



*St. Thomas' Episcopal Church*

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# The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 29, 2021

# The Holy Eucharist

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**People** *And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen*

*The Celebrant may say*

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.**

S280 *Gloria in excelsis* Powell

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.**

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## The Collect of the Day

*The Celebrant says to the people:* The Lord be with you.

*People: And also with you.*

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

**Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.**

### *The people sit*

## The Word of God

### **The First Lesson Song of Solomon 2:8-13**

*Lector* A reading from the Song of Solomon.

The voice of my beloved!

Look, he comes,

leaping upon the mountains,  
bounding over the hills.

My beloved is like a gazelle  
or a young stag.

Look, there he stands  
behind our wall,  
gazing in at the windows,  
looking through the lattice.

My beloved speaks and says to me:

"Arise, my love, my fair one,  
and come away;  
for now the winter is past,  
the rain is over and gone.

The flowers appear on the earth;  
the time of singing has come,  
and the voice of the turtledove  
is heard in our land.

The fig tree puts forth its figs,  
and the vines are in blossom;  
they give forth fragrance.

Arise, my love, my fair one,  
and come away."

*Lector* The word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God

**Psalm 45:1-2, 7-10** (*all chant the psalm on the following tone*)



- <sup>1</sup> My heart is stirring with a noble song; let me recite what I have fashioned for  
the king; \*
- my tongue shall be the pen of a skilled writer.
- <sup>2</sup> You are the fairest of men; \*  
grace flows from your lips, because God has blessed you for ever.
- <sup>7</sup> Your throne, O God, endures for ever and ever, \*  
a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom; you love  
righteousness and hate in-iquity.
- <sup>8</sup> Therefore God, your God, has anointed you \*  
with the oil of gladness above your fellows.
- <sup>9</sup> All your garments are fragrant with myrrh, aloes, and cassia, \*  
and the music of strings from ivory palaces makes you glad.
- <sup>10</sup> Kings' daughters stand among the ladies of the court; \*  
on your right hand is the queen, adorned with the gold of Ophir.

**The Epistle James 1:17-27**

A reading from the letter of James.

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

*Lector* The word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God**

**Sequence Hymn #556 (Vs. 1, 5, 7)   *Rejoice ye pure in heart!***

Marion

**The Holy Gospel Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23**

*Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far from me;  
in vain do they worship me,  
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.” For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

*After the Gospel, the Reader says*

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

### **The Sermon**

*The congregation may stand.*

### **The Nicene Creed**

**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.

### The Prayers of the People

Form VI

*The Leader and People pray responsively*  
In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence*

For all people in their daily life and work;

***For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.***

For this community, the nation, and the world, especially the people of Haiti and Afghanistan;

***For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.***

For the just and proper use of your creation;

***For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.***

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble, especially those in the path of Hurricane Ida, and those who suffer from floods in Western North Carolina and Tennessee, and fire in California;

***For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.***

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

***For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.***

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, and Rob our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers, and especially Bonnie, our priest;

***For all who serve God in his Church.***

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. ***For Jeanine Wilson, Al Coward, Randy Tyler, Joan Leggett, Kay Barnacasel, Becky Godwin, John Tolbert, Coley McCally, Karen Gudiksen, Bobbie and Rendol Cobb, Libby Smith, Lena Evans, Charles Taylor Spruill, Larry Watson, Julia Credle, Joey Ezelle, Racheal Coward, Peggy Parker, Sylvia Dawson, Elsie Benson, Riley Raines, Andy Walker, Mary Gillam, Rita Hoggard, Stan Johnson, Mary Chappell, Beth Bryant, Susan Mizelle, Baron Chamblee, Emma Cobb, Daniel Perry, and others known to us.***

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions*

Hear us, Lord;

**For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. This week in our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we give thanks for Grace Church, Lewiston-Woodville, and the Ministries, Committees, and Commissions of the Diocese of East Carolina

*Silence*

*The People may add their own thanksgivings*

We will exalt you, O God our King;

**And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died, especially those who were killed in Kabul, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

**Who put their trust in you.**

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Leader and People*

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;  
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.**

*The Bishop, when present, or the Priest, stands and says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

### **The Peace**

*The Celebrant says to the people*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People And also with you.*

*(Please stay in place and share from a distance.)*

### **The Holy Communion**

**Offertory Anthem**

*We All Are One in Mission*

Nyland

(Please place your offering in the plate in the narthex as you enter or exit. During the anthem, the altar will be prepared for the Holy Communion.)

### The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer A

*The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest says*  
The Lord be with you.

*People **And also with you.***

*Celebrant Lift up your hearts.*

*People **We lift them to the Lord.***

*Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

*People **It is right to give him 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. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. 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:

**S 125 Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

Proulx

**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.**

*Then the Celebrant continues*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world. On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen**

**The Breaking of the Bread** *The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*A period of silence is kept. Then may be sung or said*

*Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;*

***People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.***

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation:*

**The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.**

*(Please stay in place, and the bread will be brought to you. There is a small trash can in the narthex for the wrapper when you exit. The chalice will remain on the altar, per diocesan guidelines.)*

### **Post Communion Prayer**

*After Communion, the Celebrant says:*

**Let us pray.**

*Celebrant and People:*

**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 Bishop when present, or the Priest, may bless the people.*

**Hymn #707**

***Take my life and let it be***

Hollingside

*The Deacon, or the Celebrant, dismisses them  
People **Thanks be to God.***

**Postlude**

*Postlude*

Cramer

### **The Ministers of the Liturgy**

**Celebrant:** The Rev. Bonnie J. Smith

**Organist:** Tom Parker

**Lector:** Patti Farless

**Soloist:** Agnes Powell

**Altar Guild:** Pat Ivey, Kristen Warren, Harriet Stout

**Hostesses:** Shirley Cooper, Iris Fisk, Susie Remkes

**Offering:** Patti Farless, John Tyler

**Ushers:** Joe Rhea, Fen Rascoe

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Crayons, coloring pages, and children's bulletins are available in the narthex.

Bishop Skirving's visitation with St. Thomas' Church is scheduled for Sunday, October 24 at 11:00 a.m. If you are interested in making a mature public affirmation of faith and wish to receive the sacrament of Confirmation, please let the Rev. Bonnie Smith know today.

The vestry has adopted a new procedure for the Sunday prayer list. Names will stay on the list for one month, unless requested to remain longer. Please send updates to the church email, and always get permission before adding a name to this public list.

If you would like to join the St. Thomas' prayer group, or if you have a prayer request needing immediate response, please contact Tra Perry. (This list is separate from the public Sunday prayer list.)

Please take your printed bulletin with you or drop it into the designated recycling bin. Please do your visiting outside.

With the rise in COVID cases, the vestry has instituted the following safeguards: pews are separated for social distancing; you are asked to wear a mask as you enter and exit and when you are in close proximity to others; and we will sing 2-3 verses of the hymns.

The CDC recommends that everyone "should wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an area of substantial or high transmission." Note: all of NC is now considered a high transmission area.

From current diocesan guidelines:

All involved in ministries with children, and in particular with children who are too young to be vaccinated, should continue to wear a mask and practice physical distancing.