



THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 8, 2024, AT 8 AM

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

THE WORD OF GOD

*Please keep a prayerful quiet as we prepare for worship.
Our liturgy is drawn from a variety of resources. Please see endnotes for references.
The People's responses are printed in **bold**.*

Please stand as you are able.

Opening Acclamation

This is the day the Creator has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Opening Sentences

Praise be to the Holy Trinity! God is sound and life, Creator of the Universe, Source of all life, whom the angels sing; wondrous Light of all mysteries known or unknown to humankind, and life that lives in all. Amen. —*Hildegard of Bingen, 13th-century mystic*

Song of Praise *said by all*

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, *
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
it shall blossom abundantly, *
and rejoice with joy and singing.
They shall see the glory of the Lord, *
the majesty of our God.

—*Isaiah 35:1-3, Cantic of the Wilderness*

Collect of the Day

God be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

Grant us, O God, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the powerful who oppress and dominate Creation, so you never forsake your creatures who live in harmony with nature's order; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading *seated* James 2:1-17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

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 146 *read responsively by whole verse*

Alleluia! Praise God, O my soul! *

I will praise God as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

**Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth, *
for there is no help in them.**

When they breathe their last, they return to earth, *
and in that day their thoughts perish.

**Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, *
whose hope is in their God;**

Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
whose promise abides for ever;

**Who gives justice to those who are oppressed *
and food to those who hunger.**

God sets the prisoners free and opens the eyes of the blind; *
God lifts up those who are bowed down;

**God loves the righteous and cares for the stranger; *
God sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.**

God shall reign for ever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Alleluia!

The Gospel *standing as you are able* Mark 7:24-37

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one;

but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon Father Mitchell Felton

Please be seated at the invitation of the preacher. A period of silence will be observed after the sermon.

Tírechán's Creed *standing as you are able*

Our God is the God of all, the God of heaven and Earth, the God of the sea and rivers, the God of the sun and moon, the God of all the heavenly bodies, the God of the lofty mountains, the God of the lowly valleys. God is above the heavens and beneath the heavens.

Heaven and Earth and sea, and everything that is in them, such is the abode of the Holy One.

God inspires all things, gives life to all things, stands above all things, and stands beneath all things. God enlightens the light of the sun, strengthens the light of the night and the stars, makes wells in the arid land and dry islands in the sea, and places the stars in the service of the greater lights.

God has a Son who is co-eternal; and one in all respects; and neither is the Son younger than the Father, nor is the Father older than the Son; and the Holy Spirit breathes in them, and the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit are inseparable. Amen.

—From the Patrician texts in the Book of Armagh, 670 A.D.

Prayers of the People

Intercessor O God, you gave Brother Sun and Sister Moon to light the day and night. Enlighten our hearts to your goodness and mercy. Guide us in sharing your love throughout the world.

O God our Creator, **sustain us and guide us.**

You gave us Mother Earth, and we desecrated her beauty. May we work for repair and flourishing of creation. Guide leaders in justice and guide us in mutual care.

O God our Creator, **sustain us and guide us.**

You gave us Brother Wind and Air, giving breath to the world. Offer your breath of life and healing to all who are in need, especially . . . and those we name aloud or hold in our hearts . . .

O God our Creator, **sustain us and guide us.**

You gave us Siblings in all creation: verdant pastures, roaring waters, and towering mountains. We give you thanks for . . . and those we name aloud or hold in our hearts . . .

O God our Creator, **sustain us and guide us.**

With Sister Death, you bring us from this life into life everlasting with you. Welcome your servants who come to you, especially . . . and those we name aloud or hold in our hearts . . .

O God our Creator, **sustain us and guide us.**

God of all creation, nourish us through your abundant love and grace, that we may be assured of your presence surrounding us; in your holy name we pray. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution *standing or kneeling as you are able*

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and God's creation.

Silence may be kept.

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

Peace *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.

Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

At the Offertory

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 and AMOUNT to 73256 (QR code in Connections) and you will receive a text with instructions.

Please stand as you are able as the offering is brought forward and blessed.

The Great Thanksgiving

God be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them unto God.

Let us give thanks to our Sovereign God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.
Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us stewards of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, God, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

Therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus and Benedictus

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

And so, Gracious God, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,
We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

God of our ancestors; God of Sarah, Hagar, Hannah, and Ruth; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Almighty God, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

The bread is broken and silence observed.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

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

Christ welcomes all to communion. ■ Receive the bread in open and outstretched hands and sip the wine, guiding the chalice to your lips. ■ If you do not want to sip the wine, it is also perfectly appropriate to receive the bread only. We do not allow dipping the bread into the wine. ■ Respond to communion by saying "Amen." ■ If you prefer a blessing, cross your hands over your chest. ■ Gluten-free wafers are available at each communion station. ■ Baptism is offered several times a year; speak to a priest to learn more.

Prayer after Communion *standing as you are able*

Let us pray.

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Presider As we are gathered, fed, and sent by God, let us ask ourselves: With whom can I share the Good News? Whom will I invite to join us at this table?

Sending Forth of Eucharistic Ministers *when scheduled*

In the name of St. Columba's we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that N. may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

We who are many are one body, as we all share one bread, one cup.

Blessing

The People respond **Amen.**

Dismissal

The People respond **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Liturgical Note

The Season of Creation (seasonofcreation.org) is an ecumenical celebration that invites us to listen to and care for “this fragile earth, our island home,” as we hear in Eucharistic Prayer C. In this season, stretching from the Feast of Creation on September 1 through the Feast of St. Francis on October 4, Christians around the world join in prayer and action, renewing a commitment to care for the gift of God’s creation. Our creed is from Tírechán, a 7th-century Irish bishop best known for his biography of St. Patrick. The Prayers of the People are inspired by the language St. Francis often used in describing creation.

Land Acknowledgement

We meet today on the traditional land of the first people of Nacotchtank, who were custodians of the land for thousands of years, caring for and nurturing it. We give thanks for their stewardship and lament the ways the Nacotchtank were removed from their ancestral home. We pray for all who live on this land and pay our respects to the native leaders past, present, and emerging.

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

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