

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - 11 JUNE 2023

READINGS: HOSEA 5:1-6:6; PSALM 50:7-15; ROMANS 4:13-25; MATTHEW 9:9-13, 18-26

THIS MORNING WE WELCOME GERI FURI, ORGANIST; AND THE CHOIR OF ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Organ: "Elegy" by William Grant Still (1895-1978)

Hymn 401, vs. 1, 2 & 5: The God of Abraham Praise, Who Reigns Enthroned Above

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 Trisagion (Thrice Holy) – Serbian Traditional Melody

To be sung three times.

Ho - ly God, ho - ly and might - y,
ho - ly im - mor - tal one have mer - cy on us.

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

O God, you have assured the human family of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Savior. Deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

A Reading from the Prophet Hosea

Our opening lesson is a dialogue between God and the people; the Lord desires a faithful love and knowledge of God rather than fleeting emotions and ritual offerings.

Thus says the Lord: "I will return again to my place until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face. In their distress they will beg my favor: 'Come, let us return to the Lord; for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us; he has struck down, and he will bind us up. After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord; his appearing is as sure as the dawn; he will come to us like the showers, like the spring rains that water the earth.' "

And the Lord said, "What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? Your love is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes away early. Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets, I have killed them by the words of my mouth, and my judgment goes forth as the light. For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings."

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

Psalm 50 tells of the majestic and righteous God who requires true sacrifice and thanksgiving of the people. The cantor sings the refrain; all repeat, and sing again as indicated.



Hear, O my people, and I will speak: "O Israel, I will bear witness against you; for I am God, your God. I do not accuse you because of your sacrifices; your offerings are always before me. R. I will take no bull-calf from your stalls, nor he-goats out of your pens; For all the beasts of the forest are mine, the herds in their thousands upon the hills. R. I know every bird in the sky, and the creatures of the fields are in my sight. If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the whole world is mine and all that is in it. R. Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving and make good your vows to the Most High. Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall honor me. R.

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans

In this lection, Paul explains that the new relationship with God is open to everyone who follows in the way of Abraham's faith. This was first true in the case of Abraham, who trusted in God's promise before the law was given.

The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham. He is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations". These words were said in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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

all stand:

Ye watchers and ye holy ones, bright seraphs, cherubim and thrones. Raise the glad strain, alleluia! Cry out, dominions, princedoms, powers; virtues, archangels, angels' choirs. Alleluia! (5x)

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

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me. And he got up and followed him. And as Jesus sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, for she said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well." Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And instantly the woman was made well.

When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, he said, "Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. And the report of this spread throughout that district.

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

Sermon Hymn (insert): O Threefold God of Tender Unity

Sermon -- The Rev. Michael Bradley, Rector

Our 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 the 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 the service of others, to seek justice, and to live in peace,

To care for the earth, to share the commonwealth of God's goodness,

To live in the freedom of forgiveness, the power of the spirit of Love,

And in the company of the faithful, to be the Church. For the glory of God. Amen.

Prayers of the People

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy"

Prayers, intentions and thanksgivings are offered. We remember especially those on our parish prayer list:

Susan Rich, Mary Greening, Nancy Huckins, Leanna Vernier, Ed Haug, Jim Veit, Lynn Kerber, Donald Burton, Allan Berchem, Lori Praenior. We pray for all the faithful departed, and at his Year's Time we remember Daniel Taylor.

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, who sent your Son to seek out and save what is lost: Hear our prayers on behalf of those who are lost, or in need, or in trouble in our day, receiving these petitions and thanksgivings with your unending compassion. Forgive us all our sins, and bring us to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

All persons are invited to share in the Eucharist and to receive the gifts of Christ's Presence in bread and wine. The bread is received in the palm of the right hand supported by the left; the wine by sipping from the cup or by dipping the bread. If you desire a blessing instead of receiving Communion, let the priest know when you come forward. Communion can also be brought to you where you are seated, if that is more convenient; please speak with a greeter.

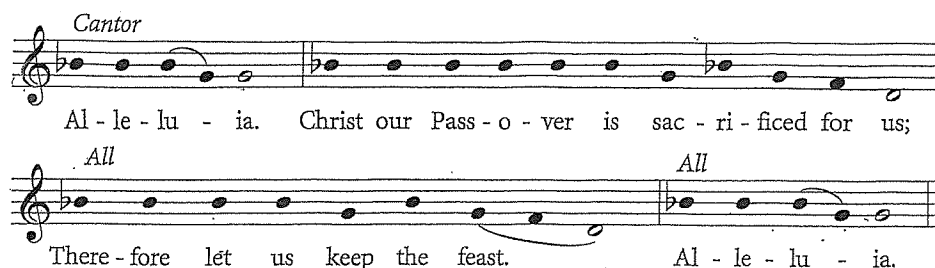
Offertory Hymn 686, Come Thou Fount of Ev'ry Blessing, Tune My Heart to Sing Thy Grace

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, good and a joyful thing, always and everywhere . . . who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord; God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest. Blessed are they who come in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest,
Hosanna in the highest.

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



The gifts of God for the People of God. Take them and remember that Christ died for you.
Feed on him in your hearts by faith, and be thankful.

Music during Communion: Variations on the hymn tune "Nettleton" - Paul Manz (1919-2009)

After all have received, please stand and pray together:

O God; We have shared in the mysteries of the body and blood of Christ. Nourish us by this feast, that we may live his risen life and serve you faithfully in the world. 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.

May God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace; and the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you, now and forever.
Amen.

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 671, Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound that Saved a Wretch Like Me

Organ: Postludium" by Hermann Schroeder (1904-1984)

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

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