

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – SEPTEMBER 18, 2022

READINGS: AMOS 8:4-7; PSALM 113; 1 TIMOTHY 2:1-7; LUKE 16:1-13

FLOWERS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD BY LIZ SCHMITT MATZEN  
AND IN LOVING MEMORY OF HER FATHER, JOHN G. BAKER

Organ: Andante & Chorale - Ernest Dicks

Hymn 518, vs. 1, 3 & 4: Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

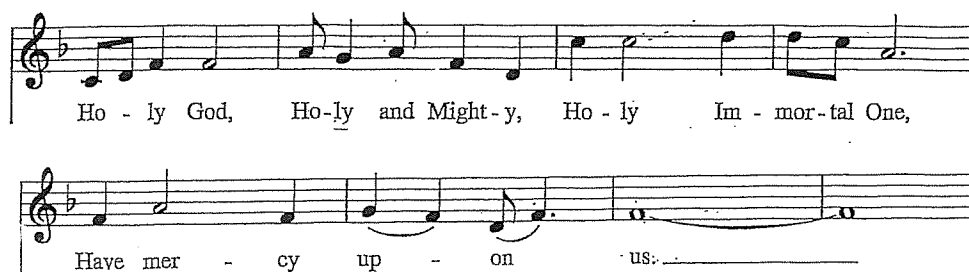
THE WORD OF GOD

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

**And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. 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 cantor sings first, then all sing twice more:*



The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

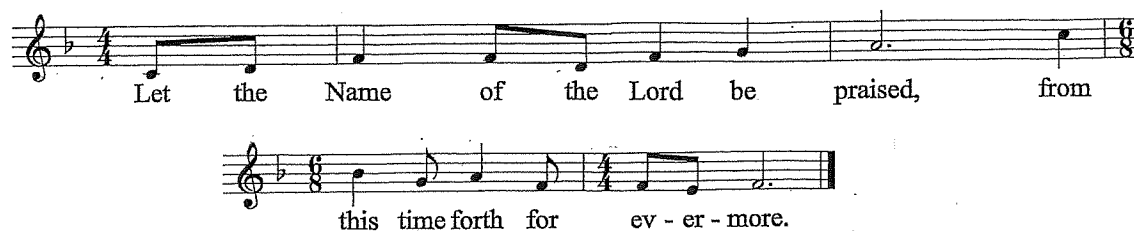
A Reading from the Prophet Amos

The Hebrew prophetic lesson is a judgment on social injustice and religious hypocrisy.

Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain; and the sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah small and the shekel great, and practice deceit with false balances, buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, and selling the sweepings of the wheat." The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

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

Psalm 113 praises God, enthroned on high. The Cantor sings the refrain, all repeat, and sing as indicated.



Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the LORD; praise the Name of the LORD. Let the Name of the LORD be blessed, from this time forth for evermore. From the rising of the sun to its going down let the Name of the LORD be praised. The LORD is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens. **R.**

Who is like the LORD our God, who sits enthroned on high, but stoops to behold the heavens and the earth? He takes up the weak out of the dust and lifts up the poor from the ashes. He sets them with the princes, with the princes of his people. He makes the woman of a childless house to be a joyful mother of children. **R.**

### A Reading from the First Epistle of Timothy

In this lesson, disciples are called upon to pray for all, including political rulers, so that Christians may lead peaceable and moral lives. It is God's will that everyone should find salvation.

First of all, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind,

Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all-- this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

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

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord. Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his Name.**

**Come, let us praise the living God, joyfully sing to our Savior. Alleluia, alleluia, etc.**

**The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to Luke. Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus finished his stories about things lost and found with this parable: "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light.

Jesus then said, "I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes. Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

**The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon -- The Rev. Michael L. Bradley, rector

## The Iona Affirmation of Faith What do we believe?

We believe in God: Whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives,  
whose love was made human in Jesus of Nazareth, whose love was crucified by evil that  
can entrap us.

Therefore, though we sometimes are fearful and doubting, we trust in God,  
and in the Name of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves:  
To serve others, to seek justice, and to live in peace;  
To care for the earth, and to share the commonwealth of God's goodness;  
To live in the freedom of forgiveness, in the power of Love's spirit,  
and in the company of the faithful, to be the Church, for the glory of God. Amen.

## Prayers of the People

Merciful God, we pray for your holy Catholic Church; **Let us all be one.**  
Grant that all members of the Church may truly and humbly serve you; **Let your Name be glorified by all people.**  
We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons; **Let them be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**  
We pray for all who govern and lead the nations of the world; **Let there may be justice and peace on the earth.**  
Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake; **Let our works find favor in your sight.**  
Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble; **Let them be delivered from their distress.**  
Give to the departed eternal rest; **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**  
We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy; **Let us also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**  
Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*The people add their own petitions and thanksgivings.*

We pray also for the forgiveness of our sins. *Silence is kept, then all pray together:*

Have mercy upon us; **Most merciful God; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

God of salvation, your Son came to seek out and save what is lost. Hear our prayers on behalf of those who are lost in our day, receiving these petitions of penance and thanksgiving with your unending compassion. All this we pray. **Amen.**

## HOLY COMMUNION

Solo: In Christ Alone - Keith Getty and Stuart Townend; arr. by: Lloyd Larson

In Christ alone my hope is found. He is my light, my strength, my song. This cornerstone, this solid ground. Firm through the fiercest drought and storm. What heights of love, what depths of peace. When fears are stilled, when strivings cease. My comforter, my all in all. Here in the love of Christ I stand. In Christ alone who took on flesh. Fullness of God in helpless babe. This gift of love and righteousness. Scorned by the ones He came to save. Till on that cross as Jesus died. The wrath of God was satisfied. For every sin on Him was laid. Here in the death of Christ I live. There in the ground His body lay. Light of the world by darkness slain. Then bursting forth in glorious day. Up from the grave He rose again. And as He stands in victory sin's curse has lost its grip on me. For I am His and He is mine. Bought with the precious blood of Christ. No guilt in life, no fear in death. This is the power of Christ in me.

From life's first cry to final breath. Jesus commands my destiny. No power of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand. Till He returns or calls me home. Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

### Hymn 341, Let the Bread Which You Have Broken

The Lord be with you. And also with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; For you are the one God, and we have one Mediator in Jesus Christ our Lord, who gave himself for us, that we might be welcomed into your kingdom and, at the last, into our eternal home. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



*The celebrant continues with the Prayer of Consecration, Memorial Acclamation, and Great Amen.*

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

*After all have received Communion, please stand and pray together:*

Gracious God; All creation yearns for its fulfillment in your Son. May we who have shared in holy things grow into maturity in him. This we ask in the name of Jesus, our guide and redeemer. Amen.

May God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, bless, preserve and keep you, this day and always. **Amen.**  
Let us go forth in the Name of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

### Hymn 344: Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

Organ: Trumpet Tune in D - Georg Philipp Telemann

Our Mission: We share the light of Christ by loving and serving our neighbors in the world.

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