

Morning Prayer

October 31, 2021

Zoom link:

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

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Meeting ID: 858 8794 6777

Passcode: 782611

The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 26B

Prelude

Announcements

Opening Hymn

Tune: *St Stephen*

Awake my soul, stretch every nerve



A- wake, my soul, stretch ev- ery nerve, and
A cloud of wit- ness- es a- round hold
'Tis God's all- a- ni- mat- ing voice that
Then wake, my soul, stretch ev- ery nerve, and

press with vig- or on; a heav- en-ly race de-
thee in full sur- vey; for- get the steps al-
calls thee from on high; 'tis God's own hand pre-
press with vig- or on; a heav- en-ly race de-

-mands thy zeal, and an im- mor- tal crown.
-read- y trod and on- ward urge thy way.
-sents the prize to thine as- pir- ing eye.
-mands thy zeal, and an im- mor- tal crown.

Presider I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord.” *Ps.19:14*

Confession of Sin

The Presider says

Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence is kept.

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.**

A Priest 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.

O God, you are my God;
from break of day I seek you.

The Invitatory and Psalter

Presider Lord, open our lips;

People **and our mouth shall proclaim thy praise.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

Invitatory: *Jubilate*

to be prayed in unison

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; *
 serve the Lord with gladness
 and come before his presence with a song.
Know this: The Lord himself is God; *
 The Holy One has made us, and we are his;
 we are God's people and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise; *
 give thanks to him and call upon God's Name.
For the Lord is good;
God's mercy is everlasting; *
 and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

Psalm 146

¹Hallelujah!
Praise the LORD, O my soul! *
 I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
 I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.
²**Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth, ***
 for there is no help in them.
³**When they breathe their last, they return to earth, ***
 and in that day their thoughts perish.
⁴Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
 whose hope is in the LORD their God;
⁵Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
 who keeps his promise for ever;
⁶Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
 and food to those who hunger.
⁷**The LORD sets the prisoners free;**
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; *
 the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
⁸**The LORD loves the righteous;**
the LORD cares for the stranger; *
 he sustains the orphan and widow,
 but frustrates the way of the wicked.
⁹**The LORD shall reign for ever, ***
 your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

O God, you are my God;
from break of day I seek you.

The Lessons

First Reading

Ruth 1:1-18

A Reading from the book of Ruth.

¹In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. ²The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. ³But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, ⁵both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

⁶Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had considered his people and given them food. ⁷So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. ⁸But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. ⁹The LORD grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. ¹⁰They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." ¹¹But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? ¹²Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, ¹³would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the LORD has turned against me." ¹⁴Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

¹⁵So she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." ¹⁶But Ruth said,

"Do not press me to leave you
or to turn back from following you!

Where you go, I will go;
where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people,
and your God my God.

¹⁷Where you die, I will die—
there will I be buried.

May the LORD do thus and so to me,
and more as well,
if even death parts me from you!"

¹⁸When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Canticle M: A Song of Faith

1 Peter 1:3-4, 18-21

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
by divine mercy we have a new birth into a living hope;
**Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
we have an inheritance that is imperishable in heaven.**

The ransom that was paid to free us
was not paid in silver or gold,
**But in the precious blood of Christ,
the Lamb without spot or stain.**

God raised Jesus from the dead and gave him glory
so that we might have faith and hope in God.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Second Reading

Hebrews 9:11-14

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Hebrews.

