



The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 26, 2021

WELCOME

to St. Mary's Episcopal Church

a member of the Central Michigan Episcopal Covenant

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Big Rapids, MI

Seeking every day to love God
with our whole heart, mind, and soul,
and to love our neighbors as
ourselves.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Cadillac, MI

We strive to live out the Great
Commandment: To love the Lord
with all our heart, soul, and mind and
to love our neighbors as ourselves.

If you have a faith or are seeking one, you are always welcome here.

If you are visiting or looking for a spiritual home,
we'd love to get to know you.

MORNING PRAYER, RITE II

Opening Sentence

Officiant Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer. *Psalm 19:14*

Confession of Sin

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

All kneel as able. Silence may be kept.

All 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.

Officiant Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Invitatory and Psalter

All stand as able.

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

All Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

Venite

Psalm 95:1-7

All Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:
 Come let us adore him.

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *

and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, *and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *

and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, *

and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture

and the sheep of his hand. *

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:

Come let us adore him.

The Psalm

Psalm 124

- 1 If the Lord had not been on our side, *
let Israel now say;
- 2 If the Lord had not been on our side, *
when enemies rose up against us;
- 3 Then would they have swallowed us up alive *
in their fierce anger toward us;
- 4 Then would the waters have overwhelmed us *
and the torrent gone over us;
- 5 Then would the raging waters *
have gone right over us.
- 6 Blessed be the Lord! *
he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.
- 7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; *
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.
- 8 Our help is in the Name of the Lord, *
the maker of heaven and earth

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

All sit as able.

First Reading

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

Reader A reading from the book of Esther.

The king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted

you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me-- that is my petition-- and the lives of my people-- that is my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king." Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?" Esther said, "A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen. Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that." So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated. Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

Reader The word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

First Canticle A Song of Creation, Part I: The Cosmic Order

**Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

**In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

**Glorify the Lord, you angels and all powers of the Lord, *
O heavens and all waters above the heavens.**

**Sun and moon and stars of the sky, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

**Glorify the Lord, every shower of rain and fall of dew, *
all winds and fire and heat.**

**Winter and Summer, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

**Glorify the Lord, O chill and cold, *
drops of dew and flakes of snow.**

**Frost and cold, ice and sleet, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

**Glorify the Lord, O nights and days, *
O shining light and enfolding dark.**

**Storm clouds and thunderbolts, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

**Let us glorify the Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

**In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

Second Reading

James 5:13-20

Reader A Reading from the letter of James.

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest. My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Second Canticle

A Song of Creation, Part II: The Earth and its Creatures

**Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
Let the earth glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
Glorify the Lord, O mountains and hills,
and all that grows upon the earth, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
Glorify the Lord, O springs of water, seas, and streams, *
O whales and all that move in the waters.
All birds of the air, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild, *
and all you flocks and herds.
O men and women everywhere, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
Let us glorify the Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Third Reading

Mark 9:38-50

Reader A reading from the Gospel of Mark.

John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to

drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward. "If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched. "For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

Reader The word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Third Canticle

A Song of Creation, Part III: The People of God

Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Let the people of God glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O priests and servants of the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

**Glorify the Lord, O spirits and souls of the righteous, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

**You that are holy and humble of heart, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

**Let us glorify the Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

**In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

Reflection *The reflection may be a time of silence, a homily,
or reading of a devotional text, story, or poem.*

The Apostles' Creed *Said by all, standing as able.*

**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.**

The Prayers

The people stand or kneel as able.

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

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.

Suffrages A

Officiant Show us your mercy, O Lord;

People And grant us your salvation.

Officiant Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

People Let your people sing with joy.

Officiant Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

People For only in you can we live in safety.

Officiant Lord, keep this nation under your care;

People And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

Officiant Let your way be known upon earth;

People Your saving health among all nations.

Officiant Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
People **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**
Officiant Create in us clean hearts, O God;
People **And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

The Collect of the Day

Officiant O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

Intercessor My brothers and sisters, the prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Believing in the power of prayer, let us pray to the Lord, saying, “God our help; **receive our prayer**”.

Give to your Church, O God, the vision to see you at work in the world. Forgive us when we try to limit or control you. May we rejoice in all good and celebrate all loving deeds.

We pray for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Skip, our Assisting Bishop; the Standing Committees of Eastern and Western Michigan; Anne, our Canon

Missioner; Radha, our Rector; our Central Michigan Episcopal Covenant; Grace, Standish - Deborah Schoenborn, Sr. Warden St. Francis of Assisi, Shelbyville – Mike Wood, Priest-in-Charge

We pray for all those in our diocese discerning calls to ministry, both lay and ordained. In particular, we pray for those in our dioceses preparing for the Sacred Order of Priests, including Alicia, Joe, Natalie, Alex, Derek, Catherine, Rebecca, Matt, Dell, Joanna, Kurt, and Anne Marie. We pray also for those in our dioceses preparing for the Sacred Order of Deacons, including: Joy, Trish, Mark, Jim, Michelle, and Linda. We remember with gratitude the retired clergy of the diocese. *Silence*

Intercessor God our help;
People **Receive our prayer.**

Intercessor O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: comfort all those around the globe who know the devastation of war and the threat of annihilation. We pray for peace.

We pray for those in positions of authority in our country and in the world, especially Joe, our president; Gretchen our governor; Carla, our mayor. *Silence*

Intercessor God our help;
People Receive our prayer .

Intercessor We thank you, O God, that you have provided us with those things that make our lives better—fire for heat, salt for seasoning. We thank you for all of the good gifts we so easily take for granted. *Silence*

Intercessor God our help;
People Receive our prayer.

Intercessor We pray, O God, for all those with whom we share this city. Bring people together. Enable healthy relationships. Help us to be at peace with one another.
Silence

Intercessor God our help;
People Receive our prayer.

Intercessor Blessed God, as you command us, we pray for those in need of healing and wholeness. Turn their sorrow into gladness and their mourning into holiday. Lord raise them up in Jesus' name.

We pray for those in the St. Mary's circle of prayer:
Dennis, Dale, Jim, Barbara, Hannah, George, Barb,
Linnea, Val, Katie, Eli, Lorie & Deliah, Renee, Mike,
Ruth, Erika, Pat, Lois, Tom, Mike, John, Erika,
Penney;

For those in the St. Andrew's circle of prayer:
Tammy, Betty, Eileen, Donna, Kevin, Kris, Bob and
Beth, Suzanne, Ryan, Judy, Dennis, Rosemary,
Beth, Doug, Marty & Rachel, Patsy, Michelle,
Richard;

And for our family and friends in the armed forces
and who are first responders: Richard, Corey,
Matt, Teylor, Tony, Kim, Drew, Jon, Eli, Richard,
Tony

And for all those we name at this time.

Silence

Intercessor God our help;
People **Receive our prayer.**

Intercessor Almighty God, were you not on our side, we
would be without hope. But you are our salvation.
Grant us entrance into your heavenly kingdom;
may we become partakers of your heavenly
treasure. *Silence*

Intercessor God our help;
People **Receive our prayer.**

Officiant All these things we have spoken, and those which
we name in the silence of our hearts, we pray in the
name of Jesus Christ our Lord who with you and
the Holy Spirit are one God, forever and ever.
Amen.

The General Thanksgiving

All Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

Dismissal and Concluding Sentence

Officiant Let us bless the Lord

People **Thanks be to God.
Alleluia. Alleluia. Amen. Amen.**

Officiant 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.** *2 Corinthians 13:14*

In case of an emergency need for pastoral care call:

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