

Morning Prayer

October 29, 2023

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

Proper 25A, Pentecost 22

Prelude Sonata V in A Major, Adagio and Allegro; G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

All stand as they are able.

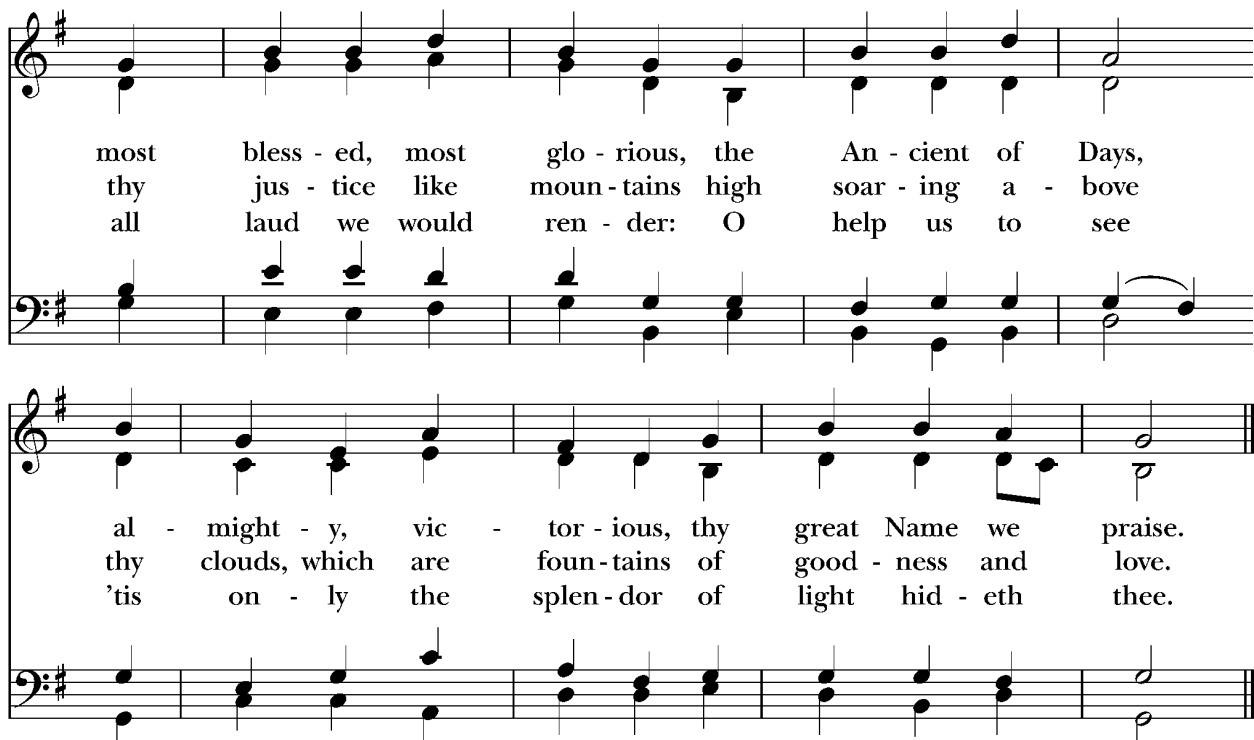
Opening Hymn

Hymnal 423

Immortal, invisible, God only wise

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry, thou rul - est in light,

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 all laud we would ren - der: O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - tor - ious, thy great Name we praise.
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

Presider Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Confession of Sin

The Presider says

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth God's praise, to hear God's holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship, let us keep silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by God's infinite goodness and mercy.

All kneel, or remain standing, as they are able.

Silence is kept.

The Presider and the People

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.**

The Presider says

Almighty God have mercy † on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

All stand as they are able

The Invitatory and Psalter

Presider Lord, open our lips;

People **and our mouth shall proclaim your 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.

Presider The earth is the Lord's for he made it.

People **Come, let us adore him.**

Venite: Psalm 95

to be prayed responsively

- 1 Come, let us sing to the Holy One; * let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
- 2 **Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving *
and raise a loud shout with psalms.**
- 3 For you, O God, are a great God; * you are great above all gods.
- 4 **In your hand are the caverns of the earth, * and the heights of the hills are yours also.**
- 6 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,
- 7 **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!**
- 8 Harden not your hearts, as your forebears did in the wilderness, *
at Meribah, and on that day at Massah, when they tempted me;
- 9 **They put me to the test, * though they had seen my works.**
- 10 Forty years long I detested that generation and said, *
"This people are wayward in their hearts; they do not know my ways."
- 11 **So I swore in my wrath, "They shall not enter into my rest."**

Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17

to be prayed responsively

¹LORD, you have been our refuge *
from one generation to another.

