

Holy Eucharist

October 10, 2021

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85887946777?pwd=ei94>

[MEdsMUh6clV6b2dUblFOQ3I2Zz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85887946777?pwd=ei94MEdsMUh6clV6b2dUblFOQ3I2Zz09)

Meeting ID: 858 8794 6777

Passcode: 782611

The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 23B

Prelude

Announcements

Opening Hymn

Chorus Book 178

Great is the Lord

Unison

Great is the Lord; He is ho - ly and just. By His pow - er we trust in His

love. Great is the Lord; He is faith - ful and true. By His

mer - cy He proves He is love. 1, 2. Great is the Lord and
(D.S.) Great are You, Lord, and

F C Dm7 C Bb G G7 C
 wor- thy of glo- ry! Great is the Lord and wor- thy of praise!
 wor- thy of glo- ry! Great are You, Lord, and wor- thy of praise!

Bb D Em7 D G G E Am E Am
 C F# F# G# F# G#
 Great is the Lord! Now lift up your voice: Now lift up your voice;
 Great are You, Lord! I lift up my voice; I lift up my voice:

Dm7 F6 G7 F G7 Am Am
 G G G G G G G G
 Great is the Lord!
 Great are You, Lord!

Dm7 F6 G7 F G7 1 C D.C. 2 C D.S. 3 C
 G G G G G G G G
 Great is the Lord! Lord!
 Great are You, Lord! Lord!

All standing as they are able, the Presider says

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

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

The Presider begins the 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.

The following is sung, all standing as they are able

Song of Praise

to be sung through twice

Chorus Book 22

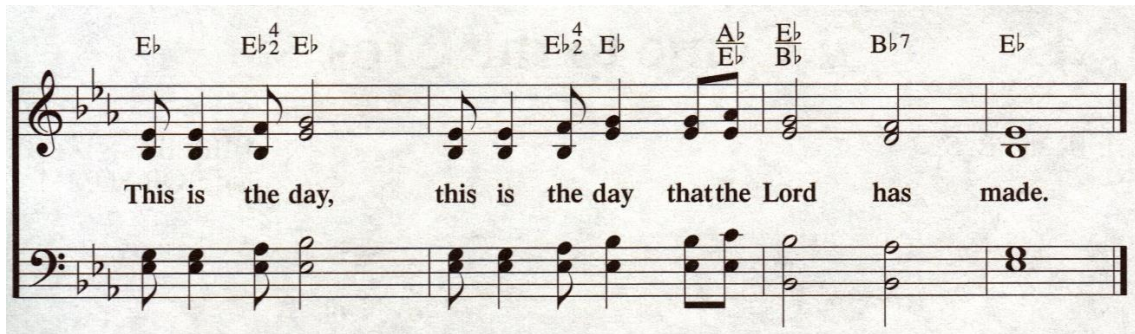
This is the day

Chord symbols for the first system: Eb, Eb⁴ Eb, Eb⁴ Eb, Ab/Eb, Gm/Bb, Bb⁷, Bb⁹.

Chord symbols for the second system: Bb⁶, Bb⁷, Bb, Cm/Bb, Bb⁷, Bb, Cm/Bb, Bb⁷, Gm/Bb.

Chord symbols for the third system: Fm/Eb, Eb, Fm/Eb, Eb, Fm/Eb, Eb, Ab.

Chord symbols for the fourth system: Eb/Bb, G/B, G⁷/B, Cm, Cm/Bb, Ab, Eb, Eb⁴ Eb.



Collect of the Day

Presider God be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Let us pray.

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All sit.

The Lessons

First Reading

Job 23:1-9, 16-17

A Reading from the book of Job.

¹Job [said:]

²“Today also my complaint is bitter;
[God’s] hand is heavy despite my groaning.

³Oh, that I knew where I might find him,
that I might come even to his dwelling!

⁴I would lay my case before him,
and fill my mouth with arguments.

⁵I would learn what he would answer me,
and understand what he would say to me.

⁶Would he contend with me in the greatness of his power?
No; but he would give heed to me.

⁷There an upright person could reason with him,
and I should be acquitted forever by my judge.

