

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – 30 JULY 2023

Readings: Psalm 119:129-136; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

*Flowers are given to the Glory of God by the Greening Family In loving memory of their parents*

We welcome the Rev'd. Dr. Daniel Grosseohme, preacher and celebrant.

**Hymn 509: Spirit Divine, Attend Our Prayers, And Make This House Thy Home**

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.**

*In Psalm 119, the psalmist continues to praise God's commandments and asks for guidance and the Lord's justice. This metrical setting is sung to the tune of hymn 377, "Old Hundredth."*

1. Rejoicing, Lord in your decrees, I follow them with all my will;  
Revealing light, your word goes forth and gives the simple wisdom still.
2. Ready to faint, I yearn, I gasp, that your commandment may be mine;  
Return to those who love your Name in mercy as in former time.
3. Restore my footsteps in your word, let evil have no claim on me;  
Release me from my foes and I will keep your statutes faithfully.
4. Reveal your countenance and teach your servant your commandments, Lord.  
Rivers of tears I shed because the people do not keep your word.
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.

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

*The people are seated.*

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

In this lection, Paul expresses his great confidence that God is for us, making love known to humankind through the sacrifice of the Son and the help of the Spirit.

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

*all stand:*

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord. Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his Name.  
Spread the good news o'er all the earth: Jesus has died and has risen.**

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

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened." "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it." "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

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

Sermon -- The Rev. Daniel Grosseohme

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

Merciful God, we pray for your holy Catholic Church; **That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

**That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

**That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

**That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

**That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

**That they may be delivered from their distress.**

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy; **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*Prayers, intentions and thanksgivings are offered.*

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.**

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 304, I Come With Joy to Meet My Lord**

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 488, Be Thou My Vision, O Lord of my Heart**

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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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