

August 25, 2024

The 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins. Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin. Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,

help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, + the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

Entrance Hymn - When Morning Gild the Skies (LBW546)

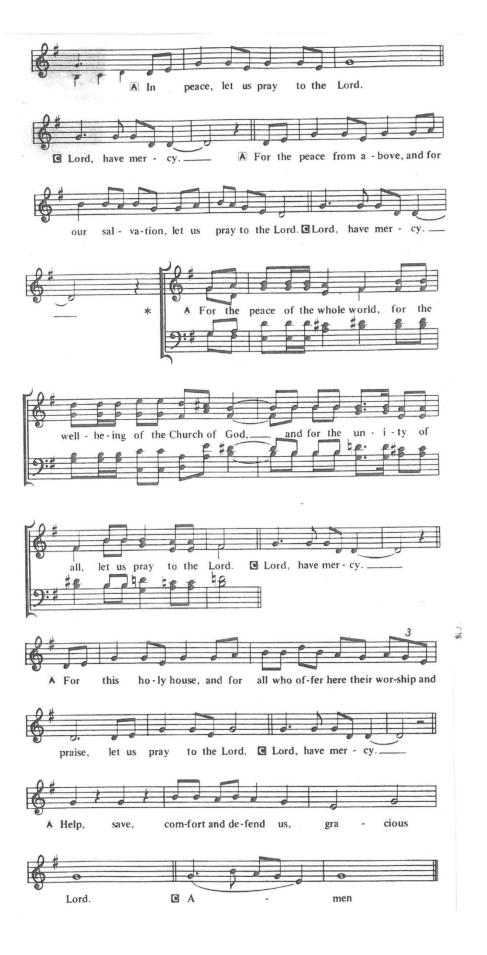


5 Let all of humankind in this their concord find: may Jesus Christ be praised! Let all the earth around ring joyous with the sound: may Jesus Christ be praised! Sing, sun and stars of space, sing, all who see his face, sing, "Jesus Christ be praised!" God's whole creation o'er, today and evermore, shall Jesus Christ be praised!

GREETING

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE (Cornell Setting)





PRAYER OF THE DAY



Let us Pray.... Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THE WORD

First Reading: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

¹Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. ²aAnd Joshua said to all the people, ¹⁴"Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. ¹⁵Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

¹⁶Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; ¹⁷for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 34:15-22 (Read responsively by whole verse)

- ¹⁵The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and God's ears are open to their cry.
- ¹⁶The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to erase the remembrance of them from the earth.
- ¹⁷The righteous cry, and the Lord hears them and delivers them from all their troubles.
- ¹⁸The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those whose spirits are crushed.
- ¹⁹Many are the troubles of the righteous, but the Lord delivers them from everyone.
- ²⁰God will keep safe all their bones; not one of them shall be broken.
- ²¹Evil will bring death to the wicked and those who hate the righteous will be punished.
- ²²O Lord, you redeem the life of your servants, and those who put their trust in you will not be punished.

Second Reading: Ephesians 6:10-20

¹⁰ Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵ As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



The Holy Gospel according to John the 6th Chapter.



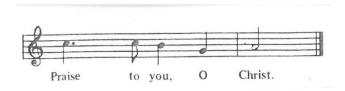
Gospel: John 6:56-69

[Jesus said,] ⁵⁶"Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." ⁵⁹He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" ⁶¹But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

The Gospel of the Lord.



SERMON - REV. RICK NEU

HYMN OF THE DAY - Blessed Assurance (WOV699)

Blessed Assurance



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 into hell. 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

For the Church, the world, and needs of all people, let us pray to the Lord.