²**Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born, *
from age to age you are God.**

³You turn us back to the dust and say, *
“Go back, O child of earth.”

⁴**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past *
and like a watch in the night.**

⁵You sweep us away like a dream; *
we fade away suddenly like the grass.

⁶**In the morning it is green and flourishes; *
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

¹³Return, O LORD; how long will you tarry? *
be gracious to your servants.

¹⁴**Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning; *
so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.**

¹⁵Make us glad by the measure of the days that you afflicted us *
and the years in which we suffered adversity.

¹⁶**Show your servants your works *
and your splendor to their children.**

¹⁷May the graciousness of the LORD our God be upon us; *
prosper the work of our hands;
prosper our handiwork.

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.

Presider The earth is the Lord's for he made it.

People **Come, let us adore him.**

The people are seated.

The Lessons

First Reading

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

A Reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

¹Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the LORD showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, ²all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, ³the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar. ⁴The LORD said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants’; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.” ⁵Then

Moses, the servant of the LORD, died there in the land of Moab, at the LORD's command. ⁶He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. ⁷Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigor had not abated. ⁸The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended.

⁹Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the LORD had commanded Moses.

¹⁰Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face. ¹¹He was unequalled for all the signs and wonders that the LORD sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, ¹²and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

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

The people remain seated.

Canticle D: A Song of the Wilderness

Isaiah 35:1-7, 10

**The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, *
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
It shall blossom abundantly, *
and rejoice with joy and singing.
They shall see the glory of the Lord, *
the majesty of our God.
Strengthen the weary hands, *
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to the anxious, "Be strong, do not fear! *
Here is your God, coming with judgment to save you."
Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, *
and the ears of the deaf be unstopped.
Then shall the lame leap like a deer, *
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness *
and streams in the desert;
The burning sand shall become a pool *
and the thirsty ground, springs of water.
The ransomed of God shall return with singing, *
with everlasting joy upon their heads.
Joy and gladness shall be theirs, *
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.**

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

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

A Reading from Paul's First letter to the Church in Thessalonika.

¹You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, ²but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. ³For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, ⁴but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. ⁵As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; ⁶nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, ⁷though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. ⁸So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

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

All stand as they are able.

Hymn

Tune: *Hyfrydol*

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-

hu- man need, who up- on the cross, for- sa- ken, offer- ed
-vea- ling light, in its height and depth and great- ness, dawns up-

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system covers the first two lines of the hymn, and the second system covers the next two lines. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in the bass clef.

mer-cy's per- fect deed. We, your ser- ants, bring the wor- ship
-on our quick-ened sight, ma- king known the needs and bur- dens

not of voice a- lone, but heart, con- se- cra- ting
your com- pas- sion bids us bear, stir- ring us to

to your pur- pose eve- ry gift that you im- part.
tire- less stri- ving, your a- bun- dant life to share.

The people are then seated

Third Reading

Matthew 22:34-46

A Reading from Matthew.

³⁴When the Pharisees heard that [Jesus] had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” ³⁷He said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

⁴¹Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: ⁴²“What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” ⁴³He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

⁴⁴“The Lord said to my Lord,

“Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet”?”

⁴⁵If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?”

⁴⁶No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.



Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rob Hampton

All stand as they are able.

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.

All kneel, or stand, as they are able.

The Prayers

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

The Presider and the People

**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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

R. Govern and uphold them, now and always.

V. Day by day we bless you;

R. We praise your Name for ever.

V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;

R. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.

V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;

R. For we put our trust in you.

V. In you, Lord, is our hope;

R. And we shall never hope in vain.

The Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and 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

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 Sisters and brothers, siblings in Christ, the Lord has been our refuge from one generation to another. Let us pray to our God, saying, “Show your servants your works, O Lord, and be gracious to us.”

Intercessor We pray for the leaders of the Church. Give bishops, priests, deacons, and lay leaders gentle and loving hearts. Empower us to share the gospel and ourselves with those in need. Show your servants your works, O Lord, **and be gracious to us.**

Silence is kept.

We pray for all humankind. Prosper the work of our hands. May all those who work earn a fair wage. May those without work find strength and encouragement in your love. Give us hearts to respect the dignity of every human being. Show your servants your works, O Lord, **and be gracious to us.**

Silence is kept.