⁸“If I go forward, he is not there;
or backward, I cannot perceive him;

⁹on the left he hides, and I cannot behold him;

I turn to the right, but I cannot see him.
¹⁶God has made my heart faint;
the Almighty has terrified me;
¹⁷If only I could vanish in darkness,
and thick darkness would cover my face!”

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

Psalm 90:12-17

¹²So teach us to number our days, *
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.
¹³**Return, O LORD; how long will you tarry? ***
be gracious to your servants.
¹⁴Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning; *
so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.
¹⁵**Make us glad by the measure of the days that you afflicted us ***
and the years in which we suffered adversity.
¹⁶Show your servants your works *
and your splendor to their children.
¹⁷**May the graciousness of the LORD our God be upon us; ***
prosper the work of our hands;
prosper our handiwork.

Second Reading

Hebrews 4:12-16

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Hebrews.

¹²Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.
¹⁴Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

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

Hymn

Out of the depths I call

Tune: *Franconia*

Out of the depths I call; to God I send my cry. Lord,
My soul with pa-tience waits for you, the liv-ing Lord. My
My long-ing eyes look out for your en-live-ning ray, more
Let Is-rael trust in God; no bounds God's mer-cy knows. The

hear my sup- pli- ca- ting voice and gra- cious- ly re- ply.
hopes are on your pro-mise built, your nev- er- fail- ing word.
du- ly than the morn-ing watch to spy the dawn-ing day.
plen-teous source and spring from whence re- demp- tion ev- er flows.

Holy Gospel

Mark 10:17-31

All stand as they are able.

Gospeller
People

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

¹⁷As [Jesus] was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ¹⁸Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.’” ²⁰He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” ²¹Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” ²²When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

²³Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” ²⁴And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” ²⁶They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” ²⁷Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”



²⁸Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” ²⁹Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, ³⁰who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

Nicene Creed

All stand as they are able.

Presider Let us affirm the faith of the Church using the words of 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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**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],
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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

All remain standing.

Presider: Good Teacher, you look at us with love, and teach us to trust our heavenly Father to give us the treasures of heaven: Open our hearts with divine generosity, that we may share in your work of reconciliation, as we pray: Our forebears put their trust in you; they trusted, and you delivered them.

Intercessor: O Christ, our great High Priest who has passed through the heavens: You sacrificed all things for the salvation of the world. We pray today for our bishops Bonnie, Michael, Justin, Moises, Elizabeth, Donald and Craig, all ministers, priests, deacons, ministry teams, those in formation; and our brothers and sisters worshipping at St Michael & All Angels, Lincoln Park; and St Martha's, Santana, in the Dominican Republic. Grant your Church the grace to share in your generous work of resurrection and reconciliation. Our forebears put their trust in you; **they trusted, and you delivered them.**

Silence is kept.

Compassionate Judge, your Word is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword: Look upon our world and inspire the rich and powerful to generosity and justice. Our forebears put their trust in you; **they trusted, and you delivered them.**

Silence is kept.

Gracious Friend, pour your compassion upon us, that we maybe a community that loves one another and the world you have made. Our forebears put their trust in you; **they trusted, and you delivered them.**

Silence is kept.

Healing Physician, before you no creature is hidden: Reach out with your goodness and touch the lives of all who suffer throughout the world that they may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Our forebears put their trust in you; **they trusted, and you delivered them.**

Silence is kept.

Hear our intercession for the sick, the troubled, and all those for whom we pray [especially_____].

You are gracious to your servants, and we give you thanks [especially for _____].

You have been tested in every respect as we are and have triumphed over death; let [_____ and all] those who have died approach your throne of grace with boldness. Our forebears put their trust in you; **they trusted, and you delivered them.**

Silence is kept.

Presider: Loving One, in Jesus you have taught us that for you all things are possible: Hear the prayers of your people, that we may persevere in generosity and continually be given to good works, through Jesus Christ our Savior, who is alive with you and the Holy Spirit, our One, Triune God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

The Presider says

Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. *Hebrews 4:14,16*

A minister then says

Let us confess our sins to God.

A period of silence is observed.

Minister and People together say

**God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

A Priest stands and says

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.**

Peace

All stand as they are able.

