

THE WAY OF LOVE

*Whoever and wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome.
Our message is that God's unconditional love is extended to you right now through Jesus Christ.
Here in this church, God says, "You belong, this is my family, and you have a place in it."*

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE I

September 24, 2023 8:00 a.m.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Suite Medievale
Dana Anderson, organ

Gordon Young

THE PROCESSION

All stand

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Book of Common Prayer (BCP red) 323

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

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP (red) 323

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

GLORIA

BCP (red) 324

Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

BCP (red) 182

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray.

Grant us, O Lord, not to mind earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to cleave to those that shall abide; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

THE LESSONS

All are seated.

JONAH 3:10-4:11

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

PSALM 145:1-8 *read responsively by the whole verse*

BCP (red) 801

1 I will exalt you, O God my King, and bless your Name for ever and ever.

2 ***Every day will I bless you and praise your Name for ever and ever.***

3 Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; there is no end to his greatness.

4 ***One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power.***

5 I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty and all your marvelous works.

6 ***They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts, and I will tell of your greatness.***

7 They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; they shall sing of your righteous deeds.

8 ***The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and of great kindness.***

PHILIPPIANS 1:21-30

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well-- since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

MATTHEW 20:1-16

All stand and turn to face the Gospel procession.

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

People ***Glory be to Thee, O Lord.***

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Officiant The Gospel of the Lord.

People ***Praise be to Thee, O Christ.***

THE SERMON

All are seated

The Reverend Walt Seeley

THE NICENE CREED

BCP (red) 326

All stand

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

All kneel or stand

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity. We pray for Chapel on the Plains Episcopal Church in Medicine Bow and for the Diocese of Fredericton, Canada. The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and dedicated to Ira and Edith Marsh Trotter. Your own prayers and petitions may be added at this time.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life, in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of Mark and all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Almighty God, who knows the needs and desires of this parish. Bless the rector search committee with your direction, understanding, and Spirit to seek your will in finding the next rector for St. Mark's Episcopal Church. Instill in us a collaborative energy along with our fellow parishioners, Vestry members, and community during this time and process. Inspiration ultimately comes from you, and we ask for this in your Holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

CONFESSION

BCP (red) 331

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

BCP (red) 332

All stand

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People *And with thy spirit.*

The people greet one another in the name of the Lord.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY BLESSING

BCP (red) 830

Watch over Your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand, comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may Your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

AT THE OFFERTORY

Soliloquy

Gordon Young

An offering is collected as a symbol of our life and labor and to support the work of the church. Thank you for your generosity.

Officiant All things come of thee, O Lord.

People *And of thine own have we given thee.*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER II

BCP (red) 340

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People *And with thy spirit.*

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

It is meet and right so to do.

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts: Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people kneel or stand.

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. ***Amen.***

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Officiant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more.

Come, all those who have much faith, and those who have little, those who have been here often and those who have not been here long, those who have tried to follow you and those who have failed. Come, because it is the Lord who invites us. It is God's will that those who desire God should meet God here. **Amen.**

All are welcome at the altar. All who desire to receive communion and those wishing to receive a prayer of blessing are invited to the altar rail. Gluten free wafers are available at the communion rail. Please inform the servers at the altar rail if you desire gluten free wafers.

COMMUNION

The Beautiful Garden of Prayer J.H. Fillmore Arr. by Roger C. Wilson

SENDING FORTH

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP (red) 339

The people kneel or stand

Officiant Let us pray.

People **Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

THE PROCESSION

All stand

THE DISMISSAL

Officiant Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

POSTLUDE

Postlude

Francois Couperin

If you are unable to make it to church and would like communion, please contact the church office.

ST. MARK'S INTERCESSORY PRAYER LIST

Diocesan Prayer: Chapel on the Plains Episcopal Church in Medicine Bow.

Anglican Cycle of Prayers: Diocese of Central Florida, Diocese of Southeast Florida, Episcopal Church, Diocese of Southwest Florida, Diocese of Fond du Lac, Diocese of Fredericton (Canada), and Diocese of Free State (Southern Africa).

SCRIPTURES FOR NEXT WEEK ARE:

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 Philippians 2:1-13

Psalms 25:1-8 Matthew 21:23-32

Website for weekly scriptures: <http://www.lectionarypage.net>

ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS

The flowers this week are given to the Glory of God and dedicated to Ira and Edith Marsh Trotter given by Philip Marsh Ellis. You may sign up for a Sunday in the altar flower dedication book located in the rear of the church. More than one donor per Sunday is gratefully welcomed and due recognition given accordingly. Cost is \$70.00.

ST. MARK'S PARKING

We are thankful to the Cheyenne family that allows us to use their parking lot west of the church on Sunday mornings. It is a parking lot that is leased by others Monday through Saturday. If you have any concerns, please contact the church office.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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8:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:30 A.M. Choral Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Children's Chapel/Sunday School and Nursery

Interim Rectors: The Revs. Janet and Walt Seeley