We pray for all creation. You brought forth the mountains. You gave birth to the land and the earth. We give you thanks and praise for all the blessings you give us especially_____[]. Give us the desire and will to care for all you have made. Show your servants your works, O Lord, **and be gracious to us.**

Silence is kept.

We pray for the areas in which we live. O God, we want to obey what you command. Help us to love our neighbors as ourselves. Show your servants your works, O Lord, **and be gracious to us.**

Silence is kept.

Christ Jesus, you are ruler of all things in heaven and earth. Hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all a burning heart for our congregation, and all things necessary for our common life, and the embrace of the ministries with which you have gifted everyone. Bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church. Show your servants your works, O Lord, **and be gracious to us.**

Silence is kept.

God our Savior, we rely on, and give thanks for, your divine wisdom, knowledge and understanding. We know that, because of your Holy Spirit's guidance, we can make the right decisions in line with your will and purpose for this parish. We ask for the Spirit of discernment, that we each may be enabled to make those decisions that will lead us to the serving of your church in this place. Show your servants your works, O Lord, **and be gracious to us.**

Silence is kept

We pray for the afflicted and the suffering, and for those who weep and mourn [especially_____]. . Nurse them back to health as a mother tenderly nurses her children.

We pray for those who have died [especially_____]. Though we are swept away like a dream in this mortal life, you promise to raise us to life immortal through your Son. May your graciousness, O Lord, be upon us. Show your servants your works, O Lord, **and be gracious to us.**

Silence is kept.

Presider For what other persons or situations shall we pray today?

O God, we believe in the name of your Son Jesus Christ, who destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light. Lead us as a shepherd, going ahead of us in all our ways; that we may be less devoted to our order and more to your justice; to shun the negative peace which is the absence of tension, and to embrace a positive peace which is the presence of justice. Teach us to love one another, just as he has commanded us. In the strong name of Jesus we pray. **Amen.**

Announcements

The Presider then says

For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16

Let us present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

The People stand as they are able when the offerings are presented at the Altar

Offertory Hymn

Doxology

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

The people remain standing as they are able

The General Thanksgiving

**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.**

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

LEVAS 109

What a friend we have in Jesus

1. What a friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
2. Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou-ble an - y - where?
3. Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, Cum-bered with a load of care?

1. What a priv - i - lege to car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
 2. We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged, Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 3. Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge, Take it to the Lord in prayer.

1. Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, Oh, what need - less pain we bear,
 2. Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?
 3. Do thy friends de - spise, for - sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.

1. All be - cause we do not car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
 2. Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness, Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 3. In his arms He'll take and shield thee, Thou wilt find a sol - ace there.

Dismissal

The Presider says

As you leave this place, take courage and strength for the week ahead
 as you love and serve the Lord, our Redeemer.

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
 be with us all evermore. **Amen**

Presider Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or
 imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever
 and ever. **Amen.** *Ephesians 3:20, 21*

Postlude Sonata V in A Major, Largo and Allegro; G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

+++++

This week in prayer

Please remember these persons and congregations in your prayers this week:

Our Bishops Bonnie, Michael, Justin, Moises (TEC); Elizabeth, Donald and Craig (ELCA)
and for all priests, deacons, Ministry Teams, and those in formation

Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

October 29 The Church of the Province of Myanmar/Burma

Diocese of Michigan Cycle of Prayer:

October 29 Church of the Messiah, Detroit; Emmaus, Walled Lake; St Luke’s, Ferndale

St Barnabas Cycle of Prayer: Stephanie, Eric, Bonnie, Sage

and our continuing prayers for: Bob, Carlos, Jim M, Mardi, Robert, Selenah

+++++

We welcome Liza Dale to our service, and thank her for her music!

+++++

Upcoming Commemorations

- Oct 29 James Hannington, Bishop, and his Companions, Martyrs, 1885
- 30 John Wyclif: Priest and Prophetic Witness, 1384
- 31 Eve of All Saints’ Day; and, Paul Shinji Sasaki, Bishop of Mid-Japan, and of Tokyo, 1946; and, Philip Lindel Tsen, Bishop of Honan, China, 1954
- Nov.01 All Saints’ Day
- 02 All Souls/All the Faithful Departed
- 03 Richard Hooker, Priest and Theologian, 1600

+++++

Faith in Action provides leadership in collecting donations of food to support households in need in the Chelsea and Dexter areas. **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*, with “St Barnabas” on the memo line. The next Food In-Gathering is **November 19**. Please contribute as generously as you can.