<i>Presider</i>	The peace of the Lord be always with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The People then are seated.

Holy Communion

The Presider then says

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High. *Psalm 50:14*

How the Holy Communion is prepared

The Presider, other Eucharistic Ministers, and any participating Acolytes must wash their hands, or use hand sanitizer, before celebrating and before distribution. Gloves will not be used.

The Presider alone will bring the bread and wine from the credence table to the Altar at the time of the offertory. All of the elements for Holy Communion will be placed on the Altar for the Eucharistic Prayer. The Presider alone stands at the altar, with others 6 feet or more away.

The **priest's wafer and chalice** will be uncovered in front of the Presider during the Eucharistic Prayer. They **are for the Presider alone**. They are consumed entirely by the Presider, or appropriately disposed of after the service.

The priest's wafer and the people's wafers will be kept separate at all times. The **people's wafers will be a container** on the Altar, which will remain covered throughout the Eucharistic Prayer.

During consecration, the Presider will touch the container, not the wafers.

The **distribution** of consecrated wine is not permitted at this time (as of June 19, 2020 Diocese of Michigan directive).

How the Holy Communion will be distributed

Everyone distributing communion will use hand sanitizer before they begin distribution. Gloves will not be used.

Communicants will be encouraged to use hand sanitizer before receiving. Hand sanitizer will be available at the service.

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The people will come to the Altar rail as they are able. The Minister will place the bread in the hand. The distribution will happen without directly touching the hand of the person receiving. Hand-to-mouth distribution is not permitted. If hand-to-hand contact happens, the minister will re-sanitize.

If a blessing is preferred, the blessing will be given without touch.

The people stand as they are able as a minister brings forward the alms basin.

Offertory Hymn

Doxology

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 people remain standing.

The Presider says

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 our thanks and praise.

We lift our hearts to you with thanks and praise, Almighty God, for nothing is impossible with you.

You brought the universe to life, and called a people to be your own.

In Jesus you came and laid bare your purpose for us and for all creation.

In him you parted with all your possessions, came close to the poor, and lived humbly with us.

He is our great high priest who has passed through the heavens; he sympathizes with our weaknesses and was tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Because of his dying and rising, we approach your throne with boldness, that we may receive mercy and find grace in time of need.

And so with the whole host of heaven, we join in praising you and saying,

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Presider continues

Reconciling God, in baptism you ask us to let go of family, friends, and all security; but from you, we receive back a hundredfold in sisters and brothers, parents and children, and, in the age to come, eternal life.

As your church offers this food to you,
give us back your glory, your wisdom, and your power,
that we may be your Son's body in the world.

Send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts of bread and wine,
that they may be for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, at the table with his disciples, took bread,
gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying,

"Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

After they had eaten, he took the cup.
Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying,

"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.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Presider continues

Living and active God, your Word divides soul from spirit, joint from marrow.

Speak your truth into the lives of all who plead for your saving power today.

Hear the cries of those whose complaint is bitter; comfort any whose voices
are weighed down with groaning; bless your children when they wish they could vanish
and when they long for thick darkness to cover them.

When our salvation seems as impossible as a camel passing through the eye of a needle,
come among us with the joy and power of your Sons resurrection, and astound us with
your grace, until that day when every eye shall see you and every tongue shall tell how
great is your mercy and how wondrous your glory, Holy Trinity of love. **AMEN.**

The Presider then says

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

**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.**

Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

The Presider says

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Presider says

God's holy gifts, for God's holy people.
The table of Christ's body and blood is now made ready.
It is the table of company with Jesus.
It is the table of sharing with the poor and lowly of the world,
with whom Jesus identified.
So come to this table you who have much faith
or you who would like more; you who have been here often
and you who have not been here in a long time.
Come. It is Christ who invites you to meet him here.
**Amen. As the bread and wine we now eat are transformed,
may we be changed into the likeness of Christ; bone of his
bone, flesh of his flesh, loving and caring for the world.**

The Presider continues

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, those who are not physically present here join us in offering you praise and thanksgiving. We remember your death, Lord Christ; we proclaim your resurrection; we await your coming in glory. And since they cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we beseech you to come spiritually into their hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us all with your grace, Lord Jesus, and never let us be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. **Amen.**

All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

After Communion, the Presider says

Let us pray.

