

Morning Prayer

September 19, 2021

Zoom link:

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

[MEdsMUh6clV6b2dUblFOQ3I2Zz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85887946777?pwd=ei94)

Meeting ID: 858 8794 6777

Passcode: 782611

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 20B

Prelude

Andante from Concerto in A Minor for Violin, J.S. Bach

Opening Hymn

Hymnal 635

If thou but trust in God

Unison or harmony

1 If thou but trust in God to guide thee, and hope in him through
2 Sing, pray, and keep his ways un - swerv - ing; so do thine own part

all thy ways, he'll give thee strength what - e'er be - tide thee,
faith - ful - ly, and trust his word, though un - de - serv - ing;

and bear thee through the e - vil days. Who trusts in God's un -
thou yet shalt find it true for thee; God nev - er yet for -

chang - ing love builds on a rock that nought can move.
sook in need the soul that trust - ed him in - deed.

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.

The Invitatory and Psalter

Presider Day by day we bless you;
People **We praise your name for ever.**

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

Invitatory: *Venite*

Come, let us sing to the Holy One;
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

**Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout with psalms.**

For you, O God, are a great God;
you are great above all gods.

**In your hand are the caverns of the earth,
and the heights of the hills are yours also.**

The sea is yours, for you made it,
and your hands have molded the dry land.

**Come, let us bow down and bend the knee,
and kneel before God, our Maker.**

For you are our God, and we are the people of your pasture
and the sheep of your hand.

Oh, that today we would hearken to your voice!

Psalm 1

Beatus vir qui non abiit

1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, *
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

**2 Their delight is in the law of the LORD, *
and they meditate on his law day and night.**

3 They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; *
everything they do shall prosper.

**4 It is not so with the wicked; *
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, *
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

**6 For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, *
but the way of the wicked is doomed.**

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Day by day we bless you;
We praise your name for ever.

The Lessons

First Reading

Proverbs 31:10-31

A Reading from the book of Proverbs.

A capable wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life. She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands. She is like the ships of the merchant; she brings her food from far away. She rises while it is still night and provides food for her household and tasks for her servant-girls. She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard. She girds herself with strength, and makes her arms strong. She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night. She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle. She opens her hand to the poor, and reaches out her hands to the needy. She is not afraid for her household when it snows, for all her household are clothed in crimson. She makes herself coverings; her clothing is fine linen and purple. Her husband is known in the city gates, taking his seat among the elders of the land. She makes linen garments and sells them; she supplies the merchant with sashes. Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. She looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her happy; her husband too, and he praises her: "Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all." Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her a share in the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the city gates.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle A

Wisdom 10:15-19,20b-21

A Song of Wisdom *Sapientia liberavit*

Wisdom freed from a nation of oppressors
a holy people and a blameless race.

**She entered the soul of a servant of the Lord,
withstood dread rulers with wonders and signs.**

To the saints she gave the reward of their labors,
and led them by a marvelous way;

**She was their shelter by day
and a blaze of stars by night.**

She brought them across the Red Sea,
she led them through mighty waters;
**But their enemies she swallowed in the waves
and spewed them out from the depths of the abyss.**
And then, Lord, the righteous sang hymns to your Name,
and praised with one voice your protecting hand;
**For Wisdom opened the mouths of the mute,
and gave speech to the tongues of a new-born people.**

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Second Reading

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

A Reading from the Letter of James.

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

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

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

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

Take my life and let it be

Hymnal 707

1 Take my life, and let it be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
 2 Take my voice, and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;

take my mo - ments and my days, let them flow in cease - less praise.
 take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - ery power as thou shalt choose.

Take my hands, and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
 Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no long - er mine.

take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy roy - al throne.
 Take my - self, and I will be ev - er, on - ly, all for thee.

Third Reading

Mark 9:30-37

A Reading from Mark.

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



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

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.

Announcements

The Prayers

Presider God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us 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 forever. Amen.**

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;
R. And grant us your salvation.
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
R. Let your people sing with joy.
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
R. For only in you can we live in safety.
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
V. Let your way be known upon earth;
R. Your saving health among all nations.
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

The Collect of the Day

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Holy One, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget

you, but may remember always that we are walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

Presider: Wonderful and compassionate God, you have revealed yourself through your Son Jesus Christ as a God of gentle service, resisting the violence of the proud and confirming the goodness of the innocent: Hear the offering of our prayers on behalf of the little, the last, and the lost, as we say: Whoever wants to be first, must be last of all and servant of all.

Intercessor: You have called your Church to sacrificial service in the name of your Son Jesus. 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. Grant us the wisdom from above which is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy, that your church may bring to you a harvest of righteousness. Whoever wants to be first, **must be last of all and servant of all.**

Silence is kept.

