



## *St. Thomas' Episcopal Church*

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# The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 26, 2021

## Morning Prayer: Rite Two

**Prelude**

*Sweet Hour of Prayer*

Young

*Please stand*

**Hymn #509 (vs. 1, 4, 5) *Spirit divine, attend our prayers*** Nun danket all und bringet Ehr

**Opening sentence**

p. 78

The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him. *Habakkuk 2:20.*

**Confession of Sin**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Officiant and People together, all kneeling:*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*A lay person remains kneeling and says*

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

## The Invitatory and Psalter

*All stand*

*Officiant* Lord, open our lips.

p. 80

*People* **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

*Officiant and People*

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

*Antiphon* Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: **Come let us adore him.**

**The Jubilate** (*all recite in unison*)

p. 82

**Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; \*  
serve the Lord with gladness  
and come before his presence with a song.**

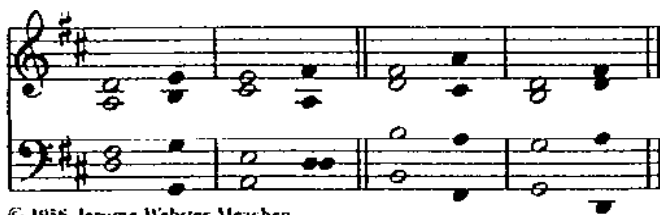
**Know this: The Lord himself is God; \*  
he himself has made us, and we are his;  
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving;  
go into his courts with praise; \*  
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.**

**For the Lord is good;  
his mercy is everlasting; \*  
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.**

*Please sit*

**Psalm 124** (*all chant the psalm on the following tone*)



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- <sup>1</sup> If the LORD had not been on our side, \*  
let Israel now say;
- <sup>2</sup> If the LORD had not been on our side, \*  
when enemies rose up against us;
- <sup>3</sup> Then would they have swallowed us up alive \*  
in their fierce anger toward us;
- <sup>4</sup> Then would the waters have overwhelmed us \*  
and the torrent gone over us;

<sup>5</sup> Then would the raging waters \*  
have gone right over us.

<sup>6</sup> Blessed be the LORD! \*  
he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.

<sup>7</sup> We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; \*  
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

<sup>8</sup> Our help is in the Name of the LORD, \*  
the maker of heaven and earth.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. A-men.

### **The First Lesson: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22**

A reading from the Book of Esther.

The king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me-- that is my petition-- and the lives of my people-- that is my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king." Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?" Esther said, "A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that." So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth

day of the same month, year by year, as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

*Lector* The word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God**

*Please stand*

**S280 Canticle 20: Glory to God**

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.**

*Please sit*

**The Second Lesson: James 5:13-20**

A reading from the Letter of James.

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven.

Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

*Lector* The word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God**

**Anthem**

*How Sweet The Name Of Jesus Sounds*

Reinagle

### **The Gospel: Mark 9:38-50**

A reading from the Gospel of Mark.

John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

"If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched. "For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.

*Lector* The word of the Lord.  
*People* **Thanks be to God**

## **Sermon**

*Please stand*

### **The Apostles' Creed**

p. 96

*Officiant and People together*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **The Prayers**

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

p. 97

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

*Officiant* Let us pray.

**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.**

*Please sit*

*Then follows one of these sets of Suffrages*

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;  
R. **And grant us your salvation.**  
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
R. **Let your people sing with joy.**  
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
R. **For only in you can we live in safety.**  
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;  
R. **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**  
V. Let your way be known upon earth;  
R. **Your saving health among all nations.**  
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
R. **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**  
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
R. **And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

*The Collect of the Day*

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*A Collect for Sundays*

p. 98

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Prayer for Mission*

p. 101

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. **Amen.**



**Hymn #609 (vs. 1, 4, 5)**

***Where cross the crowded ways of life***

Gardiner

*For the Human Family*

p. 815

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*A Prayer from Episcopal Relief and Development (revised)*

Compassionate God, source of all comfort, we pray for the people whose lives have been devastated by disasters of hurricanes, fires, and floods. Bring them comfort, we pray. Protect the vulnerable. Strengthen the weak. Have mercy on all those working to provide relief and to feed the hungry. And may our response to their suffering be generous and bring you praise. For we ask it in Jesus' Name. **Amen.**

*For the Diocese*

p. 817

O God, by your grace you have called us in this Diocese to a goodly fellowship of faith. Bless our Bishop Rob, and other clergy, and all our people. This week in our diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for Holy Trinity, Fayetteville, and St. Andrew's, Columbia. Grant that your Word may be truly preached and truly heard, your Sacraments faithfully administered and faithfully received. By your Spirit, fashion our lives according to the example of your Son, and grant that we may show the power of your love to all among whom we live; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*For the Sick*

p. 459

Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve your sick servants **John Tolbert, Bobbie and Rendol Cobb, Julia Credle, Peggy Parker, Elsie Benson, Riley Raines, Mary Gillam, Rita Hoggard, Beth Bryant, Baron Chamblee, Emma Cobb, Daniel Perry, John Tyler, and others known to us;** give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that they may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*For Those Who Mourn*

p. 505

Almighty God, Father of mercies and giver of comfort: Deal graciously, we pray, with all who mourn, especially the families of Mary Chappell and Hal Wiggins;

that, casting all their care on you, they may know the consolation of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Authorized intercessions and thanksgivings may follow.*

### **The General Thanksgiving**

p. 101

*Officiant and People*

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

### A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

p. 102

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The Officiant may then conclude with the following*

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.** *Ephesians 3:20, 21*

*Please stand*

**Hymn #574 (vs. 1, 4) *Before thy throne, O God, we kneel***

St. Petersburg

**Postlude**

*Festival Rondo*

Purcell

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

**Officiant:** Karen Ray

**Organist:** Tom Parker

**Lector:** Jaquelin Perry

**Soloist:** John Hill

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

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

**Counters:** Jane Hall and Mike Spruill

**Ushers:** Norman Perry and Free Perry

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

The vestry will meet tomorrow at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom.

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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 October updates to the church email by Wednesday, 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.