with palms down to signal the clergy. If you need to be served in your seat, please inform an usher.

At this time, we will refrain from offering the common cup (drinking from a common chalice) and will offer the wine by intinction only (dipping the communion wafer in the cup of wine.) If you wish to receive the wine, please hold the wafer in your fingers as the chalice bearer comes to you and take care to dip only the wafer into the wine (and not your fingers.) If you are not comfortable receiving the wine this way, please know that receiving only the consecrated bread at Holy Communion (or the wine only) is still considered full Communion.

Communion Hymn (9:30 AM) #674, Lift Every Voice & Sing

Forgive our sins as we forgive

Words: Rosamond E. Herklots
Music: Detroit

1 "Forgive our sins as we forgive"
you taught us, Lord, to pray;
but you alone can grant us grace
to live the words we say.

2 How can your pardon reach and bless
the unforgiving heart
that broods on wrongs and will not let
old bitterness depart?

3 In blazing light your cross reveals
the truth we dimly knew,
how small the debts men owe to us,
how great our debt to you.

4 Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls,
and bid resentment cease;
then, reconciled to God and man,
our lives will spread your peace.

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

(For those worshipping with us remotely at 9:30 AM)

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

The Postcommunion Prayer (for those who have shared in Communion in person)

Celebrant Let us pray.

All Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Celebrant blesses the People.

(9:30 AM) The children of the parish may join the clergy at the church door during the hymn. The children will send us out with the words of Dismissal.

**The Dismissal Hymn (9:30 AM)
#397, The Hymnal 1982**

Now thank we all our God

Words: Martin Rinkart (1586-1649);
tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt.
Music: Nun danket alle Gott

- 1 Now thank we all our God,
with heart, and hands, and voices,
who wondrous things hath done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mother's arms
hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.
- 2 O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us!
With ever-joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.
- 3 All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and him who reigns
with them in highest heaven,
eternal, Triune God,
whom earth and heaven adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be, evermore.

The Dismissal

Children of the Parish
All

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Now thank we all our God

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Footnotes

¹ Eucharistic Prayer adapted by Nina Ranadive Pooley from sources including: Eucharistic Prayer One, Season of Creation Two, the Anglican Church of Southern Africa (as published online by Green Anglicans, Anglican Church of Southern Africa Environmental Network) and a Creation-specific Eucharistic Prayer in Sam Wells and Abigail Kocher, Eucharistic Prayers (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing, 2016). Used with permission.

² Adapted from a Creation-oriented responsive-form Lord's Prayer from "Creation Care Prayers," The Church of England Environmental Programme, 27, as provided in "Creation-Focused Worship Resources for Earth Day, Rogation Days, and Every Sunday, compiled by the Creation Care Justice Network in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, March 2021.

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