

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."*

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE I

November 19, 2023 8:00 a.m.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes
Dana Anderson, organ

A. Schreiner

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) 184

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them; that, by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; 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.

ZEPHANIAH 1:7, 12-18

Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm." Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

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

PSALM 90:1-12 *read responsively by the whole verse*

BCP (red) 717

1 Lord, 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.***

3 You 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.***

5 You 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.***

7 For we consume away in your displeasure; we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.

8 ***Our iniquities you have set before you, and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.***

9 When you are angry, all our days are gone; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

10 ***The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty; yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone.***

11 Who regards the power of your wrath? who rightly fears your indignation?

12 ***So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.***

1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

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

MATTHEW 25:14-30

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, "It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

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

All stand

BCP (red) 326

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 St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in Cokeville and for the Church of Bangladesh. The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and dedicated to Larry Taylor. 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.**

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Hear the prayers of your people, Creator God. May we who are blessed by so much wealth and wisdom, share our works with a world in need. **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

Interlude

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

Let Us Break Bread Together

Gordon Young

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

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Jamaican folk tune

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: St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in Cokeville.

Anglican Cycle of Prayers: Diocese of Hyderabad (Pakistan), Diocese of Ibadan (Nigeria), Church of Bangladesh, Diocese of Ibadan North (Nigeria), Diocese of Ibadan South (Nigeria), Diocese of Ibba (South Sudan), and Diocese of Idah (Nigeria).

SCRIPTURES FOR NEXT WEEK ARE:

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 Psalm 95:1-7a Ephesians 1:15-23 Matthew 25:31-46

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 Larry Taylor given by Erin, Shawn, Byson, Ava, & Slade Taylor. 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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Prayers of the People, Offertory Prayer, and Post Communion Prayer come from The Episcopal Network for Stewardship

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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