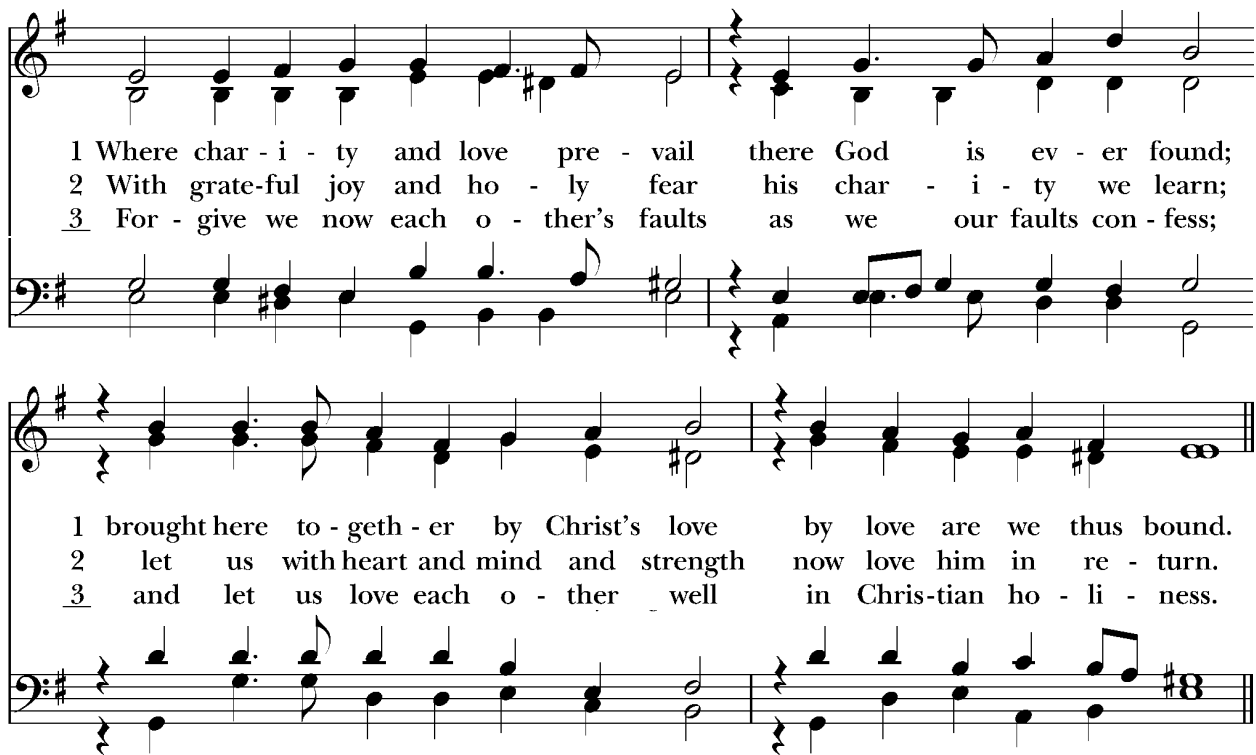
¹¹When Christ came as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation), ¹²he entered once for all into the Holy Place, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. ¹³For if the blood of goats and bulls, with the sprinkling of the ashes of a heifer, sanctifies those who have been defiled so that their flesh is purified, ¹⁴how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God!

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

Hymn

Where charity and love prevail

Hymnal 581



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail there God is ev - er found;
 2 With grate-ful joy and ho - ly fear his char - i - ty we learn;
 3 For - give we now each o - ther's faults as we our faults con - fess;

1 brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love by love are we thus bound.
 2 let us with heart and mind and strength now love him in re - turn.
 3 and let us love each o - ther well in Chris-tian ho - li - ness.

Third Reading

Mark 12:28-34

A Reading from Mark.

²⁸One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that [Jesus] answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” ²⁹Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one;



you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ ³¹The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” ³²Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’; ³³and ‘to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,’

and ‘to love one’s neighbor as oneself,’—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” ³⁴When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that no one dared to ask him any question.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

The Apostles' Creed

The Presider begins

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 to the dead.
 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.**

The Prayers

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

The Presider and the People

**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 forever. Amen.**

V. Help us, O God our Savior;
R. **Deliver us and forgive us our sins.**
V. Look upon your congregation;
R. **Give to your people the blessing of peace.**

- V. Declare your glory among the nations;
R. And your wonders among all peoples.
V. Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;
R. Never forget the lives of your poor.
V. Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;
R. And your favor to those who are true of heart.
V. Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;
R. So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

The Collect of the Day

Almighty and merciful God, it is only by your gift that your faithful people offer you true and laudable service: Grant that we may run without stumbling to obtain your heavenly promises; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Collect for Sundays

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Collect for Peace

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Mission

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. **Amen.**

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

Presider: You are the perfect teacher, O God. Teach us to walk in your ways. Teach us to love you with all we are and all we do.

Intercessor: You are worthy of our praise. Teach your Church to sing your praises. We pray 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 All Saints', Detroit, St Patrick's, Madison Heights; and Church of the Reconciliation, Azuza, in the Dominican Republic. Teach us all to delight in your Word for our lives. Instruct us how to serve you. Teach us to love you **with all we are and all we do.**

Silence is kept.

You are the perfect leader. Teach us to be attentive citizens of the world and support the efforts of peace, mindful of our responsibilities to the poor and suffering among us. We pray for all those who lead. Teach us to love you **with all we are and all we do**.

Silence is kept.

You show us perfect love. Teach us to love our neighbors, especially those with whom we struggle. Help us to mend our relationships with ourselves and with each other. Forgive us when we fail, and teach us to forgive the failures of others. Teach us to love you **with all we are and all we do**.

Silence is kept.

You are the perfect healer. Incline our hearts and hands toward compassionate service to those who ache from loneliness, those who hunger, those who are sick or in great pain. We offer to you our intercessions for those for whom we are called to pray [especially _____].