**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.**

Blessing

A priest blesses the people, saying

Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who journey the way with us. So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind.

And the blessing of God Almighty, + the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

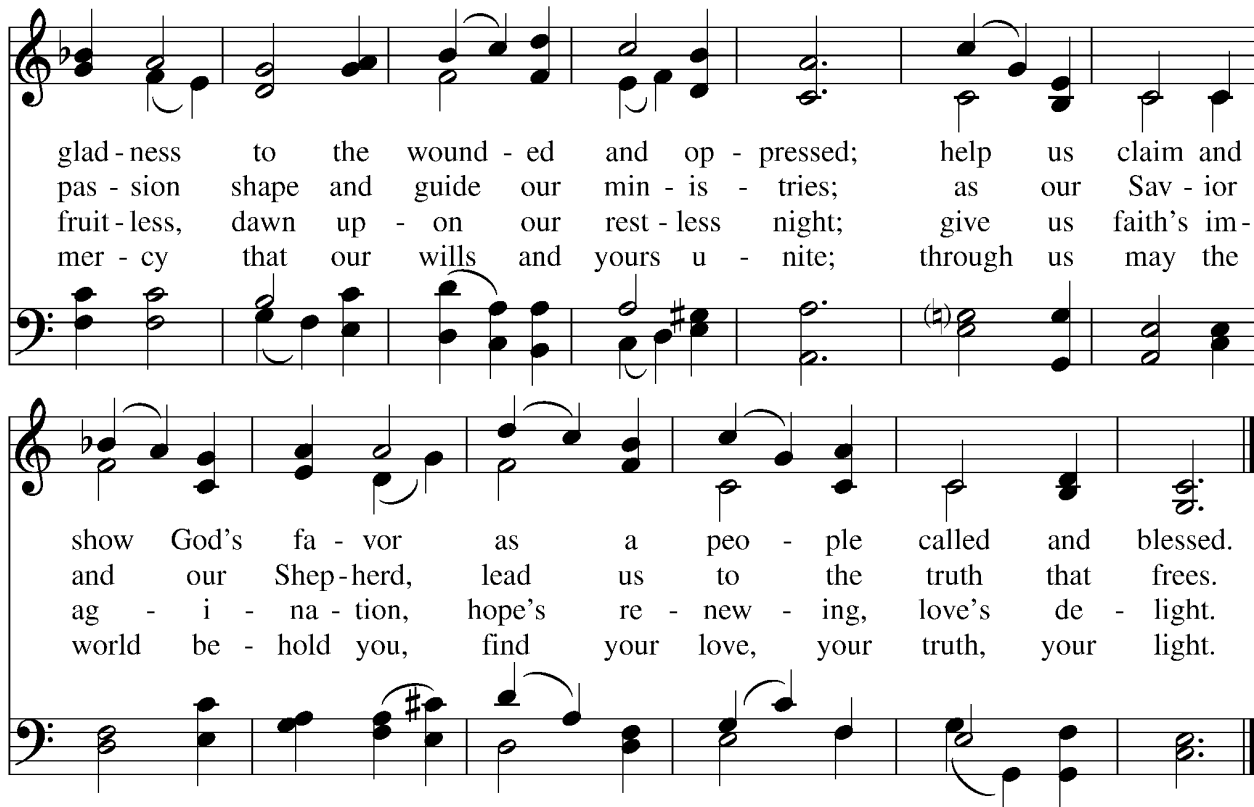
Gracious Spirit, give your servants

Tune: Abbot's Leigh

1. Gra - cious Spir - it, give your ser - vants joy to set sin's
 2. Word made flesh, who gave up glo - ry to be - come our
 3. Lov - ing God, who birthed cre - a - tion from the noth - ing -
 4. Tri - une God, e - ter - nal Be - ing, nev - er end - ing,

cap - tives free, hope to heal the bro - ken - heart - ed,
 great high priest, tak - ing on our hu - man na - ture
 ness of space, kin - dling life where all was emp - ty,
 un - be - gun, bound - less grace and per - fect jus - tice,

