

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – 10 SEPTEMBER 2023

Readings: Ezekiel 33:7-11; Psalm 119:33-40; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

Flowers on the Altar are given by Jim & Bev Veit in celebration of Grandparents Day

Hymn 376: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

THE WORD OF GOD

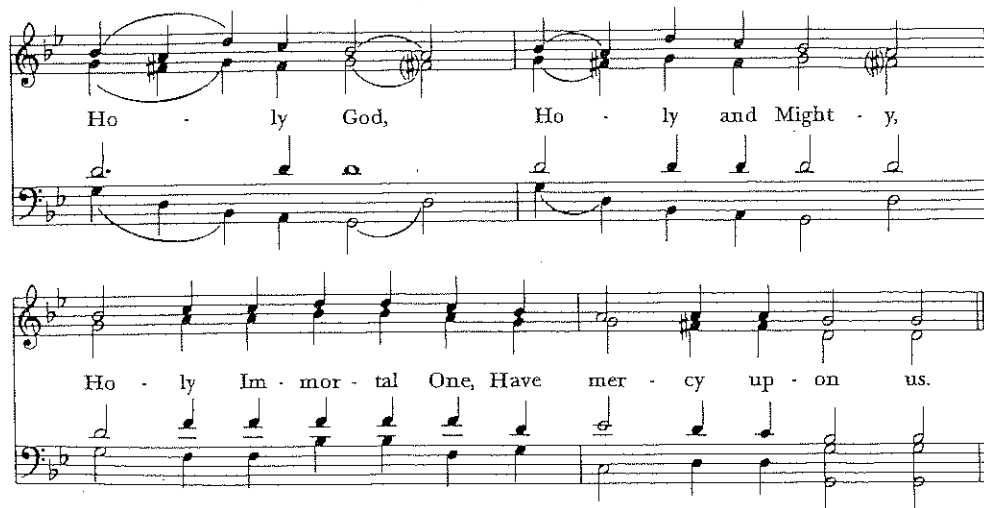
Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

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.

The cantor sings the Trisagion, and all sing twice:



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

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our heart; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who dwell secure in your mercy; 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.*

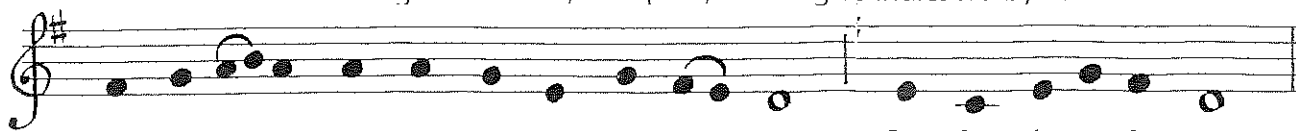
A Reading from the Prophet Ezekiel

In our first lesson, the prophet Ezekiel is like a watchman; it like a watchman: it is his responsibility to warn the wicked, but it is the individual's responsibility to stop sinning. These oracles were delivered as Israel's exile was beginning and were meant to instill both a sense of accountability and the hope necessary for repentance.

You, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life. Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

In Psalm 119, the psalmist asks for the Lord's guidance and promises to keep God's commandments always.
The cantor sings the refrain; all repeat; and sing as indicated by R.



Make me go in the path of your com-mand-ments, for that is my de-sire.

Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end.
Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; I shall keep it with all my heart. R.

Make me go in the path of your commandments, for that is my desire.
Incline my heart to your decrees and not to unjust gain. R.

Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; give me life in your ways.
Fulfill your promise to your servant, which you make to those who fear you. R.

Turn away the reproach which I dread, because your judgments are good.
Behold, I long for your commandments; in your righteousness preserve my life. R.

A Reading from Paul's First Letter to the Romans

In this reading, Paul summarizes the heart of the law and urges a way of life in full awareness of the nearness of salvation. All the commandments and all human responsibility for others are fulfilled by "loving your neighbor as yourself."

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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, principedoms, powers, virtues, archangels, angels choirs: Alleuia! (5x)**

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

Jesus said, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

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

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

Let us pray with confidence, responding "Lord hear our prayer."

O Lord, guard and direct your Church in the way of unity, service, and praise. **R.**

Give to all nations an awareness of the unity of the human family. **R.**

Cleanse our hearts of prejudice and selfishness, and inspire us to hunger and thirst for what is right. **R.**

Teach us to use your creation for your greater praise, that all may share the good things you provide. **R.**

Strengthen all who give their energy or skill for the healing of those who are sick in body or in mind. **R.**

Set free all who are bound by fear and despair. **R.**

Grant a peaceful end and eternal rest to all who are dying, and your comfort to those who mourn. **R.**

Prayers are offered for those on the parish prayer list, for special concerns and for thanksgivings.

The people are invited to offer their own prayers and petitions.

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.

Redeeming Sustainer, visit your people: Hear our prayers, receive our penitence and forgive our sins.

Pour out your strength and courage upon us, that we may hurry to make you welcome not only in our concern for others, but by serving them generously and faithfully in your name. All this we ask in Jesus's Name. **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 674, "Forgive Our Sins, As We Forgive", You Taught Us, Lord, To Pray

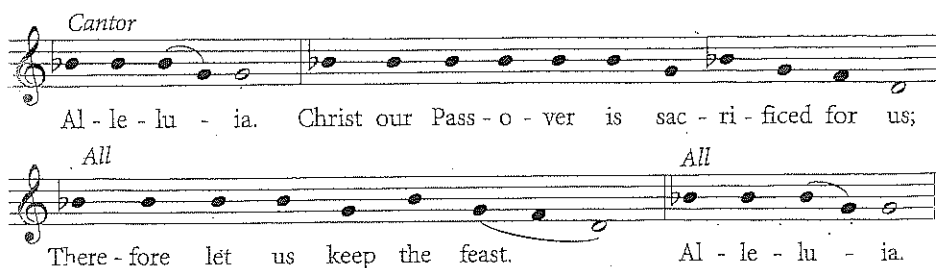
The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.

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 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 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 mercy, grace and peace of God: Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,
by upon and remain with you, this day and forever. **Amen.**

Let us go forth in the Name of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 593, Lord Make Us Servants Of Your Peace

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