You are the giver of all good gifts. We offer to you our gratefulness for our joys and blessings [especially _____].

You rule over the perfect dominion. We offer to you our prayers for those whose journey here has ended [especially _____]. Bring them into the joys of your kingdom and perfect union with you. Teach us to love you **with all we are and all we do**.

Presider Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers, which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Alms Basin is then brought forward.

The Presider says

Let us pray.

Loving God and merciful Creator, whose hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature:

we come to you with thanksgiving and praise.

We offer to you this day our gifts of time, talent, and possessions, knowing that all we are, and all we have, is a gift from you.

Please accept these gifts, and help us to reach out to others as you, our God, have reached out to us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer of St Chrysostom

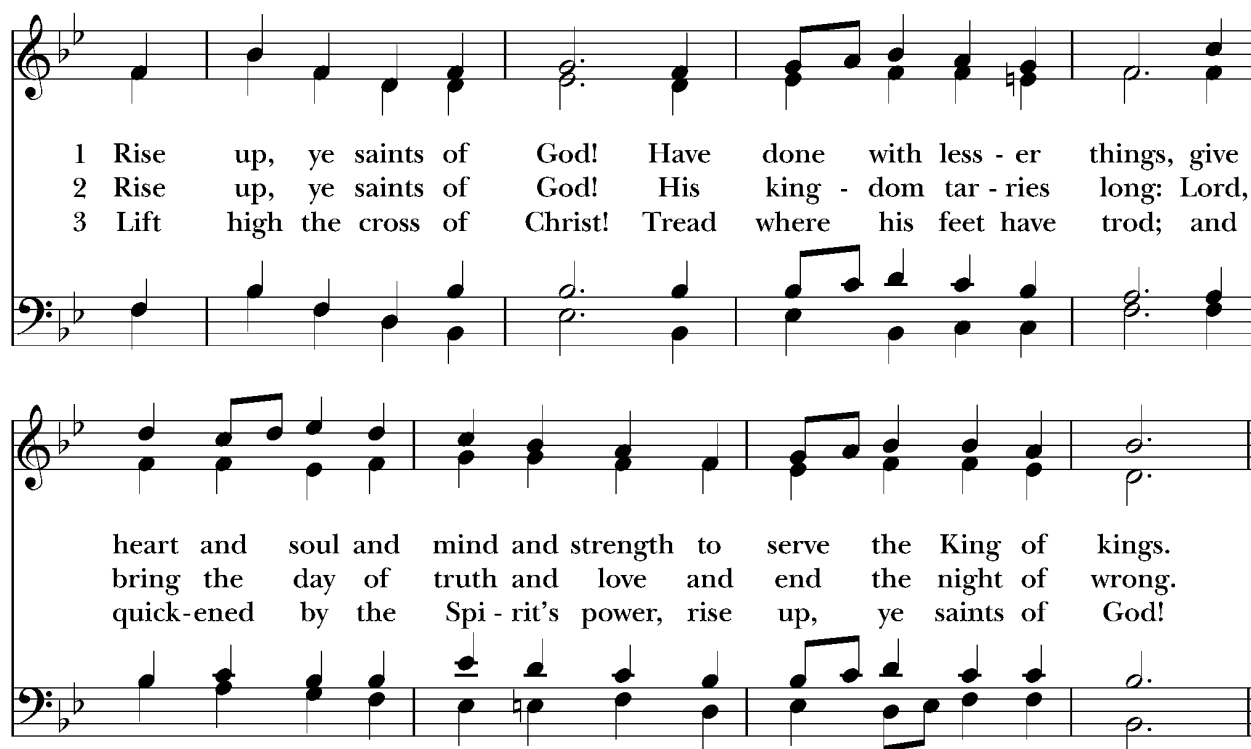
The Presider, and the People

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Hymnal 551

Rise up, ye saints of God



1 Rise up, ye saints of God! Have done with less - er things, give
2 Rise up, ye saints of God! His king - dom tar - ries long: Lord,
3 Lift high the cross of Christ! Tread where his feet have trod; and

heart and soul and mind and strength to serve the King of kings.
bring the day of truth and love and end the night of wrong.
quick-ened by the Spi - rit's power, rise up, ye saints of God!

Dismissal and Blessing

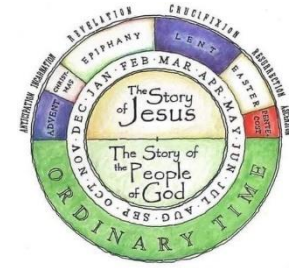
A Priest says

May God give you Grace never to sell yourself short:
Grace to risk something big for something good.
Grace to remember that the world is too dangerous
for anything but truth and too small for anything but Love.

