

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – 15 OCTOBER 2023
Readings: Isaiah 25:1-9; Psalm 23; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14

Hymn 390: Praise To The Lord, The Almighty, The King Of Creation

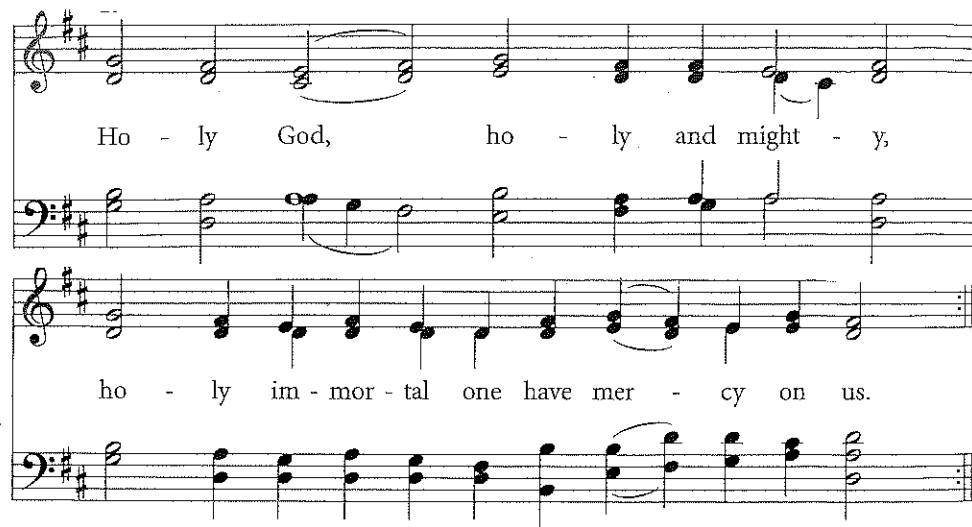
THE WORD OF GOD

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, the choir repeats; and then all sing:



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

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; 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.*

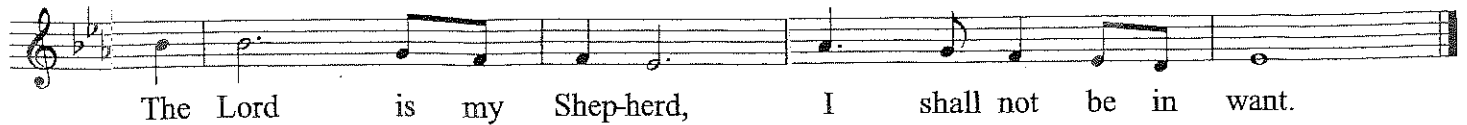
A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

In our Old Testament lesson, the prophet praises the Lord for destroying the cities of the ruthless and for providing a refuge for the poor. Now comes the banquet of the Lord's salvation.

O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

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

*In Psalm 23, 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.*



He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters. He revives my soul and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake. R. Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over. R. Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever. R.

A Reading from Letter to the Philippians

In his letter to the church at Philippi, Paul invites the new disciples to exult in joy in the Lord who is near at hand. God's peace, which is beyond human understanding, will keep their hearts and thoughts in Jesus.

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

All stand. Alleluia is sung by the cantor; all repeat, and repeat again after the verse.



Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

Give me understanding, O Lord, and I shall keep your law with all my heart.

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

Jesus spoke to them in parables. The kingdom of Heaven is like this. There was a king who arranged a banquet for his son's wedding, but when he sent his servants to summon the guests he had invited, they refused to come. Then he sent other servants, telling them to say to the guests, "Look! I have prepared this banquet. My oxen and fatted beasts have been prepared, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding." But they took no notice; one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the others seized the servants, attacked them brutally, and killed them. The king was furious, he sent troops to put those murderers to death and set their town on fire. Then he said to his servants, the wedding banquet is ready; but the guests I invited did not deserve the honor. Go out therefore to the main thoroughfares and invite everyone you can find to the wedding." The servants went out into the streets, and collected everyone they could find, good and bad alike. So the hall was packed with guests. 'When the king came in to watch them feasting, he observed a man who was not dressed for a wedding. "My friend," said the king, "how do you come to be here without wedding clothes?" But he had nothing to say. The king then said to his attendants, "Bind him hand and foot; fling him out into the dark, the place of wailing and grinding of teeth." And Jesus then said, "For many are invited, but few are chosen."

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.

Donald Burton, Lori Pranior, Lynn Kerber, Susan Rich, Ed Haug, Karen Schulze, Jim Veit.

For those recovering from surgery: Jan Rhein, Dianne Pegg

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.

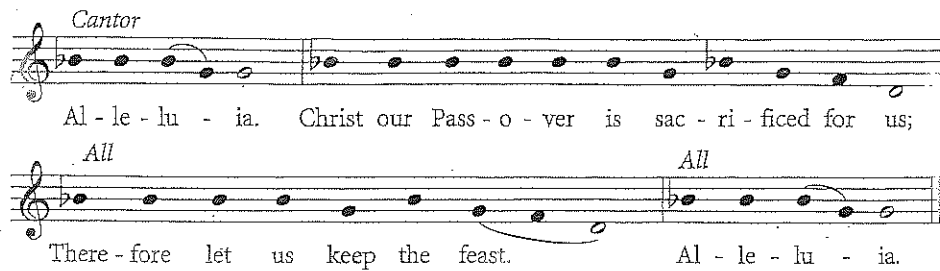
Offertory Hymn 645: The King Of Love My Shepherd Is Whose Goodness Faileth Never

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 556, vs. 1-5: Rejoice, Ye Pure In Heart! Rejoice, Give Thanks, And Sing!

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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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