

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THE EIGHT SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – 23 JULY 2023

READINGS: PSALM 86:1 1-17; ROMANS 8:1 2-25; MATTHEW 13:24-30,36-43

*Flowers are given to the Glory of God by the Huckins
family and in loving memory of Jack Huckins*

Hymn 537, Christ For The World We Sing! The World To Christ We Bring

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 86 is a prayer to the gracious and loving Lord for mercy and guidance. . .
This metrical setting is sung to the hymn tune "Franconia", #656 in The Hymnal 1982.*

1. Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will keep your law;
O knit my heart to you that I may hold your Name in awe.
2. With all my heart, O Lord, I praise your Name today;
For in your love you saved me from the power of the grave.
3. A band of violent men, the arrogant arise;
They seek my life, they have not set the Lord before their eyes.
4. You, Lord, are slow to wrath, compassionate, and true;
Oh, turn to me, be merciful, give me your strength anew.
5. Show me your favor now, that those who hate may see
And be ashamed because you, Lord, have helped and strengthened me.
6. Give God the Father praise, and praise to God the Son,
To God the Spirit equal praise: Eternal Three in One.

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

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son 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 teaches that, if we follow our lower nature, we are enslaved and destined to death, but when we are moved by God's Spirit, we become God's children and heirs with Christ.

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ-- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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 put before the crowd another parable about sowing seeds. "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

Once again his disciples asked him, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." Jesus answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

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

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:

Ed Haug, Susan Rich, Donald Burton, Karen Schulze, Nancy Huckins, Lori Praenior, Jim Veit, Lynn Kerber

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 490, I Want To Walk As A Child Of The Light, I Want To Follow Jesus

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.**

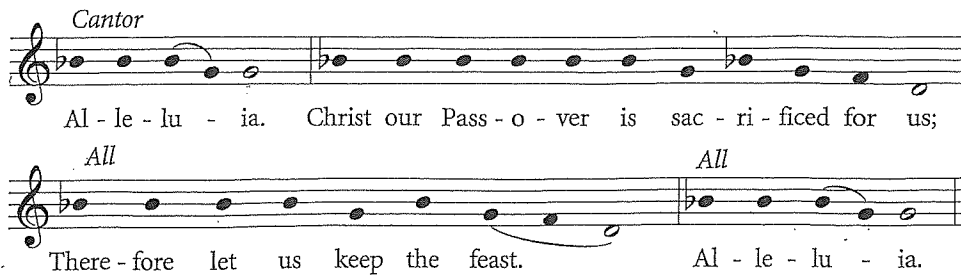
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you thanks to you

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 615, "Thy Kingdom Come!" On Bended Knee the Passing Ages Pray

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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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