

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ~ JULY 26, 2020
A LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR BROADCAST & LIVESTREAM
Book of Alternative Services

We acknowledge that we gather at St. John's on the traditional and unceded territory of the Algonquin Nation. Wherever you are worshipping this morning, consider the traditional land you are on and give thanks for the gift of it, praying we may dwell on the land with respect and peace.

OPENING RITE

All: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

Officiant: Almighty God,

All: to you all hearts are open, all desires known and from you no secrets are hidden: 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.

Officiant: Lord, to whom shall we go?

All: You have the words of eternal life.

Collect of the Day

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy, increase and multiply upon us your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Reading

Genesis 29:15-28

Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel."

Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her. Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.)

When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?"

Laban said, "This is not done in our country - giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years."

Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 128 (please join in at home and say in unison)

Happy are they all who fear the Lord, * and who follow in his ways!

You shall eat the fruit of your labour; * happiness and prosperity shall be yours.

Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine within your house, * your children like olive shoots round about your table.

The man who fears the Lord * shall thus indeed be blessed.

The Lord bless you from Zion, * and may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.

May you live to see your children's children; * may peace be upon Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit * as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Second Reading

Romans 8:26-39

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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

Jesus put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened. The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Have you understood all this?"

They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

Gospeller: The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Apostles' Creed

All: 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.

Intercessions & Thanksgiving

Let us offer our prayers to the source of all love and all life, saying, "Lord graciously hear us."

We pray to you Lord God for the body of Christ throughout the world: for Shane our bishop, all bishops, clergy and lay leaders; for all who call St. John's their spiritual home and for those who are worshiping with us today from different communities; that we may all be bright beacons of your strong, reconciling love, your endless mercy and your indestructible hope, Lord hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray to you Lord God for the world: for the leaders of the nations; for areas most besieged by the pandemic; for broken places where healthcare and resources are scarce; that your wisdom and compassion will prevail, Lord hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray to your Lord God for our communities: for the elderly, confined to their homes and separated from family and support; for children, who cannot be with friends; for those who have lost their source of income; for those who have no home or for whom home is not safe; for those offering extraordinary or everyday kindness to others; that you will uphold and sustain them, Lord hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray to you Lord God for essential workers: those who are visible to the public and those who are working in areas harder to see, all of whom put themselves at risk in service to others; that you will protect them, Lord hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray to you Lord God for those who are sick: for those afflicted with coronavirus; for those with other illnesses and conditions which leave them vulnerable; for those with poor mental health; for all who suffer; *(people are invited to name those for whom they are praying. You can type a name into the comment section of the Facebook livestream First name only please to respect privacy.)*

That you would bring them healing and wholeness, Lord hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray to you Lord God, for all who have died: those who died unexpectedly, those who died alone, those who have no one to remember them. We pray for families and friends who have been left behind; that they may know of your saving help, Lord hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray to you Lord God, for ourselves: for our complicity and our lack of understanding in the face of racism and discrimination; for turning away from you and failing you by what we do, think or say; that you would forgive us, save us and help us, Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

Lord God, hear the voice of our supplications and those we cannot say as we, who trust in your word and seek your face may know your peace. This we ask through your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen. **Amen.**

A Prayer of Thanksgiving:

Our Lord God, we thank you for all your blessings, for life and health, for laughter and fun, for all our powers of mind and body, for our homes and the love of dear ones, for everything that is beautiful, good and true. But above all we thank you for giving your Son to be our Saviour and Friend. May we always find our true happiness in pleasing you and helping others to know and love you.

Glory and praise to you, our Father, through Jesus your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Spirit, in the kingdom of light eternal, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

All: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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