

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

The Third Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 6

June 13, 2021 10:00 am

Holy Eucharist Rite II

THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn 601

O day of God, draw nigh

1 O day of God,
draw nigh in beauty and in power,
Come with thy timeless judgment
now to match our present hour.

2 Bring to our trouble minds,
uncertain and afraid,
the quiet of a steadfast faith,
calm of a call obeyed.

3 Bring justice to our land,
that all may dwell secure,
and finely build for days to come
foundations that endure.

4 Bring to our world of strife
thy sovereign word of peace,
war may haunt the earth no more
and desolation cease.

O day of God,
draw nigh as at creation's birth,
let there be light again,
and set thy judgements in the earth.

The people standing, the Celebrant says

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

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

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.*

The Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in your steadfast faith and love, that through your grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness, and minister your justice with compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

Ezekiel 17: 22-24

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. All the trees of the field shall know that I am the Lord. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the Lord have spoken; I will accomplish it.

The Word of the Lord

People *Thanks be to God*

Psalm 92: 1-4, 11-14

1 It is a good thing to give thanks to God, *
and to sing praises to your Name, O Most High;

2 To tell of your loving-kindness early in the morning *
and of your faithfulness in the night season;

3 On the psaltery, and on the lyre, *
and to the melody of the harp.

4 For you have made me glad by your acts, O God; *
and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.

11 The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, *
and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.

12 Those who are planted in the house of God *
shall flourish in the heavenly courts.

13 They shall still bear fruit in old age; *
they shall be green and succulent;

14 That they may show how upright God is, *
my Rock, in whom there is no fault.

2 Corinthians 5: 6-10, 14-17

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord— for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

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

Hymn 209

We walk by faith

1. We walk by faith, and not by sight;
no gracious words we hear from him
who spoke as none e'er spoke;
but we believe him near.

2. We may not touch his hands and side,
nor follow where he trod;
but in his promise we rejoice;
and cry, "My Lord and God!"

3. Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;
and may our faith abound,
to call on you when you are near,
and seek where you are found:

4. that, when our life of faith is done,
in realms of clearer light
we may behold you as you are,
with full and endless sight.

The Holy Gospel of our Savior, Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People *Glory to you, Lord Christ*

Mark 4: 26-34

He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

The Sermon

The Rev. Nancy L. Threadgill

Did you know that here at St. Mark's, we now have a raised garden? It's in the back so if you haven't been back there you probably haven't seen it. Last year, before COVID, the boy scouts built two raised beds but they were never finished. This year, Mike has finished one of them. Thank you, Mike! Joanne bought the plants and I planted them. Yes, there are more tomato plants than there

should be and everyone is surprised to see a zucchini hill. Yes, it will probably vine all around the bed but that's ok. It will be interesting to see what, if any, produce we will harvest.

Since planting the garden a few weeks ago, I go out and check it every day that I am here. I pull out the weeds. (I do appreciate not having to bend over or get on my knees to do that.) Then I make sure the plants have had enough water that day. Sometimes it rains and sometime I have to bring out a pitcher of water. Joanne and I are keeping tabs on it. We know that the plants don't just grow on their own, they have to be tended for them to flourish.

Our Gospel lesson today would seem to indicate that all that has to be done is sow the seed on the ground and the plants will grow by themselves. Not true. As we know from the Parable of the Sower, the seed has to fall on fertile ground in order for it to germinate. We also know the seed has to have sun, water, food, and be free of weeds. We know all of this and the people that Jesus was preaching to knew it even better than we do. Theirs was an agrarian society. They grew their food and knew very well what happened when there was a drought or too much rain or too many weeds or too many pests. They know what it took for plants to grow and produce fruit or grain.

Jesus knew that too. That is why so many of his stories have to do with plants and animals and how to care for them.

Ultimately, Jesus parables have to do with God and God's dream of having heaven on earth. The seeds are planted but they need to be fed, watered and protected in order to flourish. So, let's move from story to reality. What is Jesus trying to convey? God creates and plants the seed. The expectation is that we will then feed, water, protect and encourage the seed to grow. How do we do that?

If it's a seed that has been planted in us, our family members, our friends and colleagues, then we feed, water and nourish it through prayer, scripture, attending church, and paying our tithe via money, time and talent. We continue our relationship with God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit willingly and joyfully with song, meditation and silence. We allow ourselves Sabbath time to refresh and renew. We take care of our health so that we can then care for those we love.