peace to share love's li - ber - ty. Through us bring your balm of
 to re - deem the last and least: let your cour - age and com -
 turn - ing cha - os in - to grace: when we feel con - fused and
 right - eous and for - giv - ing One: so en - fold us in you



glad - ness to the wound - ed and op - pressed; help us claim and
 pas - sion shape and guide our min - is - tries; as our Sav - ior
 fruit - less, dawn up - on our rest - less night; give us faith's im -
 mer - cy that our wills and yours u - nite; through us may the

show God's fa - vor as a peo - ple called and blessed.
 and our Shep - herd, lead us to the truth that frees.
 ag - i - na - tion, hope's re - new - ing, love's de - light.
 world be - hold you, find your love, your truth, your light.

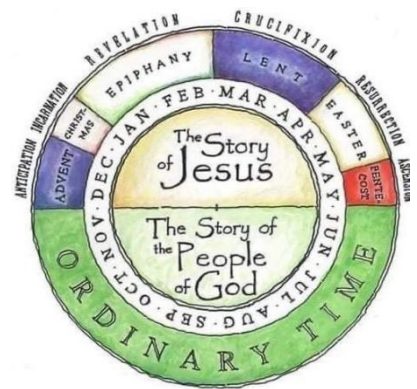
Dismissal

A minister says

And now, my siblings in Christ, I bid you go in peace
 to love and serve our Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude



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CONTINUING OUR DONATIONS OF FOOD AND FUNDS TO FAITH IN ACTION

Faith in Action provides leadership in collecting donations to support households in need in the Chelsea and Dexter areas. They are in need of our continuing help. *The usual*

"TOP ITEMS" needed are: baked beans, coffee, canned tomatoes, hamburger helper (or any helper), spaghetti sauce, small cans Campbell's soup, ketchup, ranch dressing, cereal, 64oz fruit juices, chips, crackers, toilet paper, laundry soap, cleaning products. You may bring your donations to FIA, or to Nancy who will see that they get there. **If you bring food directly to FIA**, please let Nancy know, so she can continue to keep our records of donation. If you write a check, please make it to *Faith In Action*. The **next Food Drive at the church** will be **October 21**. Please leave your donations at the church on that day.

Financial donations to help us combat the continuing effects of the pandemic can be made by PayPal at www.faithinaction1.org, by [Facebook](#), or by mailing a check to *Faith in Action*, 603 S. Main Street, Chelsea MI 48118. **If you need help, please call FIA at (734) 475-3305**

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Upcoming Commemorations

- October 10 Vida Dutton Scudder, Educator, 1954
- 11 Philip, Deacon and Evangelist
- 12 Edith Cavell, Nurse, 1915
- 14 Samuel Isaac Joseph Schereschewsky, Bishop and Missionary, 1906
- 15 Teresa of Avila, Mystic and Monastic Reformer, 1582
- 16 Hugh Latimer and Nicholas Ridley, Bishops and Martyrs, 1555; and, Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1556

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**BIBLE STUDIES
THAT WORK**

Proper 23B October 10, 2021

Job 23:1-9, 16-17

In this reading, we find the ever-faithful Job trusting in his God but nonetheless turning bitter and confused as the realities of life begin to torment him. As his pitiful situation drags on with his friends and family adding to his problems instead of encouraging him, he wakes up heavily burdened with a new set of complaints for his God. He seems to say, "Where is this mighty God in whom I trust? Show yourself so that I may present my case of injustice that has been handed to me." Is this situation familiar to us? Do our friends and family watch and ridicule the suffering of the faithful in their midst and even encourage us to give up? "What kind of God would allow you to suffer that way? Why even bother believing?" they may say. But in the end, we know that Job's heart remains faithful, his life eventually becomes even better than before, and those who tried to discourage him are humiliated. Let us, therefore, learn the lesson of Job and remain steadfast in our faith, trusting that the worst will soon be over and that our lives may even be better once the storm has passed.

- Have you experienced this kind of situation before? How did you feel about God?

- What were the effects on your life after weathering the storm?
- How would you encourage others who are suffering in this kind of situation?