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

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**

The **next Food Drive at the church** will **November 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 31 Paul Shinji Sasaki, Bishop of Mid-Japan, and of Tokyo, 1946;
and, Philip Lindel Tsen, Bishop of Honan, China, 1954
- November 1 All Saints
- 2 All Souls/All the Faithful Departed
- 3 Richard Hooker, Priest and Theologian, 1600
- 6 William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1944

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Proper 26B October 31, 2021

Ruth 1:1-18

Naomi finds herself in a foreign land without any means of support. Her husband and two sons have died. At that time in history this situation meant a future of abject poverty and humiliation. The only hope for her daughters-in-law is to find new husbands. Naomi's only hope is to return to her home in Judah. In Judah the LORD was providing food for his people. The tradition then was that a childless widow should marry her deceased husband's brother. Naomi has no more sons. This is why she blesses her daughters-in-law and tells them to stay in Moab to be with their people and gods, and to find new husbands.

Orpah agrees in tears. Ruth, however, will not go. The writer of the book of Ruth gives us a beautiful song that expresses Ruth's devotion to Naomi. She will not only accompany Naomi, she will be one of Naomi's people and Yahweh will become her god. She submits herself to the LORD's will.

- Has there been a time in your life that you found yourself in a "foreign land" with no support?
- Do you find hope in the thought that God considers you and will provide?
- Is there someone in your life who is in the "foreign land" of illness, unemployment, or some other insecurity? Can you be a Ruth for them and share in the hopeful journey back to God's grace?

Hebrews 9:11-14

In this epistle, the writer lays out the atonement understanding of Christ's death. It is one that many of us in our modern world find hard to understand or accept. It probably made much more sense for the early followers of Jesus

who struggled to understand why he was executed.

The tradition of animal sacrifice was well understood by the Israelites. In fact, animal and even human sacrifices have been a part of many religions and cultures. There seems to be a universal mystical view of what we call a creature’s “life’s blood”. Further, there is a sense that to kill an animal *not* to be used for food, and shed its blood, is a meaningful sacrifice. Many people have felt that this kind of sacrifice can restore our relationship with the creator.

Hebrew Scripture texts call for the sacrificial animal to be perfect and of the greatest value, not one that is defective or ill. So, for the early Christians, it makes sense to see Christ as the perfect unblemished sacrifice. He was innocent and his death was a sacrifice on our behalf. Through it our relationship with God the Creator is restored. It is a hard teaching for us in our modern time but it is a powerful one we must consider.

- Do you find the atonement view a difficult one to accept?
- Is it hard to recognize that our sins are severe enough to need this kind of sacrifice from Jesus the Christ?
- If you have ever felt that what you have done is unforgivable can you find comfort in this understanding of Christ’s death?

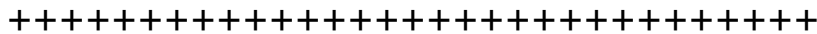
Mark 12:28-34

This passage is quite remarkable in many ways. Two extraordinary things come to mind right away. The first is that usually in the Gospels the Scribes or Pharisees come to listen to Jesus in the hope of hearing him say something blasphemous. If they ask questions, it is to try to trick him into saying something that can be held against him. In this case the Scribe is impressed with how Jesus has been answering the questions. Jesus is worth consulting. He assumes that among the long list of laws of what is permitted, what is prohibited, and how to carry out rituals, there is one that is most important.

The second extraordinary thing is how Jesus sums up the whole intent of all the laws, rituals, and traditions. He cuts to the heart of the matter and reveals the big picture at the same time. By sighting these two commandments, God is one and you shall love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself, Jesus points us directly to how God wants us to live. The scribe understands that this is the key. Jesus affirms the scribe’s understanding by telling him that he is not far from the kingdom of God. The profundity of this leaves everyone speechless.

- Do you think that by affirming the scribe in this way, Jesus is showing us how to bring about the Kingdom of God on earth?
- Have you ever had an impulse to act in a certain way and done differently when you remember these two commandments?
- Can you imagine trying for one day to keep these commandments at the forefront of your mind? What would that be like for you?

This study was written by Greg Hamlin.



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Opening Hymn text from *Hymnal* #546; tune *St Stephen* from *Hymnal* #73

Canticle M from *Enriching our worship*

Jubilate from *St Helena Psalter* p.159

Intercessions and Thanksgivings from *Planning for rites and rituals: Year B.* New York: Church Publishing, 2017, pp.263-264.

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

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