

## THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – AUGUST 25, 2024

WELCOME! THE SERVICE ORDER OUTLINES OUR WORSHIP. HYMNS CAN BE FOUND IN THE BLUE HYMNAL.

WE WELCOME THE REV. REGINA JOHNSON, PREACHER AND CELEBRANT

Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Sharon Amluxen.

READINGS: JOSHUA 24:1-2A, 14-18; PSALM 34:15-22; EPHESIANS 6:10-17; JOHN 6:56-69

Our Readers: Dianne Pegg and Ray Rhein

Organ Prelude: Berceuse, Op. 31, No. 19 – Louis Vierre

Hymn 524, I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord, The House Of Thine Abode

### 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.**

*The Trisagion is sung once by the cantor, then twice by all.*

Ho - ly God, ho - ly and might - y,

ho - ly im - mor - tal one have mer - cy on us.

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### A Reading from the Book of Joshua

In our first lesson, Joshua calls the people to renew their covenant with the Lord and to realize what it means to promise to worship the Lord as the only God.

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: "Now therefore revere the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

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

A portion of Psalm 34 is appointed. This metrical version is sung to the tune of Hymn 124

**Your eyes, O God, are on the just; your ears are open to their cry;  
Your face is set against the false to root them out from memory.**

**You save the righteous in their need, for when they cry Lord, you will hear;  
Those crushed in spirit you will save, the broken-hearted you are near.**

**The troubles of the just are great, and yet, you, Lord will save your own  
And keep them safe from every harm; not one shall break a single bone.**

**Evil shall slay the false, and those who hate the just shall know your wrath;  
You ransom all your servants' lives and chasten none who walk your path.**

### **A Reading from the Letter to the Ephesians**

In this New Testament lesson, Christians are instructed to put on the whole armor of God in order to defend themselves from the powers of evil, which are beyond any human control. In this battle it is the Christian's primary task to stand and resist.

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

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

*all stand*

**O friends in gladness, let us sing, supernal anthems echoing, Alleluia, alleluia!  
To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One. Alleluia! (5x)**

**The Lord be with you. And also with you.**

**The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, according to John. Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father." Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

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

**Sermon -- The Rev. Regina Johnson**

## Our Affirmation of Faith - What do we believe?

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

In peace let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

For the peace of the whole world, for the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. R.

For our bishops, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord. R.

For our city, for every city and community, and for those who live in them in faith, let us pray to the Lord. R.

For good weather, and for abundant harvests for all to share, let us pray to the Lord. R.

For those who travel by land, water, or air, for the sick and the suffering, for prisoners and captives, and for their safety, health, and salvation, let us pray to the Lord. R.

For our deliverance from all affliction, strife, and need, let us pray to the Lord. R.

For all who have died, let us pray to the Lord. R.

*Prayers are offered on behalf of the world and our nation; the Church and its members; our family, friends and loved ones; for those in need, trouble, want or sickness; and for the departed.*

In our Diocese: St. James' Grosse Ile; St. Peter's, Hillsdale Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of Mexico

For those on our prayer list: Christopher, Karen Schulze, Donald Burton, Georgina, Bill Steiner, Ed Haug, Nina, Vicki, Jim Veit, Lynn Kerber.

We pray also for the forgiveness of our sins. *Silence is kept, then all pray together:*

Have mercy upon us; **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.**

Life-giving God, open our hearts and minds to see your wonderful deeds and offer you thanks from generation to generation. Accept our penitence and forgive the wrongs we have done. Hear our prayers which we offer this day for ourselves and for others. All this we pray in Christ's name. **Amen.**

May God's peace be with you always. **And also with you.** *The people may greet each other briefly.*

## HOLY COMMUNION

*All are invited to receive Communion. The bread is placed in the palm of your right hand. You may dip the bread in the wine or sip the wine from the chalice. Instead of Communion and to receive a blessing, kindly keep your hands folded.*

### Hymn 632, O Christ, The Word Incarnate, O Wisdom From On High

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 thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,  
2 Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The celebrant continues with the Prayer of Consecration, Memorial Acclamation, and Great Amen.*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance 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:*

Eternal God; Heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, descend upon you and remain with you, now and always. Amen.

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

### Hymn 551, Rise Up, Ye Saints Of God, Have Done With Lesser Things

Organ Postlude: Minuet, Op. 25 – Leon Boëllman

## ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

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