

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – 16 JULY 2023

READINGS: PSALM 65: 9-14; ROMANS 8:1-11; MATTHEW 13:1-9, 18-23

Hymn 388, O Worship the King, All Glorious 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.**

O Lord, open our lips. **And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.**  
Praise the Lord. **The Lord's Name be praised.**

*Psalm 65 is a psalm of praise and thanksgiving to the savior, the mighty Lord. This metrical setting is sung to the hymn tune "Winchester New", #76 in the Hymnal.*

1. To you, O Lord, we pay our vows, to you in Zion praise is due;  
O Holy One who answers prayer, all sinful flesh shall come to you.
2. When we are overwhelmed with sin, our wickedness, you will forgive;  
And happy those you rightly choose to draw into your courts to live.
3. We shall be satisfied to see your temple and its holiness;  
You answer us, O Savior God, with awesome deeds of righteousness.
4. You still the roaring of the seas, the restless waves, and peoples too;  
The whole earth trembles at your signs; the dawn and dusk rejoice in you
5. All glory to the Father, Son, and to the Holy Spirit be;  
As from the first it was, is now, and will be for eternity.

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

Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you. May we find peace in your service, and in the world to come, see you face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The people are seated.*

## A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans

In this lesson, Paul draws a sharp contrast between the mind set on the flesh, and the mind set on the Spirit. When God's Spirit quickens faith there is no longer any condemnation, for the Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead now indwells those so animated.

Paul writes, "There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law-- indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

"But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you."

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

*all stand:*

**O friends in gladness, let us sing, supernal anthems echoing: Alleluia, alleluia!  
To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One. Alleluia! (5x)**

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

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

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

1. Behold a sower from afar, who goeth forth with might;  
Like furrows are the rolling years; the seed, the growing light;  
For all the just, God's word is sown, it springeth up always;  
The tender blade is hope's young dawn, the harvest, love's new day.

2. Shine forth, O Light, that we may see, with hearts all unafraid,  
The meaning and the mystery of things that thou hast made;  
Shine forth, and let the darker past beneath thy beam grow bright;  
Shine forth, and touch the future vast with thine untroubled light.

3. Light up thy word! Lift from the page the words that set us free.  
Light up our way! Lead forth this age in love's large liberty.  
O Light of Light! Within us dwell, through us thy radiance pour,  
That word and life thy truths may tell, and praise thee evermore!

Music: Theodore P. Ferris; Words (alt.): Washington Gladden

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, Nancy Huckins, Lori Praenior, Lynn Kerber, Jim Veit, Donald Burton, Ed Haug. We pray for all who have died, especially Allan Berchem.

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 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.

## 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.*

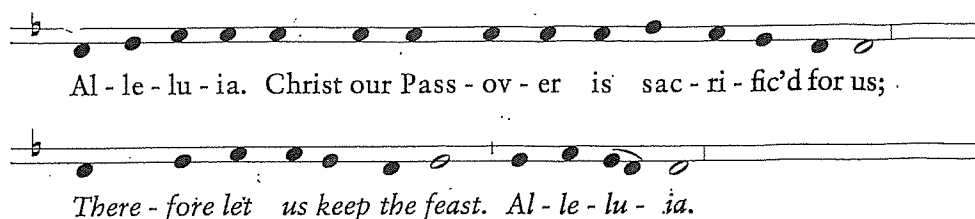
### Offertory Hymn 512, Come, Gracious Spirit, Heavenly Dove

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 filled with thanks.

*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 remain with you, this day and forever. Amen.

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

### Hymn 530, Spread, O Spread Thou Mighty Word

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

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