



*St. Thomas' Episcopal Church*

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# The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 19, 2021

## The Holy Eucharist

**Prelude**

Arioso

J. S. Bach

**Hymn #390** (vs. 1 and 4) *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

Lobe den Herren

*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.

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

*The people sit.*

## The Word of God

### **The First Lesson Proverbs 31:10-31**

*Lector* A reading from the Book of Proverbs.

A capable wife who can find?  
She is far more precious than jewels.  
The heart of her husband trusts in her,  
and he will have no lack of gain.  
She does him good, and not harm,  
all the days of her life.  
She seeks wool and flax,  
and works with willing hands.  
She is like the ships of the merchant,  
she brings her food from far away.  
She rises while it is still night  
and provides food for her household  
and tasks for her servant-girls.  
She considers a field and buys it;  
with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.  
She girds herself with strength,  
and makes her arms strong.  
She perceives that her merchandise is profitable.  
Her lamp does not go out at night.  
She puts her hands to the distaff,  
and her hands hold the spindle.  
She opens her hand to the poor,  
and reaches out her hands to the needy.  
She is not afraid for her household when it snows,  
for all her household are clothed in crimson.  
She makes herself coverings;  
her clothing is fine linen and purple.  
Her husband is known in the city gates,  
taking his seat among the elders of the land.

She makes linen garments and sells them;  
she supplies the merchant with sashes.

Strength and dignity are her clothing,  
and she laughs at the time to come.

She opens her mouth with wisdom,  
and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

She looks well to the ways of her household,  
and does not eat the bread of idleness.

Her children rise up and call her happy;  
her husband too, and he praises her:

“Many women have done excellently,  
but you surpass them all.”

Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,  
but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

Give her a share in the fruit of her hands,  
and let her works praise her in the city gates.

*Lector* The word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 1** (*all chant the psalm on the following tone*)



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- <sup>1</sup> Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the **wicked**, \*  
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the **scornful!**
- <sup>2</sup> Their delight is in the law of the **LORD**, \*  
and they meditate on his law day and **night**.
- <sup>3</sup> They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season,  
with leaves that do not **wither**; \*  
everything they do shall **prosper**.
- <sup>4</sup> It is not so with the **wicked**; \*  
they are like chaff which the wind blows **away**.

<sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment **comes**, \*  
nor the sinner in the council of the **righteous**.

<sup>6</sup> For the LORD knows the way of the **righteous**, \*  
but the way of the wicked is **doomed**.

### **The Epistle James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a**

A reading from the letter of James.

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

*Lector* The word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God**

**Sequence Hymn #660** (vs. 1, 3, and 4) ***O Master, let me walk with thee***

Maryton

### **The Holy Gospel Mark 9:30-37**

*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.**

Jesus and his disciples passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

*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 hurricanes, floods, and fires;

***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 **John Tolbert, Bobbie and Rendol Cobb, Julia Credle, Peggy Parker, Elsie Benson, Riley Raines, Mary Gillam, Rita Hoggard, Mary Chappell, Beth Bryant, Baron Chamblee, Emma Cobb, Daniel Perry, John Tyler, 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 Episcopal & Christ the King Lutheran Church, Whiteville, The Episcopal Farmworkers Ministry.

*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, 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**

***Lord of all hopefulness***

Slane

*(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 #379** (vs. 1 and 3) ***God is love, let heaven adore him***

Abbot's Leigh

*The Deacon, or the Celebrant, dismisses them*

People ***Thanks be to God.***

**Postlude**

*Postludium*

Young

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

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

**Organist:** Tom Parker

**Lector:** John Hill

**Soloist:** Karen Ray

**Altar Guild:** Shirley Cooper, Cham Trowell, and Jane Hall

**Hostesses:** Agnes Powell, Alice Pittman, and Laura Beasley

**Counters:** Pat Ivey and Rosanna Rhea

**Ushers:** Norman Perry and Free Perry

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

Next Sunday's worship will be Morning Prayer at 11:00 a.m.

Bishop Skirving's visitation with St. Thomas' Church is scheduled for Sunday, October 24 at 11:00 a.m.

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.

Please take your printed bulletin with you or drop it into the designated recycling bin. Please visit 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 COVID data county view states that "everyone in Bertie County should wear a mask in public, indoor settings." [https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view|North%20Carolina|37015|Risk|community\\_transmission\\_level](https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view|North%20Carolina|37015|Risk|community_transmission_level)

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.