



## **All Saints Episcopal Church**

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## **The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**

*Proper 15, Year A*

August 16, 2020

### **Welcome**

*In this time of world-wide crisis, when it is not safe for the church to gather for worship as the body of Christ in person, we gather now to hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer.*

### **Opening Sentence**

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

*Philippians 1:2*

### **Collect of the Day**

**Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

### **Confession and Absolution**

*Enriching Our Worship*

Let us confess our sins to God.

**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.**

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

### **The Invitatory and Psalm**

Lord, open our lips.

**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.**

The Spirit of the Lord renews the face of the Earth:  
**Come let us adore him.**

**Venite**

*Psalm 95:1-7*

Come, let us sing to the Lord;  
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.  
Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving  
and raise to the Lord a shout with psalms.

For you 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 the Lord our Maker.  
For you are our God,  
and we are the people of your pasture and the sheep of your hand.  
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

The Spirit of the Lord renews the face of the Earth:  
**Come let us adore him.**

**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.**

**First Lesson**

**Isaiah 56:1, 6-8**

*In our opening lesson the Lord exhorts the people to do what is just because the time of righteous salvation is close at hand. The temple will be a house of prayer for all nations. This vision of hope emphasizes the outgoing aspects of Israel's faith. Historically it deals with the fact that after the exile certain non-Israelites had come to live in Jerusalem and serve in the temple. The passage sets the conditions for their participation, but also looks beyond to a day when many peoples will worship the God of Israel.*

Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,  
for soon my salvation will come,  
and my deliverance be revealed.

And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,  
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,  
and to be his servants,

all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,  
and hold fast my covenant--  
these I will bring to my holy mountain,  
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;  
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices  
will be accepted on my altar;  
for my house shall be called a house of prayer  
for all peoples.  
Thus says the Lord God,  
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,  
I will gather others to them  
besides those already gathered.

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

## **Psalm 67**

*A prayer for God's graciousness and saving power, and a bidding of praise by all people for God's justice and bounty.*

May God be merciful to us and bless us, \*  
**show us the light of his countenance and come to us.**

Let your ways be known upon earth, \*  
**your saving health among all nations.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God; \*  
**let all the peoples praise you.**

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, \*  
**for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations upon earth.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God; \*  
**let all the peoples praise you.**

The earth has brought forth her increase; \*  
**may God, our own God, give us his blessing.**

May God give us his blessing, \*  
**and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.**

## **The Second Lesson**

**Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32**

*In this reading Paul sets forth his belief that God plans to bring Jews as well as Gentiles to salvation. This apostle to the Gentiles continues to wrestle with a difficult question: why is it that so many of Jesus's own people have not accepted him as the Christ? God has not rejected the Jewish people who were foreknown, yet now Jews and Gentiles are equal in that all have been disobedient to God. In the next step the Jewish people will see the mercy shown to the Gentiles and want themselves to share in it in their own way.*

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **The Gospel**

### **Matthew 15:10-28**

*In our gospel Jesus teaches that the thoughts and intentions of the human heart are paramount. Jesus warns against such blind guides preoccupied with externals. He then travels beyond the boundaries of Israel to the territory of Tyre and Sidon and encounters a Canaanite woman who beseeches him to heal her daughter. The first Christians were unsure whether they were to offer the faith to non-Jews, and the give-and-take in this story may reflect uncertainty. Jesus sees his own mission as confined to Israel, but the woman's faith causes him to give her the bread she asks for. Symbolically it is the saving food of the gospel which heals her daughter.*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Reflection:** *The Rev. Bill Petersen*

**The Creed:** *We profess our faith using the words of The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth;**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended 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:** *We center ourselves in the peace and love of Jesus through prayer*

Confident of your care and upheld by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need, responding with the Canaanite woman to each petition "Help us, O Lord."

