

**Ante-Communion for
The Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 27**

November 8, 2020

The Rev. W. Jesse Neat, *Celebrant*
The Ven. Laurie Brock, *Preacher*
Jessica Bailey and Jay Belt, *Lectors*
Ms. Ruth Witt, *Organist*
Jeanie Hartman, *Soprano* & Martha Smith, *Alto*
Mary Brinkman and Joe Hoffman, *Choir*



**TOGETHER
FOR JOY**

*While we may be apart physically, we are always held
together for joy in Christ's love.*

The flowers for today's worship are offered to the glory of God and in honor of all veterans on Veteran's Day by Clara and Emery Wilson.

The service begins on page 355 of The Book of Common Prayer.

To prepare, gather with your household (including pets) and light a candle. Spend a few moments in silence and in prayerful reflection.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Opening Acclamation and Collect for Purity

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Sprit.

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen

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

Hymn of Praise

Glory to God in the Highest

Hymnal S280

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is primarily quarter and eighth notes, with some longer notes and rests. There are three distinct musical phrases corresponding to the three verses of the hymn. The first phrase ends with a fermata over the final note. The second phrase also ends with a fermata. The third phrase includes a triplet of eighth notes at the end. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.

Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

The Collect of the Day (Proper 27)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Lesson from Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before

God. And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. “Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

But Joshua said to the people, “You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good.” And the people said to Joshua, “No, we will serve the Lord!” Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.” He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.” The people said to Joshua, “The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey.” So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

Lector The Word of the Lord
People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 98

Sung to Land of Rest (Hymn 304)

Sing to the Lord new songs, proclaim
The marvels he has done
With his right hand and holy arm,
The triumph he has won.

He has made known his righteousness
For all the world to see;
Israel has known his faithfulness,
The earth his victory.
All nations, shout with joy to God,

Lift up your voice and sing;
Sing to the Lord now with the harp,
Let harp and voices ring.

With trumpets and the sound of horns
Rejoice before the Lord;
From all who dwell on land and sea
Let praises be outpoured.

Let hills ring out with joy to God,
Let rivers clap their hands;
In righteousness shall all be judged,
In equity all lands.

The Lesson from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians 4:13-18

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Lector The Word of the Lord
People Thanks be to God.

Sequence Anthem *Love Divine* W. A. Mozart, arr. Arthur Hutchings

Love Divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down:
Fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown.

Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never more thy temples leave.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 25:1-13

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

Clergy The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Ven. Laurie Brock, Rector

The Nicene Creed

Book of Common Prayer, page 358

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 worshiped 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 (Form 2) *Book of Common Prayer, page 385*

In the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishop Mark, for our Presiding Bishop Michael, and for the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of God. Pray that they may find and be found by God.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed especially Mary and all who have died in the Coronavirus pandemic. Pray for those who have died.

Silence

I ask your prayers for this nation as we seek healing, justice, and peace; for all those in the medical field treating those who are sick; and for all essential workers.

I ask your thanksgiving for all veterans and those who have served our country.

Silence

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Confession of Sin

Book of Common Prayer, page 360

Clergy Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and 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 Priest, stands and 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 Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Welcome and Announcements

- **Today we kick off Together for Joy, our sustaining member drive.** Over the next few weeks, you'll receive a letter from a Vestry member asking you and your household, as you are able, to prayerfully consider supporting the mission and ministry of St. Michael's financially. While much has changed with Coronavirus, we are still a diverse community of love, hope, and welcome and your financial support during this time is especially needed.
- **With rising Coronavirus rates in the Lexington area, we are following Bishop Mark's suggestion to refrain from physical gatherings for 2 weeks.** Zoom meetings will continue, and we encourage all members to follow our state's [Red Zone Reductions Recommendations](#) to help stop this spike. And again, WEAR YOUR MASKS.

We give thanks this Sunday for the birthdays and anniversaries our members and friends celebrate, especially the birthdays of Pat Mann and Alan Rinker and for the wedding anniversary of Drs Chris and Laurie Doty.

Anniversary and Birthday Blessing

Eternal God, Creator and sustainer of all life: Bless, preserve, and guide your children as they mark another year of life in you. Make their hearts ready to receive your love and free to love others. Grant them grace to grow into the fullness

of Christ. Strengthen them, give them joy, and awaken them every day to the power of your saving help, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Offertory Anthem

Give Ear Unto Me

Benedetto Marcello

Give ear unto me, Lord, I beseech thee, for I have walked in thy commandments. Let me be judged with righteous judgment, O let my sentence come from thy presence.

The Lord's Prayer

Book of Common Prayer, page 364

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 Blessing

The Dismissal

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn 436

Lift up your heads

Hymn on the following page.

1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the
 2 O blest the land, the ci - ty blest, where Christ the
 3 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a
 *4 Re - deem - er come! I o - pen wide my heart to
 5 So come, my Sov - ereign; en - ter in! Let new and

1 King of glo - ry waits! The King of kings is
 2 ru - ler is con - fessed! O hap - py hearts and
 3 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for
 4 thee: here, Lord, a - bid! Let me thy in - ner
 5 no - bler life be - gin; thy Ho - ly Spi - rit

1 draw - ing near; the Sa - vior of the world is here.
 2 hap - py homes to whom this King of tri - umph comes!
 3 heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 4 pres - ence feel: thy grace and love in me re - veal.
 5 guide us on, un - til the glo - rious crown be won.

You may support the mission and ministry of St. Michael's by giving financially in the following ways:

- **By mail** - Mail your check to St. Michael's, 2025 Bellefonte Drive, Lexington, Kentucky 40503
- **Online** - St. Michael's website allows you to set up a monthly automatic payment from your bank account or your credit card. Please note that credit card transactions to involve a fee for the church that you can choose to offset.

- **GivePlus+ app** (available as a free download for Android and iOS) - search the App Store on your phone, fill in the required information, and give easily.
- **Text to Give** - Text the amount you want to give in the message part to 833-917-0602. The first time you text, you'll receive a link to fill in credit card information to complete your donation. You can then text "repeat" to make the donation recurring.

Copyright information

Love Divine

© 1979 The Royal School of Church Music. All rights reserved.
OneLicense.Net License #A-715684

Psalm 78: 1-7

Used by permission

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates (Hymn 436)
Public Domain

Give Ear Unto Me

© 1965 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved.
OneLicense.Net License #A-715684

Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from
ONE LICENSE with license #A-715684. All rights reserved.

Images used in this service bulletin are from
<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu>

and from Salt Project: Together for Joy