

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

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Sunday Bible Study at 9:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist at 11:00 a.m.
Children's Sunday School at 10:15 a.m. in Cooper Hall, beginning November 7

The Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

October 24, 2021

Confirmation and Holy Eucharist

Prelude *Andantino* from Symphony in D Haydn

Hymn #410 *Praise, my soul, the King of heaven* Lauda anima

The people standing, the Bishop says BCP p. 413

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

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

The Bishop then continues

There is one Body and one Spirit;

People **There is one hope in God's call to us;**

Bishop One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

People **One God and Father of all.**

The Collect of the Day

Bishop: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Bishop: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; 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 Job 42:1-6, 10-17

Lector A reading from the Book of Job.

Job answered the Lord:

"I know that you can do all things,

and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?'

Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand,
things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.

‘Hear, and I will speak;

I will question you, and you declare to me.’

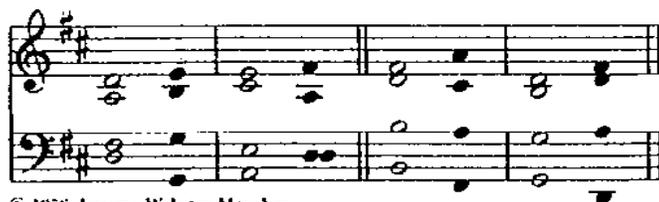
I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear,
but now my eye sees you;
therefore I despise myself,
and repent in dust and ashes.”

And the Lord restored the fortunes of Job when he had prayed for his friends; and the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before. Then there came to him all his brothers and sisters and all who had known him before, and they ate bread with him in his house; they showed him sympathy and comforted him for all the evil that the Lord had brought upon him; and each of them gave him a piece of money and a gold ring. The Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; and he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand donkeys. He also had seven sons and three daughters. He named the first Jemimah, the second Keziah, and the third Keren-happuch. In all the land there were no women so beautiful as Job’s daughters; and their father gave them an inheritance along with their brothers. After this Job lived for one hundred and forty years, and saw his children, and his children’s children, four generations. And Job died, old and full of days.

Lector The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 34:1-8, (19-22) (*all chant the psalm on the following tone*)



¹ I will bless the Lord at all **times**; *
his praise shall ever be in my **mouth**.

² I will glory in the **Lord**; *
let the humble hear and re**joice**.

³ Proclaim with me the greatness of the **Lord**; *
let us exalt his Name **together**.

⁴ I sought the Lord, and he answered me *
and delivered me out of all my terror.

⁵ Look upon him and be radiant, *
and let not your faces be ashamed.

⁶ I called in my affliction and the Lord heard me *
and saved me from all my troubles.

⁷ The angel of the Lord encompasses those who fear him, *
and he will deliver them.

⁸ Taste and see that the Lord is good; *
happy are they who trust in him!

¹⁹ [Many are the troubles of the righteous, *
but the Lord will deliver him out of them all.

²⁰ He will keep safe all his bones; *
not one of them shall be broken.

²¹ Evil shall slay the wicked, *
and those who hate the righteous will be punished.

²² The Lord ransoms the life of his servants, *
and none will be punished who trust in him.]

The Epistle Hebrews 7:23-28

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; but Jesus holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself. For the law appoints as high priests those who are subject to weakness, but the word of the

oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

Lector The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn #493 (vs. 1, 2, and 5) *O for a thousand tongues to sing*

Azmon

The Holy Gospel Mark 10:46-52

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 came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The congregation is seated.

The Sermon

Bishop Skirving

Confirmation Hymn #508 *Breathe on me, Breath of God*

Nova Vita

Presentation and Examination of the Candidates

BCP p. 415

The Bishop says

The Candidates will now be presented.

Presenter I present these persons for Confirmation.

The Bishop asks the candidates

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

Candidates I do.

Bishop Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

Candidates I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.

After all have been presented, the Bishop addresses the congregation, saying

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

People **We will.**

The Bishop then says these or similar words

Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant

BCP p. 416

Bishop Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Bishop Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People **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.

Bishop Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People **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.

Bishop Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Prayers for the Candidates

BCP p. 305

The Bishop then says to the congregation

Let us now pray for these persons who have renewed their commitment to Christ.

A Person appointed leads the following petitions

Leader Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Open their hearts to your grace and truth.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Send them into the world in witness to your love.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

A period of silence follows.

Then the Bishop says

Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in these your servants the covenant you made with them at their Baptism. Send them forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

For Confirmation

The Bishop lays hands upon each one and says

Strengthen, O Lord, your servant *N.* with your Holy Spirit; empower her for your service; and sustain her all the days of her life. *Amen.*

or this

Defend, O Lord, your servant *N.* with your heavenly grace, that she may continue yours for ever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more, until she comes to your everlasting kingdom. *Amen.*

The Bishop concludes with this prayer

Almighty and everliving God, let your fatherly hand ever be over these your servants; let your Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that they may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *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

Praise The Spirit In Creation

Julion

(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

BCP p. 361

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,
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.**

Proulx

The people stand or kneel.

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.

(The bread and the wine will be offered in stations at the chancel steps, with the lectern side receiving first. Please use the lectern side of the aisle going to communion; use the pulpit side of the aisle going back to your seat. We are using biodegradable cups for the wine; a trash can is located near the table. Please let an usher know if you prefer to have communion brought to you.)

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 may bless the people.

Hymn #460

Alleluia! sing to Jesus

Hyfrydol

The Deacon, or the Celebrant, dismisses them

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Festival March

Handel

(Photos of the confirmands will be taken at the conclusion of the postlude.)

*The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of confirmands
Sally Pierce Spruill and Sarah Hunter Spruill by Jaquelin Perry.*

The Ministers of the Liturgy

Celebrant: The Rt. Rev. Robert Stuart Skirving, Bishop of East Carolina

Deacon: The Rev. Bonnie Smith

Organist: Tom Parker

Lector: Patti Farless

Soloist: Mike Spruill

Altar Guild: Kristy Copeland and Rosanna Rhea

Hostesses: Jaquelin Perry, Gina Rascoe, and Karen Ray

Counters: Janet Capehart and Patti Farless

Ushers: Wood Farless and Chip Warren

Acolytes: Lucy Outlaw Spruill, Sally Pierce Spruill, and Sarah Hunter Spruill

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Crayons and coloring pages are available in the narthex. A nursery is also available.

We are delighted to celebrate Bishop Skirving's visitation with St. Thomas' Church. By custom, the loose offering today will be given to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund to be used for needs of the Church not covered by the diocesan budget.

Congratulations to confirmands Sally Pierce Spruill and Sarah Hunter Spruill.

A reception on the lawn will follow worship.

The vestry will meet tomorrow at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom. During a called vestry meeting on October 18, Lauren Perry was elected to serve as Sr. Warden for the remainder of 2021. Jr. Warden Steve Trowell will be added as the backup check signer, in addition to Treasurer Bill Pittman and Parish Administrator Karen Renner.

All Saints Sunday will be observed on November 7.