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the Christian church around the world, for humility where the church is dominant, for courage where it is oppressed, and for faithfulness when it cannot assemble for worship:

*A brief silence.*

Bless your church, faithful God:

**help us, O Lord.**

We pray for your bountiful earth, for cleaner air, for the fields on which our food grows, for the renewal of lands and waters that have suffered from disregard:

*A brief silence.*

Protect your earth, creative God:

**help us, O Lord.**

We pray for the nations of the earth, for the peaceful resolution of disputes around the world, for just policies that care for the poor, and for the upcoming political conventions in our land, Send your saving health and guidance:

*A brief silence.*

Save humankind, sovereign God:

**help us, O Lord.**

We pray for all in need of healing, for the residents of Beirut and other distressed cities, for those suffering from hurricane damage, for those sick and dying of COVID-19, for the unemployed, for people without medical care, for medical workers and researchers, for the outcasts of our society, and for those we name out loud, or in the silence of our hearts...

*A brief silence.*

Heal the sick, merciful God:  
**help us, O Lord.**

We pray for a spirit of respect the world's religions, for wisdom concerning the many houses of prayer, and for guidance where religion serves as an arm of the government:

*A brief silence.*

Direct all people of faith, gracious God:  
**help us, O Lord.**

We pray for schools around the globe, for educators who must plan for the fall in the midst of great uncertainty, for parents and guardians agonizing over what to do, and for children without the resources to access remote learning:

*A brief silence.*

Guide us, compassionate God:  
**help us, O Lord.**

We pray, finally, for ourselves, for whenever we feel tormented by demons, for whenever the stress and shouts of the world overwhelm us, and for all our family and friends. Help us strive for justice and do what is right:

*A longer period of silence.*

loving God:  
**help us, O Lord.**

We mourn the deaths of those we love, and we praise you for the lives of all your faithful people. At the end, gather us all into the joy of your presence.

*A brief silence.*

Grant us salvation, eternal God:  
**help us, O Lord.**

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we are bold to pray...

**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.**

### *A Prayer for Spiritual Communion*

*There is a long-standing practice in the Episcopal Church to offer a means for people to receive Holy Communion spiritually when it cannot be received physically.*

**In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.**

### *A Prayer for these times*

*From Pentecost Sunday through the first Sunday in September, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and his Lutheran counterpart Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton welcome congregations and individuals to regularly pray "A Prayer for the Power of the Spirit among the People of God." This prayer – crafted by a team of Lutheran and Episcopal prayer leaders in light of the COVID pandemic – is meant to unite us in common prayer and revive us for common mission, wherever and however we may be gathered.*

**God of all power and love, we give thanks for your unfailing presence and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss. Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire. Revive us to live as Christ's body in the world: a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbors, bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit. Wherever and however we gather, unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission, that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **Benediction and Dismissal**

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,  
nor things present, nor things to come,

nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

God, the creator, ☩ Jesus, the Christ,  
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,  
bless you and keep you in eternal love.

**Amen.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Send forth your Spirit, O God,  
**and renew the face of the earth.**



## **Announcements**

### **PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THOSE ON OUR PRAYER LIST**

The Kott-Cornwell Families

Bob Champagne	Bob Pierpont	Ruth Gray	Dylan Allwine
Mark Luken	Rodney Morgan	Stephanie Schroeder	Shirley Bentley
Carolyn Toshney	Gina Vivian	Penny Meyer	Jan Sauda
Faye Juul	Penelope Bennis	Mary McAuley	Gwendolyn Deneault
Vange Sandeen	Mary Ellen Davis	Prue Fitts	Judy Hess
Michael Dowd	Zell Kellogg	Joe Blackett	Jacqueline McLaughlin

**Note:** The names on the prayer list have been updated to remove names that were added over a year ago. If you would like a name placed back on the list, please send the request to Debra at the office email address [allsaints@metrocast.net](mailto:allsaints@metrocast.net). *Thank you*



Thank you for all who have continued to support the work of All Saints during this time. You may make contributions by mail, using your financial institution's automated check writing service, or secure online giving via [Donate](https://www.wolfesaints.com/donate) at [\*\*www.wolfesaints.com/donate\*\*](https://www.wolfesaints.com/donate)

***Creator of all we enjoy, we give you thanks for the countless people you have gathered to do your work as All Saints' Wolfeboro. We thank you for your Holy Spirit inspiring some as they longed for this church, others as they built this church and still others as they lovingly and boldly led this church through times of abundance and times of scarcity. Help us to be bold as we model giving of time and money during this time. Make our generous giving a symbol of both our faith and our gratitude. We pray in the name of your son, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.***