Confront the leaders of the world with your justice, and raise up courageous witnesses who will oppose wrong action and reprove the thoughts of the violent, that all who serve in positions of authority may join in your divine work to deliver the innocent and vulnerable from the hands of their adversaries. Whoever wants to be first, **must be last of all and servant of all.**

Silence is kept.

Be present with those who suffer throughout the world from war or violence or oppression, from poverty or hunger or sadness: Let your kind and gentle hand be with them to comfort and deliver them. Whoever wants to be first, **must be last of all and servant of all.**

Silence is kept.

Spread your teaching throughout our community to increase among us those who are wise and understanding, whose works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. Whoever wants to be first, **must be last of all and servant of all.**

Silence is kept.

We offer to your gracious protection our intercessions for those for whom we are called to pray [especially _____].

We thank you for the gift of children, and for calm strength and patient wisdom to nurture them as they grow to love whatever is just and true and good. We bring you our gratefulness for our joys and blessings [especially for _____].

We entrust to your never-failing care and love those who are bereaved, and those who have died [especially _____]. Whoever wants to be first, **must be last of all and servant of all.**

Presider God and Father of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has endured the path of betrayal and death, and triumphed in humble resurrection: Help us to extend your gentle embrace to all your children, and thus welcome you into our lives through service and gratefulness, in the power of your Spirit, and in the name of your risen and living Son. **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.

The General Thanksgiving

The Presider, and the People

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made.

**We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.**

And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service,

**and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Tune: *In Babilone*

Lord, whose love through humble service



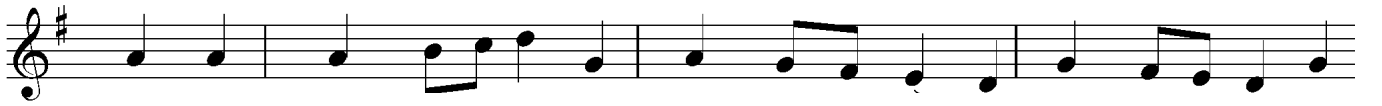
Lord, whose love through hum- ble ser- vice bore the weight of
As we wor- ship, grant us vi- sion, 'til your love's re-
Called by wor- ship to your ser- vice, forth in your dear



hu- man need, who up- on the cross, for- sa- ken,
-veal- ing light, in its height and depth and great-ness,
name we go, to the child, the youth, the ag- éd



of- fered mer- cy's per- fect deed. As, O Lord, your deep com-
dawns up- on our quick- ened sight, ma- king known the needs and
love in liv- ing deeds to show; hope and health, good will and



-pas- sion healed the sick and freed the soul, use the love your
bur- dens your com- pas- sion bids us bear, stir- ring us to
com- fort, coun- sel, aid, and peace we give, that your ser- vants,



Spi- rit kin- dles still to save and make us whole.
tire- less stri- ving, your a- bun- dant life to share.
Lord, in free- dom may your mer- cy know and live.

Dismissal and Blessing

A Priest says

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. **Amen.**

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. **Amen.**

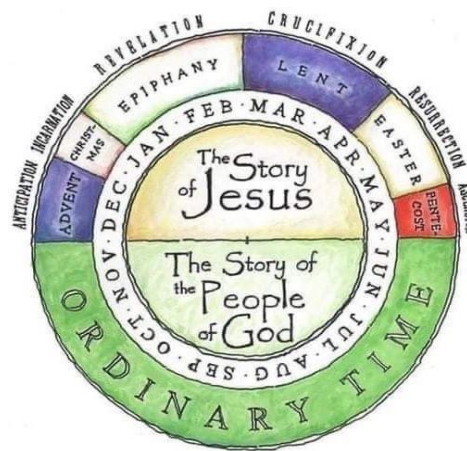
May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. **Amen.**

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

Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Allegro Moderato from Concerto in A Minor for Violin, J.S. Bach



Our warm welcome and thanks to Liza Dale, violinist! Thank you, Liza and Kathy!

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Compassionate God,
source of all comfort,
we pray for the people whose lives
have been devastated this hurricane season.
Bring them comfort, we pray.
Protect the vulnerable.
Strengthen the weak.

Keep at bay the spread of disease.
Have mercy on all those working to rebuild.
And may our response to their suffering
be generous and bring you praise.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.

