

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – 17 SEPTEMBER 2023

Readings: Genesis 50:15-21; Psalm 103: 8-13; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

Hymn 8, Morning Has Broken, Like The First Morning

THE WORD OF GOD

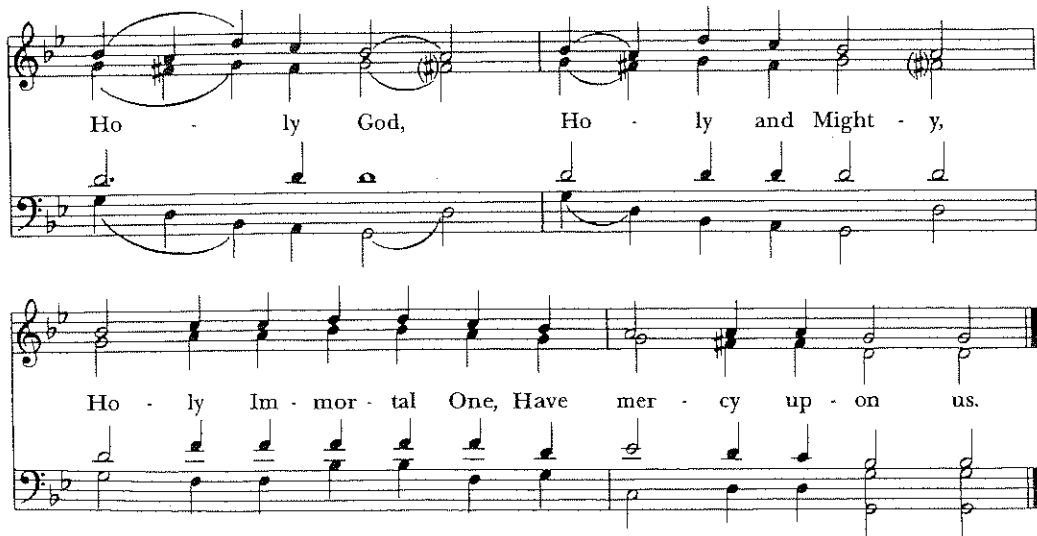
Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

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.

Almighty God, you call your Church to witness that in Christ we are reconciled to you. Help us so to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may turn to you; 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.*

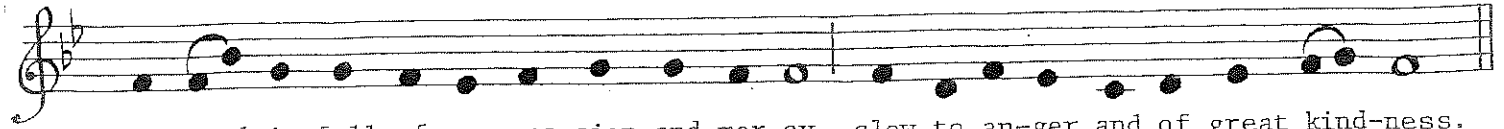
A Reading from the Book of Genesis

In our Hebrew scripture lesson, Joseph's brothers fear his wrath upon learning of the death of their father Jacob. Joseph tearfully and warmly reassures them that he intends only their good and the well-being of their families.

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

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

Psalm 103 is a hymn of blessing in thanksgiving for healing forgiveness and for all the Lord's acts of compassion and justice. The cantor sings the refrain; all repeat; and sing as indicated by R.



The Lord is full of com-pas-sion and mer-cy, slow to an-ger and of great kind-ness.

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy Name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. R. He will not always accuse us, nor will he keep his anger for ever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our wickedness. R. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so is his mercy great upon those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our sins from us. R. As a father cares for his children, so does the LORD care for those who fear him. For he himself knows whereof we are made; he remembers that we are but dust. R.

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans

In this reading, Paul calls upon the Roman disciples to live with tolerance for one another, recognizing that everything can be done to honor the Lord with whom each Christian has a relationship.

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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.**

Peter came to Jesus and asked him, "Lord, if another member of the church continues to sin against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but seventy times seven. The kingdom of Heaven, therefore, should be thought of in this way: There was once a king who decided to settle accounts with the men who served him. At the outset there appeared before him a man who owed ten thousand talents. Since he had no means of paying, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife, his children, and everything he had, to meet the debt. The man fell at his master's feet. "Be patient with me," he implored, "and I will pay you in full", and the master was so moved with pity that he let the man go and cancelled the debt. But no sooner had the man gone out than he met a fellow-servant who owed him a hundred denarii; he took hold of him, seizing him by the throat, and said, "Pay me what you owe." The man fell at his fellow-servant's feet, and begged him, "be patient with me and I will pay you"; but he refused, and had him thrown into jail until he should pay the debt. The other servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and told him the whole story. Then he sent for the man and said, "You scoundrel! I cancelled the whole of your debt when you appealed to me; ought you not to have shown mercy to your fellow-servant just as I showed mercy to you? And so angry was the master that he condemned the man to be tortured until he should pay the debt in full. That is how my heavenly Father will deal with you, unless you each forgive your brother from your hearts."

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.**

Move us to praise your gracious will, redeeming God, for in Christ Jesus you have saved us from the deeds of death and opened for us the hidden ways of your love. Hear all our prayers and forgive us all our sins. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.

Choir Anthem: God of Eternity

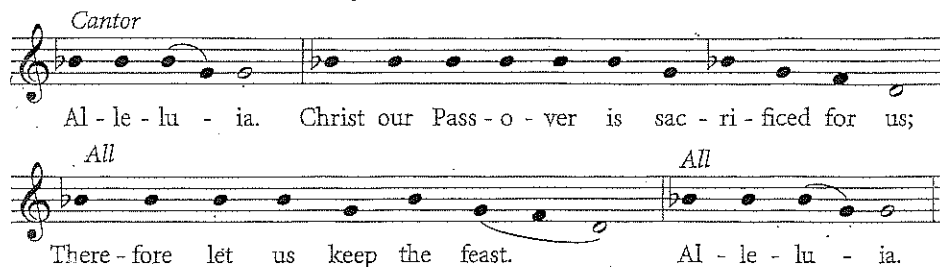
Offertory Hymn (insert): We Sing A Love That Sets All People Free

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 382, King of Glory, King of Peace, I Will Love Thee

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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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