



St. Michael's Episcopal Church

November 8, 2020

*The Twenty-third Sunday
after Pentecost*

PRELUDE

"WAKE, AWAKE, FOR NIGHT IS FLYING"

PHILIPP NICOLAI

Harmonized by J. S. Bach

Arr. by Benton Price

Please stand.

THE RINGING OF THE BELL

The Word of God

OPENING HYMN

Rejoice, rejoice, believers!

INSERT

Celebrant Blessed be God: ✠ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

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

Celebrant Let us pray.

BCP 355

Celebrant and People

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 *Gloria in excelsis*

POWELL

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

BCP 236

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Silence.

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE PEOPLE SIT.

THE OLD TESTAMENT

JOSHUA 24:1-3a, 14-25

Both God and Joshua know the Israelites to be a flighty people, but they insist they will remain faithful to their God, Yahweh, who brought them out of the land of Egypt. They make a covenant to this effect.

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore, we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God." But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the Lord!" Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put

away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.” The people said to Joshua, “The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey.” So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

THE RESPONSE

responsively by half verse

PSALM 78:1-7

1 Hear my teaching, O my people;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

2 I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

3 That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us,
we will not hide from their children.

4 We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord,
and the wonderful works he has done.

5 He gave his decrees to Jacob and established a law for Israel,
which he commanded them to teach their children;

6 That the generations to come might know, and the children yet unborn;
that they in their turn might tell it to their children;

7 So that they might put their trust in God,
**and not forget the deeds of God,
but keep his commandments;**

THE EPISTLE

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18

Unlike pagan teachings and practices surrounding those who have died, Paul's message to the Thessalonians encourages them to understand that because of God in Christ, they too will be resurrected.

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of

command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

SEQUENCE HYMN

O God of Bethel, by whose hand

INSERT

THE HOLY GOSPEL

MATTHEW 25:1-13

Gospeller The Holy ✠ Gospel of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ ✠ according to Matthew.

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

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please be seated.

THE SERMON

All standing.

THE NICENE CREED

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Celebrant Through baptism, God has made us the people of hope. Our hope is in God and our help comes from God. Since God promises to make all things new, let us offer our cares and concerns to God, saying, "O God, who is our hope, hear our prayer."

Please stand, kneel, or sit as is comfortable for you.

Gracious Creator, ruler of the universe, we know neither the day nor the hour when the Lord Christ shall return to claim the faithful. Through your saving and sustaining grace, enable us to remain in readiness and to welcome his appearing. O God, who is our hope, **hear our prayer.**

Eternal Creator, author of unity, bind your people together into one holy church. Remove the barriers that separate Christian from Christian, and enable all the baptized to offer common praise to you and common witness to the world. O God, who is our hope, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful Creator, source of all compassion, look with pity upon our world. Help us overcome the ravages of war, disease, hunger, and injustice; give dignity and well-being to all the human family. Visit us with your love; grant us peace; point us to the way that leads to fulfillment and sufficiency for all. O God, who is our hope, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty Creator, protector of all life, we plead with you to grant healing and wholeness to the sick and suffering. Lay upon them your hand of mercy; renew and restore them, giving them cause to proclaim and praise your name. O God, who is our hope, **hear our prayer.**

Divine Creator, perfecter of all life, behold the dying, who no longer await the return of the bridegroom, but rush to meet him through their death. Grant them peace at the last and welcome them into your heavenly dominion. When our last hour shall come, look not on our sins but accept us on the merits of our gracious redeemer, Jesus Christ. O God, who is our hope, **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant Accept the prayers of your people, O God. Assure us anew that you give heed to our cries and that you respond to our petitions according to your divine will. Through Jesus Christ our Savior we pray. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION

BCP 360

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

Silence.

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.

Celebrant 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.**

All standing.

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Holy Communion

(On this second Sunday, the loose plate offering and any offering so designated will go to the Priest's Discretionary Fund.)

Please stand.

OFFERTORY HYMN

Let all mortal flesh keep silence

INSERT

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING [EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER A]

BCP 361

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.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY LORD *Sanctus*

POWELL

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est._____

THE PEOPLE STAND, KNEEL, OR SIT.

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:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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,

People and Celebrant

BCP 364

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.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

THE INVITATION

THE COMMUNION

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 365

Celebrant 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 BLESSING

Please stand.

CLOSING HYMN

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates

INSERT

THE DISMISSAL

The People respond Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“THE PROMISE OF SALVATION”

EDWARD BROUGHTON

