

*The 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
after Pentecost*

*Holy Eucharist Rite II - 10:00 a.m.*

*September 13, 2020*



*Saint Theodore's Episcopal Church  
Bella Vista, Arkansas*

*The Right Reverend Larry R. Benfield,  
Bishop of Arkansas*

All of the following service can be found in the

1979 Book of Common Prayer

Scripture lessons are taken from the

Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) for Year A and are from  
the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible

Organ Prelude

CONQUEROR

Leupold

*Christ, my soul's life*

Leupold

*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.**

## Collect for Purity

*Celebrant* **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.*

## Glory to God

*Said in unison*

**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.

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* *And also with you.*

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

## Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* O GOD, because without you we are not able to  
please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit  
may in all things direct and rule our hearts;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and  
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,  
now and for ever. **Amen**



# **A Prayer for the Power of the Spirit among the People of God**

*Celebrant* **GOD OF ALL POWER AND LOVE**, we give thanks for your unfailing presence and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss. Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire. Revive us to live as Christ's body in the world: a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbors, bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit. Wherever and however we gather, unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission, that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **The Lessons** (*Sit*)

### **FIRST READING:** Genesis 50:15-21

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I

myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

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

## **Psalm 103:1-13**

*Sung by the cantor*

- 1 Bless the LORD, O my soul; \*  
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.
- 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, \*  
and forget not all his benefits.
- 3 He forgives all your sins \*  
and heals all your infirmities;
- 4 He redeems your life from the grave \*  
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;
- 5 He satisfies you with good things, \*  
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- 6 The LORD executes righteousness \*  
and judgment for all who are oppressed.
- 7 He made his ways known to Moses \*  
and his works to the children of Israel.
- 8 The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, \*  
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 9 He will not always accuse us, \*  
now will he keep his anger for ever.
- 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, \*  
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, \*  
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
- 12 As far as the east is from the west, \*  
so far has he removed our sins from us.
- 13 As a father cares for his children, \*  
so does the LORD care for those who fear him.

## **SECOND READING:** Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every

tongue shall give praise to God.” So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

*Reader*     The Word of the Lord.

*People*     **Thanks be to God.**

*Organ interlude before the Gospel reading*

## **The Holy Gospel** (*Stand*) Matthew 18:21-35

*Celebrant*     The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
                         according to Matthew.

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

Peter came and said to Jesus, ‘Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?’ Jesus said to him, ‘Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

‘For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, “Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.” And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, “Pay what you owe.” Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, “Have patience with me, and I will pay you.” But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and



reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, “You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?” And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.’

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon (*Sit*)

Chris Schaefer

**The Nicene Creed** (*Stand*)

(BCP 358)

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.

## **Prayers of the People** *(Remain standing)*

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* *And also with you.*

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

*Celebrant:* *Our gracious and loving God, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and of great kindness: Hear our prayers for all your creation and grant us the gift of your infinite care, as we say: God is full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and of great kindness.*

**Litanist:** Loving God, look upon your church with patience and grant us your divine forbearance, that we may forgive and be forgiven within the abundance of your grace.

God is full of compassion and mercy,

**People: slow to anger and of great kindness.**

**Litanist:** Enlighten this nation and our leaders, O Holy One, that we may be a generous people extending your justice and becoming instruments of your reconciliation.

God is full of compassion and mercy,

**People: slow to anger and of great kindness.**

**Litanist:** Visit the earth with your pity and love to relieve all who live with illness, violence, poverty, injustice or oppression, that they may be delivered from their distress.

God is full of compassion and mercy,

**People: slow to anger and of great kindness.**

**Litanist:** Inspire this community with your generosity of Spirit, that we may forgive the debts of others even as we have been forgiven.

God is full of compassion and mercy,

**People: slow to anger and of great kindness.**

**Litanist:** Hear our prayer for those whom we bring to your steadfast love, especially Amanda, Becky, Karen Kay, Valerie, John, Mary, the Rector Search Committee and all those who have contracted Covid-19 and all who care for them. *(Pause)*

Let every tongue praise you for your goodness, especially for especially for Michael, our presiding bishop; Larry, our bishop; Lowell, our interim supply priest; and Chris, our Candidate for Holy Orders. In the diocesan cycle of prayer for Trinity, Pine Bluff; St. Andrew's, Rogers; and the Deacon Formation

Program. And we give thanks for all those in our parish family celebrating birthdays or anniversaries this week.

As every knee shall give praise to God, we remember those who are yours through death, especially all those who have succumbed to the Corona virus.

God is full of compassion and mercy,

**People: slow to anger and of great kindness.**

***Celebrant:** As a God of infinite love, you have compassion for your creation, O Gracious One: Bring your merciful forgiveness into our lives and free us from our division and pride, that we may become your instruments of pardon and peace, in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.*

*Celebrant:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Leader and People (Remain standing)*

**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.**

*The Celebrant 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.**

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**

## **Holy Eucharist Rite II**

### **The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer A**

*Organ music is played and the People remain standing as the Celebrant prepares the Table.*

*After the Table has been prepared, the Celebrant says:*

All things come of thee, O Lord  
**People: And of thine own have we given thee.**

*The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and says*

*Celebrant* 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.**

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

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 by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world.

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:

*Celebrant and People*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*The people stand or kneel.*

*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.

*People*      **AMEN.**

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

## The Lord's Prayer *(Kneel)*

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 Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread, and says*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

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

*Communion is received by the Celebrant*

*A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.*

*Celebrant and People*

**My Lord Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving as I proclaim your resurrection. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.**



## Closing Prayer

*Celebrant and People*

(BCP 366)

Almighty and everliving God,  
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.  
And now, Father, send us out  
to do the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you  
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

## The Blessing

Forgive one another as you have been forgiven by our  
infinitely merciful God.

Welcome those of different opinions, honoring your  
own conscience and theirs.

Live with generous joy, for whether you live or  
whether you die, you are God's beloved possession.

And the blessing of our merciful God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you and encourage you, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## Dismissal

*The Celebrant says the words of dismissal*

*People respond:* **Thanks be to God.**

## Organ Postlude *WALTON, O Jesus, joy of loving hearts* Cherwein

### Participants in the Service

Celebrant    The Reverend Lowell Grisham

Preacher    Chris Schaefer

Organist    Annette Zehring

Crucifer    Wayne Whitney

Cantor    Annette Zehring

Readers    Diane Landmesser, Gwen Rakes

