

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 19, 2020

AN ORDER OF SERVICE
FOR HOUSE CHURCHES

Opening Acclamation and Collect *standing as you are able*

Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

Glory to God for ever and ever.

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

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

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Collect of the Day

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading *seated* Romans 8:12-25

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen?
But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

For the Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us,
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 139: 1-11, 22-23

The Psalm is prayed responsively by whole verse.

O God, you have searched me out and known me; *
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.

**You trace my journeys and my resting-places *
and are acquainted with all my ways.**

Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, *
but you, O God, know it altogether.

**You press upon me behind and before *
and lay your hand upon me.**

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; *
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

**Where can I go then from your Spirit; *
where can I flee from your presence?**

If I climb up to heaven, you are there; *
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

**If I take the wings of the morning *
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,**

Even there your hand will lead me *
and your right hand hold me fast.

**If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, *
and the light around me turn to night,"**

Darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day;

**Search me out, O God, and know my heart; *
try me and know my restless thoughts.**

Look well whether there be any wickedness in me *
and lead me in the way that is everlasting.

The Gospel *standing as you are able* Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom;

the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Homily The Rev. Ledlie I. Laughlin

A period of silence will be observed after the homily.

The Nicene Creed *standing as you are able*

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. 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

Intercessor In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop; for Mariann, our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in the Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation and the world around us, especially . . . and those we name now, either silently or aloud . . . Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

For the work of dismantling racism in our church, our nation, and our lives;

For your justice will roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life, especially . . . and those blessings we name now, either silently or aloud . . . We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom, especially . . . and those we name now, either silently or aloud . . . Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them; **Who put their trust in you.**

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

A period of silence may be kept.

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.

Presider 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.**

Peace *Please stand as you are able. The Presider says to the People*

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

All greet one another in the name of Jesus Christ.

MINISTRY OF THE TABLE

At the Offertory

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Faithful God, in the wonder of your wisdom and love, you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels and sent Jesus to be the bread of life. We thank you for this mystical food that has been blessed in your Holy Name so that your friends may share in your Divine life. By the power of the Holy Spirit may these gifts strengthen and restore us for your service, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

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.

Invitation to Communion

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Whoever you are, wherever you find yourself on the journey of faith, you are welcome at Christ's table.

Communion

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. **Amen.**

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion *standing as you are able*

Let us pray.

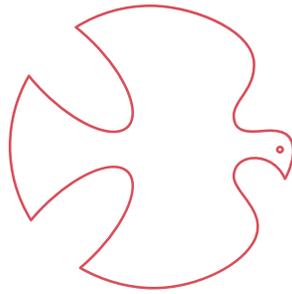
Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Dismissal

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Spirit inspires us to give generously, to extend Christ's mission in this place and the wider world. Please visit <http://tinyurl.com/GivetoSCEC> to make your offering, or you can text to give using your phone. Text "SCEC" to 73256 and you will receive a return text with instructions.



ST. COLUMBA'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. Columba's Episcopal Church is a welcoming Christian community of all ages that encourages spiritual curiosity, celebrates children and youth, and embraces the world in the spirit of God's justice and love.

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