SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE
THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: CHRIST THE KING

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS AND ASCENSION
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NOVEMBER 22ND, 2020
The Book of Common Prayer

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant  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.

Song of Praise  BCP page 356

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.
Collect of the Day

Celebrant Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

First Reading Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel.

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be
their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the L ORD, have spoken.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 100 BCP page 729

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

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

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

4 For the L ORD is good;
   his mercy is everlasting; *
   and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

Second Reading Ephesians 1: 15-23

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and
dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in
the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the
head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who
fills all in all.

The Word of the Lord.

People   Thanks be to God.

The Gospel        Matthew 25: 31-46

Celebrant   The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People     Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with
him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered
before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd
separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand
and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand,
‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for
you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you
welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took
care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer
him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty
and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger
and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we
saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them,
‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members
of my family, you did it to me.’ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You
that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil
and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and
you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me,
naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not
visit me.’ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you
hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take
care of you?’ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not
do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Reflection

Stanley Johnson, Junior Warden

The Nicene Creed

BCP page 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   Form III   BCP page 387

The Leader and People pray responsively

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;  
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;  
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for Michael our Presiding Bishop and Renee our Priest. In our Diocese of Missouri, we pray for the ministry, leadership, and wellbeing of our bishop, Deon Johnson, and his family. We pray for our companions in the Diocese of Lui and for all bishops, priests, and deacons;  
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;  
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;  
That they may be delivered from their distress.

We pray for those who have died especially Richelle Clark, daughter of Sallie Simmons. Give to the departed eternal rest.  
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;  
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Silence
Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. We pray especially for:

Cleo Anderson  Kimberley Baker  Terry Baker  
Joey Beeker  Rose Marie Bell  Jourice Bishop  
Chazetta Bland  V. Lester Bond  Juanita Carroll  
Lorenzo Carter  Clark and Simmons Families  
Bessie Clemmons  Lola Crenshaw  Aubrey Escoffery  
Anthony Fenner  Evans Ford  Vivian Fox  
Carman Gayden  Jim Goodwin  Antonio Graves  
Suzanne Harris  The Hughes Family  Mary K. Jones  
Karen Mosley  Ezell Roberts  Marion Robinson  
Larry Sample  Sallie Simmons  Mary Stafford  
Catherine Thrope  Sharron White  

We pray for all veterans and for those who are currently serving in the military especially:
Sgt. Omar Fernandes (Brantley)-United States Air Force
Sr. Airman Matthew Heeter- United States Air Force
First Lt. Jovonny Carrion-United States Army
Staff Sgt. Ashley Cole-United States Air Force
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Keshar Miller-United States Army Reserve

We also pray for all students, parents, guardians, teachers, and school staffs. We pray for all those affected by gun violence, wildfires, storms, hurricanes, and flooding.

A Prayer in Time of Pandemic

O God of all mercy and compassion, hear our prayers in this time of illness and infection, of isolation, fear, and uncertainty. We pray for the sick, and those weighed down by pain, distress, loneliness, and anxiety; and for all who care for them. We pray for those who have responsibility for public health and social order especially all medical staff and hospital workers, medical researchers, social workers, all essential workers, and for the leaders of the nations and their governments around the globe that they may make wise decisions in this time of crisis. We ask all this and more through your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.
A Prayer for Social Justice

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.  

A Prayer for Stewardship

O Lord, Giver of Life and Source of Freedom. We know that all we have is received from your hand. Gracious and loving God, you call us to be stewards of your Abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us. Help us always to use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. Send the Holy Spirit to work through us, bringing your message to those we serve. May our faithful stewardship be a witness to the love of Jesus Christ in our lives. We pray with grateful hearts in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Celebrant   Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Confession of Sin  BCP page 360

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

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

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

The Peace

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

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

A Prayer for those wishing Communion

In union, O God, with the faithful of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now
being celebrated, we desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. We present to
you our souls and bodies with the earnest wish that we may always be united to
you. And since we cannot now receive you sacramentally, we beseech you to come
spiritually into our hearts. We unite ourselves with you and embrace you with all
the love of our souls. Let nothing ever separate you from us. May we live in you,
and may you live in us, both in this life and in the life to come. Amen.
Announcements

Blessing and Dismissal

Celebrant  Life is short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those whom we love or those walk this way with us. So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind and may the Divine Mystery that is beyond our ability to know be your companion along the way. And may the blessing of God Almighty, the grace of Christ the Son and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you for ever. Amen.

Celebrant  Let us bless the Lord.
People  Thanks be to God.