A brief silence

Father, thank you for making us the Bride of Christ – and his soldiers, faithful, true, and bold. Thank you for your living Word and for your Living Bread. Thank you for Jesus. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, clothe your Church in the spotless raiment and trusty armor of Jesus' righteousness. Make it his radiant and faithful bride, adorned with beauty, holiness, and grace. Make it his valiant soldier, adorned with courage, integrity, and enduring faith. In all circumstances, use it to draw many afar off to saving faith in Jesus, their Savior, Captain, Bridegroom, and Lord. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Defend and restore your Church when it suffers for the sake of Christ. Exchange its sackcloth of suffering for the festal robes of salvation. Remove from it all stain of sorrow or sin. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless this congregation with your protection and favor. Remind us that we reflect Jesus' name and character to the world. Keep us faithful, generous, and kind. Help us to share with others the gifts of the Spirit that you have given to us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless husbands and wives, parents and children, sisters and brothers, and all whom we cherish as family. Knit us together in enduring bonds of affection, respect, and fidelity. Bring healing and peace to all households fractured by sin, sorrow, and suffering. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Conform the minds of our earthly leaders to your commandments. Grant them strength to accomplish their responsibilities in accordance with your will. Remove from them the allure of sin, the temptation of power, and the seduction of earthly gain. Teach us to live at peace with one another, gladly sharing the gifts of your creation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Graciously hear and generously answer our prayers on behalf of all who suffer, including those we name either silently or aloud.... Fill their hearts with faith, hope, and peace. Let all who care for them act with gentleness, competence, and cheerful patience. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Father, we entrust our beloved dead into your care. Ease the pain of those who grieve. We still walk by faith and not by sight, so we ask you to sustain us with the Cross of your dear Son and the grace and comfort of your Holy Spirit. In your good time, lead us into the bright courts of heaven. There, let us and all whom you have redeemed feast on Christ forever. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Incline your ear to our prayers, dear Lord; and answer them according to your most gracious and holy will, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CELEBRATING THE EUCHARIST

PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(If you choose to exchange the peace, please use hand sanitizer before you start and again when finished.)

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY HYMN - LET THE VINEYARDS:



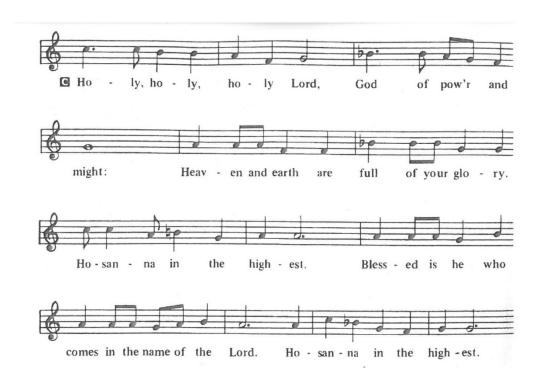
OFFERING PRAYER

Let us Pray. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations. You rescued Israel, your chosen people. Through the prophets you renewed your promise; and, at this end of all the ages, you sent your Son, who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death, until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

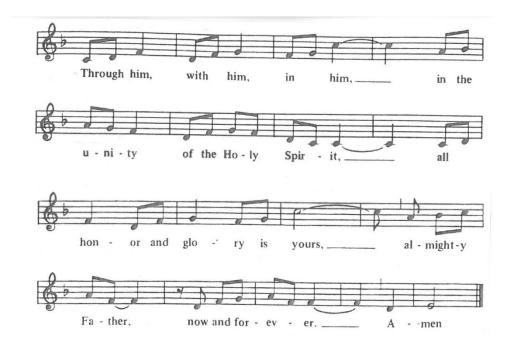
Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection, that we who receive the Lord's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

C: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servant of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.



LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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,
 forever and ever. Amen.

LAMB OF GOD:



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

COMMUNION

The Body of Christ given for you.

The Blood of Christ shed for you.

(Please use hand sanitizer before coming to the Altar. Both intinction and common cup are available.)

HYMN OF THE MONTH – Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me (Next Page)



TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. Amen

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE:



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us Pray.... Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN - O Jesus, I have Promised (LBW503)





BLESSING

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, + be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**