+++++



BIBLE STUDIES THAT WORK

October 29, 2023

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Moses' story ends with God showing him the Promised Land even though Moses would "not cross over there." The statement is traditionally considered a reminder of the punishment at the Waters of Meribah (cf. Numbers 20:1-13).

Even with this reminder of punishment, there is no indication that Moses is dying unfulfilled or with any regrets. Quite the opposite. Despite being 120 years old, God has preserved Moses' body and mind – so much so that he can climb a mountain. Moses is only permitted to die at God's express command, and it is God who seemingly buries Moses personally (since no one else knows where Moses is buried). There is great mourning over Moses, a prophet unlike any other. This passage gives us a completed story of a fulfilled Moses.

Of course, there is profound grief over Moses' death, but even as there is much more to come in the story of the People of Israel, Moses' story is complete and fulfilled. This is a powerful culminating moment. Moses is far from the man who knew nothing of his people or their God, the man whom this as-of-yet-unknown-to-him God sent to confront the most powerful empire in the world. Moses is far from the still fledgling leader facing the seemingly impossible task of leading God's people out of oppression, through desert and desolation, and into promise. There have been many stumbles on the way, but Moses is a very different, more spiritually mature, and whole man than he was. Moses' death narrative marks for us the unbelievable spiritual growth that comes from walking with God.

- How has your walk with God changed you? How has your spiritual journey moved you from oppression through desolation and into promise?

Psalms 90:1-6, 13-17

This week presents us with two seemingly dissonant portions of Psalm 90. The first six verses speak of God's eternal nature in contrast to our mortality with the assurance that our mortality rests within the refuge of God's eternity. The concluding five verses, though, plead for God to return to being the refuge God has been in the past. As we turn to verse 13, we might wonder where the assurance in verse 1 went.

These two sets of verses speak profoundly to human experience. Even when we feel most secure about God's love for us and faithfulness and goodwill toward us, there are times when God's grace seems so far away, when we can't muster rejoicing, when we face adversity. We feel the need to remind God – or more accurately to remind ourselves – of God's past graciousness, begging for its return. In those times, strength comes both from crying out to God *and* remembering that God's nature is always love and goodness.

- How do you find solace when God's graciousness seems far off?

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

In our society, we know preachers in many forms. We have televangelists, megachurch pastors, small parish pastors, preachers in large cardinal parishes, street preachers, prophets, and more. There are still many others who, though they may not consider themselves preachers, proclaim what they believe to be the core principles of the Gospel. Perhaps worse yet, these people do not

all speak with one voice. They offer sometimes radically opposing views of the Gospel. How do we know which people and messages are genuine?

That is part of what Paul is addressing in this passage. He wants the Thessalonians to know that he is the real deal. Perhaps the Thessalonians are suspicious and looking out for “deceit,” “impure motives,” and “trickery” because of past evangelists. Perhaps they have heard that the Philippians did not take too kindly to Paul, a concern Paul addresses head-on.

Paul counsels first that the Thessalonians (and we) listen to what these messengers say. If it is too good to be true, too much of what we *want* to hear, perhaps our suspicion is warranted. Surely, this is not the only test, but flattery may denote a pretext for greed. Paul contrasts himself and his companions against itinerate philosophers and Christian preachers who were paid to impart their wisdom. Paul does his work out of love and mission, not for money.

Paul also counsels that the Thessalonians (and we) listen to how these messengers deliver their message. Paul and his companions are invested in those to whom they preach, and so they deliver their message with gentleness and care as a parent for a child. So much so that they share *themselves*, not just the message.

- How would you preach the Gospel to someone who is very dear to you?

Matthew 22:34-46

With Jesus having finally silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees take up the quest to try to trip Jesus up on some doctrinal matter. They enlist a lawyer, someone who knows well the Jewish tradition that there are 613 commandments, and he asks Jesus to choose. If nothing else, which of these 613 commandments should we keep no matter what? Jesus, of course, can’t just give one. He gives two – love God and love your neighbor as yourself – or maybe Jesus gives three – love God, love yourself, and love your neighbor.

But perhaps Jesus *does* respond with just one commandment. Jesus responds to these leaders learned in the Torah in words taken from the central Jewish prayer, the *Shema*. Perhaps he is trying to explain to them the meaning of these words and, in so doing, that the premise of their question is flawed. There are *not* 613 commandments. There are not two or three. There is only one: Love. That is the foundation of all the other commandments and every word that the prophets have uttered. We are to love God and cannot do so without loving ourselves and our neighbors. Nor can we do so without following the other commandments and heeding the prophets’ call for justice for the oppressed and marginalized. We have but one commandment: Love.

