

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – 25 JUNE 2023

*THE FLOWERS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD BY MARTHA MILLER  
IN CELEBRATION OF THE GIFT OF LIFE AND A MILESTONE BIRTHDAY.*

READINGS: PSALM 69: 8-11, (12-17), 18-20; ROMANS 6:1B-11; MATTHEW 10:24-32, 39

Hymn 493, O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing My Dear Redeemer's Praise

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.**

O Lord, open our lips. **And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.**

Psalm 69 is a psalm of praise to the mighty God who has brought the people out of Egypt and saved Israel from her enemies. *This metrical setting is sung to the hymn tune "St. Flavian" (#142)*

O God, for you I suffered scorn and shame burns in my face;  
I am a stranger to my own, an alien to my race.

My zealousness to save your house consumes me totally;  
The scorn of those who scorn you, Lord, has fallen down on me.

I bowed myself before you Lord in fasting and in prayer,  
But that was made a new reproach, which I then had to bear.

O Lord, your love is always kind; I beg you, answer me;  
In your compassion and your love, turn to me, hear my plea.

Hide not your face, O Lord, be swift to answer my distress;  
Draw near to save me from my foes; redeem me, give me rest."

Give glory to the Father, Son, and Spirit equally;  
As from the first it was, is now, and evermore shall be.

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

O Lord, make us have perpetual love and reverence for your holy Name, for you never fail to help and govern those whom you have set upon the sure foundation of your loving-kindness; 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 Paul's Letter to the Romans

In this reading we learn that, as Christian disciples have been joined with Christ in his death through baptism, so they are to know a resurrection like his.

Paul writes, "Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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

*all stand:*

**Respond, ye souls in endless rest, ye patriarchs and prophets blest, Alleluia, alleluia!  
Ye holy twelve, ye martyrs strong, all saints triumphant raise the song, Alleluia! (5x)**

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

Jesus said to the twelve disciples, "A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it."

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

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

Friends in Christ, God invites us to hold the needs of our sisters and brothers as dear to us as our own needs. Loving our neighbors as ourselves, we offer our thanksgivings, and our petitions on behalf of the church and the world, responding, "Lord, have mercy".

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

*Leanna Vernier, Susan Rich, Nancy Huckins, Lori Praenior, Lynn Kerber, Jim Veit, Donald Burton, Ed Haug, Allan Berchem, We pray for all the faithful departed. For Mary Greening, who died on Friday; 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.

Almighty God, have mercy on you, forgive 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.

### 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.*

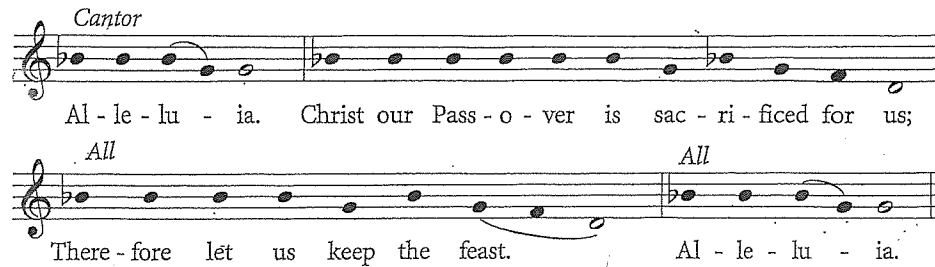
Offertory Hymn 429, I'll Praise My Maker While I've Breath

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 you thanks to you . . . . .  
who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of our 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.

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

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 his Body, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. Now 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.

The blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,  
by upon and among you, this day and forever. **Amen.**

Let us go forth to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn 552, Fight The Good Fight With All Thy Might**

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

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