— Adapted from Christian Aid, UK

CONTINUING OUR DONATIONS OF FOOD AND FUNDS
TO FAITH IN ACTION

Faith in Action is continuing to provide 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 **September 19**. 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

- September 19 Theodore of Tarsus, Archbishop of Canterbury, 690
- 20 John Coleridge Patteson, Bishop of Melanesia,
and his Companions, Martyrs, 1871
- 21 Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
- 22 Philander Chase, Bishop, 1852
- 23 Thecla of Iconium, Proto-Martyr among Women, c.70
- 24 Anna Ellison Butler Alexander, Deaconess and Teacher, 1947
- 25 Sergius, Abbot, 1392

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Proper 20B

September 19, 2021

Proverbs 31:10-31

The grand finale to the book of Proverbs—a book which one scholar describes as “devoted to cultivating wise *men*”—is a husband’s tribute to the “capable wife” (v. 10), herself a picture of

wisdom. This string of proverbial pearls is a Hebrew acrostic poem—an expression “from A to Z” (or *aleph* to *tav*) of the excellence of someone whose way of life overflows with skill and beauty, even while she is, as our collect for the week says, “placed among things that are passing away.” Where does her strength come from? Again reverberating with the spiritual logic of our collect, the proverb-poem sets forth her highest and grounding virtue in the second-to-last verse: “Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised” (v. 30). It’s this loving awe of God that grounds her life and makes it, in its particular way, a window to God’s own creativity, activity, and goodness.

- What do you think of when you think of “the fear of the LORD?” Can you think of other biblical passages where “the fear of the LORD” is discussed or that might help give a fuller picture of the meaning of this phrase as it is used in Scripture?
- While this passage may feel difficult to some of us reading it from a modern perspective, how might this person also be seen to demonstrate both leadership and interdependence in her own context?

Psalm 1

Since the earliest centuries of the church’s life, Christians have read this psalm as being first and foremost about *Christ*. He is the one who has “not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful.” He is the one whose delight has been “in the law of the Lord.” He is the “tree planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season.” And as we grow in Christ by faith, our lives come to look like this too. Even though the original language of the psalm in Hebrew is masculine and singular (“Blessed/happy is the man [*ha’ish*]...”), Christian readers have long understood this “man” as the Christ who mystically includes all whom he saves. As Basil the Great wrote in the fourth century, “Why, you say, does the prophet single out only man and proclaim him happy? Does he not exclude women from happiness? By no means. For, the virtue of man and woman is the same, since creation is equally honored in both; therefore, there is the same reward for both” (Homilies on the Psalms 10.3).

- What does this psalm tell us about what it means to be happy?
- What do you think Basil the Great has in mind when he speaks of a “reward?”
- What else stands out to you about this psalm?

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

This section from the Letter of James is situated in a wider discussion of the tongue and who can be trusted to teach (3:1). It would seem from this reading of James that the trustworthy teacher is the same one who is “wise and understanding”—who lives a “good life” and whose “works are done with gentleness born of wisdom” (v. 13). A red flag that someone who wants to teach might not be ready yet is that “envy and selfish ambition” keep showing up in them, even internally (vv. 14 and 16). This kind of internal disorder may result in “boastful” speech rather than sound teaching (v. 14).

If you, like me, desire to bless others with your words but find yourself noticing difficult things internally, don’t give up hope. The author of this epistle includes himself among those who “make many mistakes” (3:2), but his holy teaching has, by the grace of God, made it down to us through the millennia. His final advice in the passage assigned as our lesson for today also speaks to me. Wherever you are in your Christian life, wherever you find yourself, “Submit yourselves

therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you” (4:7-8). There is always hope for the person who is willing to yield to God’s Spirit. In fact, it’s what the Christian life is about!

- How does this picture of wisdom compare to the picture of a wise life given in the other readings for today?

Mark 9:30-37

In this run of interwoven passages in Mark’s gospel, Jesus’ disciples are thinking (as we all do, unaided by God’s grace) along pretty unfailingly earthly lines. This section takes us straight into the heart of the tension between natural and grace-assisted ways of thinking. Earthly habits of thought, as we see in verses 30-32, can’t begin to comprehend the mystery of the Resurrection. And the disciples don’t comprehend it on their own. We are told they are too “afraid to ask” (v. 32). Jesus’s mercy in this case pierces through their silence. Instead of rebuking them for their human preoccupation with rank and order (v. 34), he gives them an object-lesson (really a human-being-lesson) and an example when he takes a child into his arms. He takes the lowest-status person in the house—who is also probably the simplest and least complicated—and embraces him. And not only that: he says that to embrace the low status, simple child in his name is to embrace *God*. Whoever recognizes this and does it is on the way to true greatness.

- What does it mean to welcome someone “in [Jesus’s] name?” Does this verse/teaching mean the same thing as it would without the phrase “in my name?”
- How might you be called to welcome Jesus this week? Is there a “child” in your midst?

***This study** was written by Kristen Gunn, Nashotah House Theological Seminary.*

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Venite from *St Helena Psalter* 7/27/04 10:37 a.m., p.152

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

Closing Hymn text by Albert F. Bayly (1901-1984), alt., at *Hymnal* #610; tune *In Babilone* at *Hymnal* #495

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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