

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – 22 OCTOBER 2023

Flowers are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of Edward T. Gushée by his family.

Readings: Isaiah 45:1-7; Psalm 96:1-9; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

Hymn 408, Sing Praise To God Who Reigns Above, The God Of All Creation

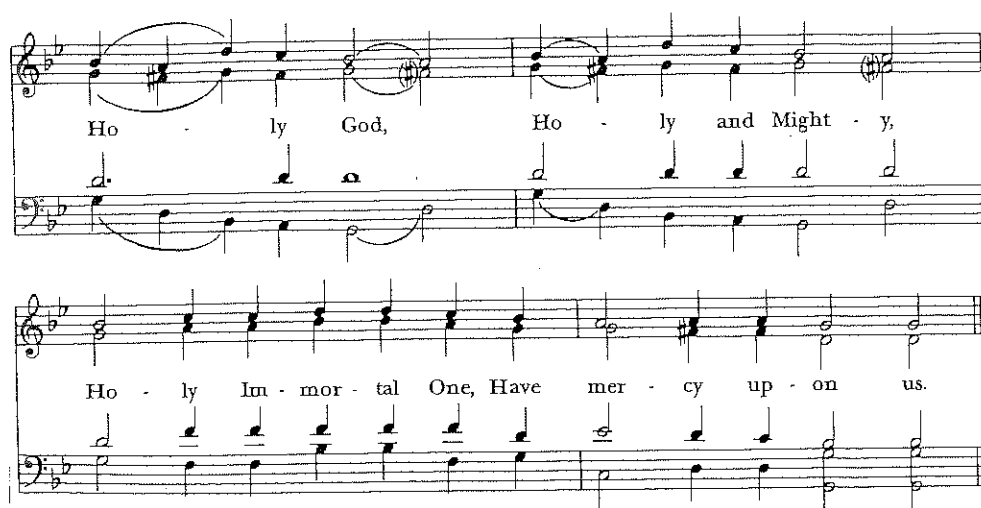
THE WORD OF GOD

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.*

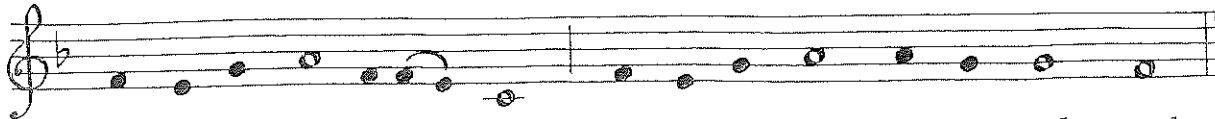
A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

In this Hebrew Bible reading, the Lord anoints Cyrus, King of Persia, to be God's agent in freeing the chosen people from exile.

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him-- and the gates shall not be closed: I will go before you and level the mountains, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me. I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other. I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the Lord do all these things.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96 is a hymn of trust in the Lord.
The cantor sings the refrain; all repeat; and sing as indicated by R.



Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.

Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations and his wonders among all peoples. R. For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; he is more to be feared than all gods. As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but it is the Lord who made the heavens. R. Oh, the majesty and the magnificence of his presence! Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary! Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; ascribe to the Lord honor and power. R. Ascribe to the Lord the honor or due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts. Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth tremble before him. R.

A Reading from Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians

Paul greets the new Christians of Thessalonica, giving thanks for their faith and their conversion from idols to the worship of the true and living God.

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead-- Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

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.

Your word is a lantern to my feet and a light upon my path.

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

The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away. The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon -- The Rev. Michael L. 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

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.

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

For those recovering from surgery: Lori Pranior, Jan Rhein, Dianne Pegg, Sally Graham

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.

Loving God, open our ears to hear your word and draw us closer to you. Hear all our prayers which we make this day, and forgive us all our sins. Grant that we and the whole world may be one with you as you are one with us in 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.

Offertory Hymn 591, O God Of Earth And Altar, Bow Down And Hear Our Cry

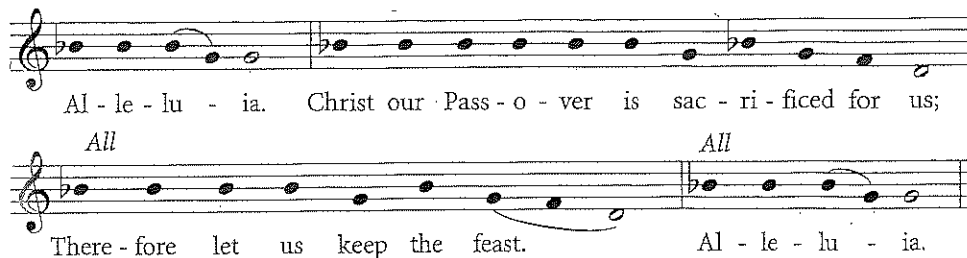
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

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 is he who comes 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 594, God Of Grace And God Of Glory, On Thy People Pour Thy Power

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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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