

THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – SEPTEMBER 1, 2024
FOR ALL WHO LABOR AND WORK

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

READINGS: ECCLESIASTICUS 38:27-32A; PSALM 90:1-2, 16-17; 1 CORINTHIANS 3:10-14; MATTHEW 6:19-24

Our Readers: Brian Payton, Kathie Groschner

Prelude: Lord of All Hopefulness – Dale Wood

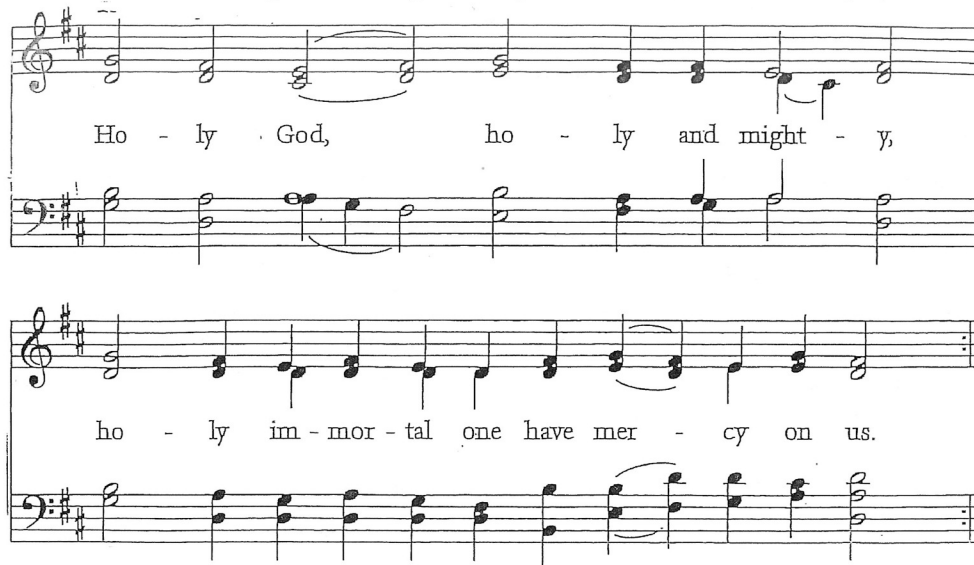
Hymn 583 O Holy City, Seen Of John, Where Christ, The Lamb, Doth Reign

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.



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

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 Ecclesiasticus

The Book of Ecclesiasticus is in the genre of wisdom literature – wise sayings and aphorisms about life and the human condition. In this passage the writer praises those who labor with their hands, for without them “no city can be inhabited.”

So it is with every artisan and master artisan who labors by night as well as by day; those who cut the signets of seals, each is diligent in making a great variety; they set their heart on painting a lifelike image, and they are careful to finish their work. So it is with the smith, sitting by the anvil, intent on his iron-work; the breath of the fire melts his flesh, and he struggles with the heat of the furnace; the sound of the hammer deafens his ears, and his eyes are on the pattern of the object. He sets his heart on finishing his handiwork, and he is careful to complete its decoration. So it is with the potter sitting at his work and turning the wheel with his feet; he is always deeply concerned over his products, and he produces them in quantity. He molds the clay with his arm and makes it pliable with his feet; he sets his heart to finish the glazing, and he takes care in firing the kiln. All these rely on their hands, and all are skillful in their own work. Without them no city can be inhabited, and wherever they live, they will not go hungry.

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

A portion of Psalm 90 is appointed. This metrical version is sung to the tune of Hymn 680

**You have been our strong refuge, Lord, each age has praised your Name;
Before hills, land, and earth were born, still you have been the same.**

**Lord, let the splendor of your works shine brightly as the sun;
May all God's goodness rest on us; Prosper what we have done.**

A Reading from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians

In this passage, Paul reminds the Corinthians that they are God's temple, for which there is no other foundation than Jesus Christ.

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—the work of each builder will become visible, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each has done. If what has been built on the foundation survives, the builder will receive a reward.

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, Alleluia! (5x)**

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

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

'Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. 'The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! 'No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

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

Sermon -- The Rev. Michael Bradley, Rector

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. Paul's, Lansing Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of Mozambique and Angola

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

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 586, Jesus, Thou Divine Companion, By Thy Lowly Human Birth

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 482, Lord Of All Hopefulness, Lord Of All Joy

Postlude : Allegro Giocoso – Gordon Young

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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