If it's a seed that has been planted in our neighbor, whoever that may be, we feed, water and nourish it through love. Love is the way of God and God is love. The good thing is we don't have to have

a green thumb to grow ourselves and others like we think we do when we grow plants. All we have to have is love. Amen.

The Nicene Creed

*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 II

In the course of 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 Presiding Bishop Michael and our Bishop Dorsey; 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 him.
Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed [especially _____].
Pray for those who have died.

Silence

Members of the congregation may ask the prayers or the thanksgivings of those present

I ask your prayers for _____.

I ask your thanksgiving for _____.

Silence

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

Silence

Almighty God, giver of every good gift. Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for this diocese that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries. We pray especially for Kim Coleman, Scott Gunn, Jeff Murph, Ketlen Solak and Diana Wilcox who have offered themselves to your service in this way, and for Bishop Dorsey McConnell as he begins his retirement in September. We ask all this through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Confession of Sin

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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

The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People *And also with you.*

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Holy Communion

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

Hymn 538

God of mercy, God of grace

1 God of mercy, God of grace,
show the brightness of thy face.
Shine upon us, Savior, shine,
fill thy Church with light divine,
and thy saving health extend
unto earth's remotest end.

2 Let thy people praise thee, Lord;
be by all that live adored.
Let the nations shout and sing
glory to their Savior King;
let all be, below, above,
one in joy, and light, and love.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer C

In this prayer, the lines in italics are spoken by the People

The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People *We lift them to the Lord.*

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People *It is right to give God thanks and praise.*

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us.

By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Celebrant and People

*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection,

as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers: God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, and Jacob, Leah and Rachel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. *AMEN.*

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

As our Savior Christ
has taught us,
we now pray,

People and Celebrant

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. Give us today our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

For those unable to receive the physical Communion at this time please pray the following with me:

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving as

I proclaim your resurrection. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, 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.

Hymn 302

Father, we thank thee who hast planted

1 Father, we thank thee who hast planted
thy holy Name within our hearts.
Knowledge and faith and life immortal
Jesus thy Son to us imparts.
Thou, Lord, didst make all for thy pleasure,
didst give us food for all our days,
giving in Christ the Bread eternal;
thine is the power, be thine the praise.

2 Watch o'er thy Church, O Lord in mercy,
save it from evil, guard it still,
perfect it in thy love, unite it,
cleansed and conformed unto thy will.
As grain, once scatter on the hillsides,
was in the broken bread made one,
so from all lands thy Church be gathered
into thy kingdom by thy Son.

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

*Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.*

*And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.*

Blessing

May the peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge of God and of God's son Jesus Christ, our Lord, and the blessing of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you now and always. Amen.

Hymn 534

God is working his purpose out

1 God is working his purpose out
as year succeeds to year:
God is working his purpose out,
and the time is drawing near;
nearer and nearer draws the time,
the time that shall surely be,
when the earth shall be filled
with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea.

2 From utmost east to utmost west,
wherever foot hath trod,
by the mouth of many messengers
goes forth the voice of God;
give ear to me, ye continents,
ye isles, give ear to me,
that earth may filled
with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea.

3 March we forth in the strength of God,
with the banner of Christ unfurled,

that the light of the glorious gospel of truth
may shine throughout the world:
fight we the fight with sorrow and sin
to set their captives free,
that earth may filled
with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea.

4 All we can do is nothing worth
unless God blessed the deed;
vainly we hope for the harvest-tide
till God gives life to the seed;
yet nearer and nearer draws the time,
the time that shall surely be,
when the earth shall be filled
with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea.

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

People *Thanks be to God*

From *Book of Common Prayer 1979*
Hymns from *Hymnal 1982*

Psalm from *The Saint Helena Psalter 2004*

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

Christ Episcopal Church, Indiana, and the Rev. William Geiger; and
the Rev. Marc Jacobson, missionary

Altar Flowers Given to the Greater Glory of God

In Loving Memory of
Viola & Ben Hastings
Perpetual Flowers

Next Week's Readings

Job 38: 1-11
2 Corinthians 6:1-13
Mark 4:35-41
Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32

*Sharing Christ's love unconditionally through
transformational worship and service.*