- How does your own sense of what God commands us to do measure up against the commandment to love?

This Bible study was written by the Rev. Michael Thompson

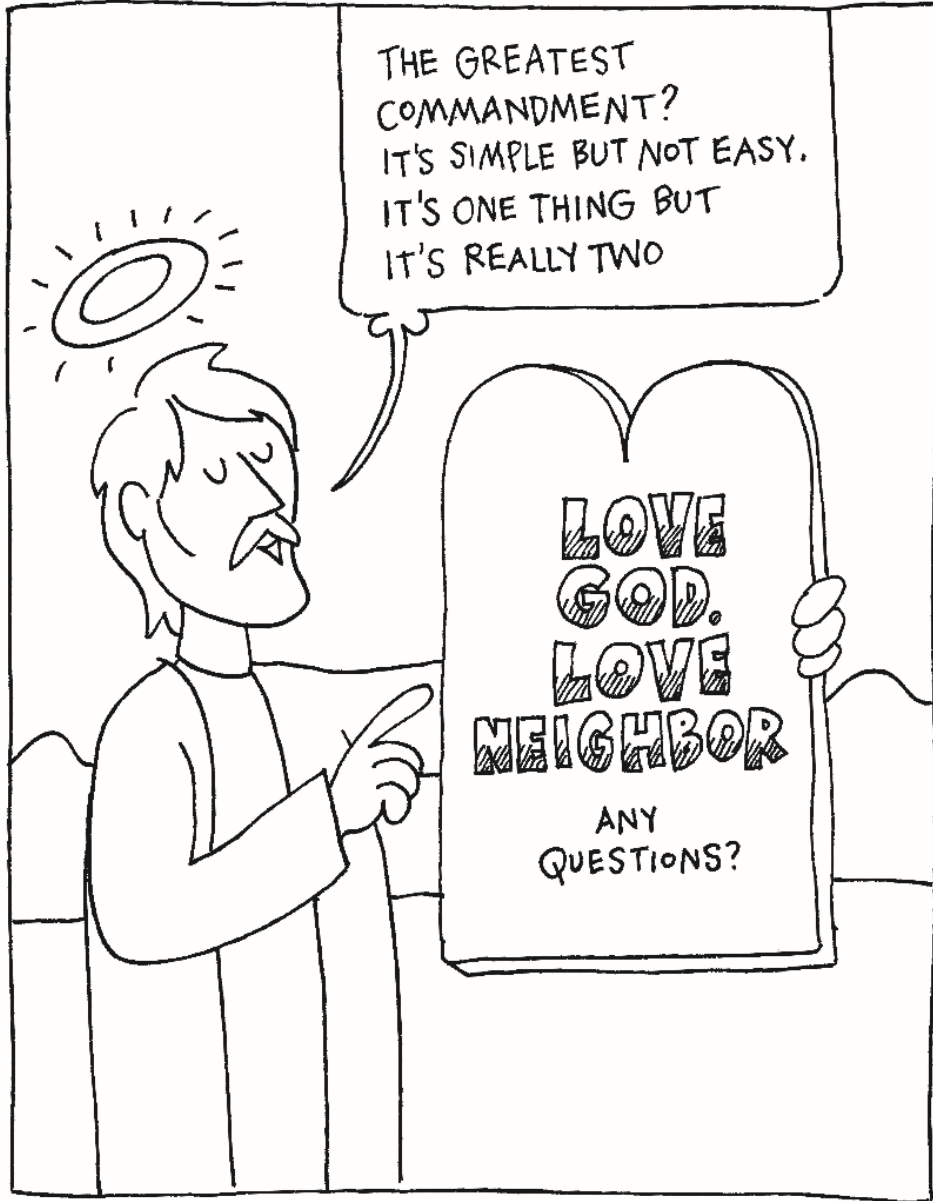
+++++

From riteplanning.com. Copyright © 2021 Church Publishing Inc. All rights reserved. **Drawing** on p.17 by the Rev. Jay Sidebotham, from *Drawn to the Gospels: an illustrated lectionary*, Year A, p.140
Psalm 95 from *Saint Helena Psalter* NY: Church Publishing, 2004, pp.159-160.
Hymn text is found at *Hymnal* #610; tune *Hyfrydol*, found at *Hymnal* #657

+++++

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