Psalm 22:1-15

In this psalm, we find the distressing scene of somebody who feels abandoned by God in his time of great need while being surrounded by his enemies. Even his own people have deserted him; it is a cry of defeat. He is conflicted by thoughts of his lifelong faithfulness to God and even the faithfulness of his ancestors. While he continues to pray in earnest, calling out to God to rescue him, there is no answer. Often this psalm is associated with the last moments of Jesus on the cross with, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” mentioned in the Gospels of Matthew and Mark. This should allow us to reflect on the character of Jesus and our understanding of him. His emotion shows that while Jesus is truly divine, he was also truly human. He understands our pain and suffering, and perhaps even a feeling of abandonment by God. Jesus also clearly knew well the Hebrew Scriptures—our Old Testament—valued the writings, and could relate them to his own life and ministry.

- Why do think the feeling of abandonment by God is a regular theme throughout the Old Testament? Have you also experienced these feelings?
- How do you feel knowing that Jesus understands our pain, suffering, and even doubt through his own human experiences?
- How do you feel about the Old Testament, knowing that Jesus himself studied and applied it to his own life?

Hebrews 4:12-16

In this section of a letter written to those in danger of abandoning their Christian faith because of outside pressures, the writer tells us of the power of the Holy Scriptures, the Word of God, in awakening our consciousness to our true faithfulness to Jesus. The writer encourages us to be courageous in remaining faithful to him. As Episcopalians, it seems that sometimes we try to avoid engaging meaningfully with Scripture. It can intimidate us, and we are sometimes afraid to be challenged by it, preferring to be ignorant of its messages. It can be painful to imagine how far we really are from being true followers of Jesus. If we want to grow in faith and find a new confidence in being his followers in these days of merciless attacks against the Church from both inside and out, let us learn to enjoy actively engaging with the Word of God, and as the catechism of this church tells us, allow him to speak to us through it, so that we may be more faithful in knowing his will for us both as a Christian community and in our own daily lives.

- Do you feel or know others who feel pressure to abandon their Christian faith?
- Reflecting on the “Holy Scriptures” section of the catechism found in the Book of Common Prayer, how is your own understanding of the Bible confirmed or challenged?
- What can we do to encourage more Episcopalians to engage with the Holy Scriptures?

Mark 10:17-31

In this story, we are confronted by the reality of our dependence on the mercy of God for our salvation. It is not intended to tell us that the rich cannot be saved. The story tells us of a good and faithful man who is loved by Jesus, but there is one problem: he is more attached to the

cares of this world than he is to following Jesus. Instead of being willing to give up his possessions, the things that stood between him and the freedom to follow, it was easier to walk away. If we are honest, many of us are like the rich man, unwilling to pay the cost of truly following Jesus. If too much sacrifice is involved, we would often prefer to walk away. While we must always strive to be the most faithful followers of Jesus that we can, we are assured that we have a merciful God who does love us, just as Jesus still loved the rich man. This is also a humble reminder that even the richest of the rich cannot save themselves even with all the possessions in the world, but our faithful God through our faith in him has the power to save us.

- How would you feel if Jesus asked you to sell all your possessions and follow him?
- What have you sacrificed in your life to be a follower of Jesus?
- How has this story been presented to you in the past? How has your understanding of it been confirmed or changed after reading it for yourself?

This study was written by Daniel Woods

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Prayers of the People from *Planning for rites and rituals: Year B*. New York: Church Publishing, 2017, p.287.

Sequence Hymn text from *Hymnal* #666; tune from *Hymnal* #656

Confession of Sin from *Enriching our worship*, p.19

Eucharistic Prayer from Wells, Samuel and Abigail Kocher, *Eucharistic prayers*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2016, pp.300-301.

Closing Hymn text from *Wonder, Love and Praise* #782; tune from *Hymnal* #379

Our Mission:

We seek to grow as diverse disciples of Jesus Christ,
and to serve Jesus by serving others in the world,
guided by the values of
Ancient Rites, Open Minds,
and Affirming Hearts.

St Barnabas Episcopal Church

20500 W Old US-12
Chelsea MI 48118
stbarnabaschelsea.org

