
St. Paul's Episcopal Church Piney Parish



The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Faces of Our Faith: King Saul

August 9, 2020

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Officiant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
All **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

PRAYER FOR PURITY

Officiant Let us pray.
All **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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Let the Whole Creation Cry

Let the whole creation cry,
"Glory to the Lord on high!"
Heav'n and earth, awake and sing,
"God is good and therefore King!"
Praise Him, angel hosts above,
ever bright and fair in love;
sun and moon, lift up your voice,
night and stars, in God rejoice!

Men and women, young and old,
raise the anthem manifold,
and let children's happy hearts
in this worship take their parts;
from the north to southern pole
let the mighty chorus roll:
"Holy, holy, holy One,
glory be to God alone!"

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Officiant The Lord be with you.
All **And also with you.**
Officiant Let us pray.
Merciful God, you gave your only Son to be a sacrifice for sin and an example of godly life;
help us gladly to receive all that he has done for us and follow in his footsteps; through Jesus
Christ our Savior.
Amen.

YOUNG DISCIPLES MOMENT

FIRST LESSON

1 Samuel 8:4-20

Susan Parody

Wanting to be like other nations, the people of Israel demand a king, effectively doing away with the tribal leadership that had been handed down to them.

So all the Israelite elders got together and went to Samuel at Ramah. They said to him, "Listen. You are old now, and your sons don't follow in your footsteps. So appoint us a king to judge us like all the other nations have." It seemed very bad to Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us," so he prayed to the LORD.

The LORD answered Samuel, "Comply with the people's request—everything they ask of you—because they haven't rejected you. No, they've rejected me as king over them. They are doing to you only what they've been doing to me from the day I brought them out of Egypt to this very minute, abandoning me and worshipping other gods. So comply with their request, but give them a clear warning, telling them how the king will rule over them."

Then Samuel explained everything the LORD had said to the people who were asking for a king. “This is how the king will rule over you,” Samuel said:

“He will take your sons, and will use them for his chariots and his cavalry and as runners for his chariot. He will use them as his commanders of troops of one thousand and troops of fifty, or to do his plowing and his harvesting, or to make his weapons or parts for his chariots. He will take your daughters to be perfumers, cooks, or bakers. He will take your best fields, vineyards, and olive groves and give them to his servants. He will give one-tenth of your grain and your vineyards to his officials and servants. He will take your male and female servants, along with the best of your cattle and donkeys, and make them do his work. He will take one-tenth of your flocks, and then you yourselves will become his slaves! When that day comes, you will cry out because of the king you chose for yourselves, but on that day the LORD won’t answer you.”

But the people refused to listen to Samuel and said, “No! There must be a king over us so we can be like all the other nations. Our king will judge us and lead us and fight our battles.”

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM *Psalm 85:8-13*

⁸ I will listen to what you are saying, *
for you are speaking peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

⁹ Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, *
that your glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰ Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹ Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

¹² You, O God, will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³ Righteousness shall go before you, *
and peace shall be a pathway for your feet.

THE GOSPEL *Matthew 14:22-33*

The gospel is the story of Jesus’ walking on the water and his rescue of Peter after his faith fails him. The narrative has several levels of meaning. In legendary terms, Jesus is like the Creator God who strides over the watery chaos monster. Matthew’s gospel stresses this revelation of Jesus’ close relationship with God, as God’s son, and the importance of faith on the part of the disciples. A church beset by its own problems and lack of faith would be glad to perceive in this story the saving presence of its risen Lord.

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

All **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Right then, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead to the other side of the lake while he dismissed the crowds. When he sent them away, he went up onto a mountain by himself to pray. Evening came and he was alone. Meanwhile, the boat, fighting a strong headwind, was being battered by the waves and was already far away from land. Very early in the morning he came to his disciples, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified and said, “It’s a ghost!” They were so frightened they screamed.

Just then Jesus spoke to them, “Be encouraged! It’s me. Don’t be afraid.”

Peter replied, “Lord, if it’s you, order me to come to you on the water.”

And Jesus said, "Come."

Then Peter got out of the boat and was walking on the water toward Jesus. But when Peter saw the strong wind, he became frightened. As he began to sink, he shouted, "Lord, rescue me!"

Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him, saying, "You man of weak faith! Why did you begin to have doubts?" When they got into the boat, the wind settled down.

Then those in the boat worshipped Jesus and said, "You must be God's Son!"

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SERMON

Mr. Thomas Gryn

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

United Church of Canada

Officiant Let us affirm our faith in the Triune God

All **We are not alone,
 we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:
 who has created and is creating,
 who has come in Jesus,
 the Word made flesh,
 to reconcile and make new,
 who works in us and others
 by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

**We are called to be the Church:
 to celebrate God's presence,
 to live with respect in Creation,
 to love and serve others,
 to seek justice and resist evil,
 to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
 our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
 God is with us.**

**We are not alone.
 Thanks be to God.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Frank Pilato

Officiant

We glory in God's Name through the offering of our prayers and petitions, responding, "Hear us, good Lord."

Intercessor

For the will to discover God's Word dwelling in our hearts, finding expression through our lips, and revealing hope through our generosity. In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for St. Mary's Church, DC; let us pray.

Hear us, good Lord.

For a renewed commitment to righteousness and peace, that we may join with the leaders of the nations in seeking ways to promote harmony in warring lands, and mutual respect across cultures, races, and languages; let us pray.

Hear us, good Lord.

For creative ways to express the faith, drawing upon the jewels of our tradition, and using our hearts and minds to proclaim Christ's message to those of little faith or who have no faith at all; let us pray.

Hear us, good Lord.

That the summer months may provide opportunities for rest and refreshment, so that we may be rejuvenated for the challenges ahead; let us pray.

Hear us, good Lord.

For medical personnel who volunteer their services in foreign lands and amongst the most needy of the world, that we may lift our voices in praise for the good news they bring to others; let us pray.

Hear us, good Lord.

For those who have died and reside in the tomb of death, that Christ, who broke the chains of death, will bring them to eternal life; let us pray.

Hear us, good Lord.

Ever increasing in faith, we continue our prayers.

(Please add your intercessions/thanksgivings for those who have died and those who grieve.)

The Officiant will add a concluding collect.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Officiant As Christ teaches us, we pray:

All **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.**

THE CONFESSION OF SIN & ABSOLUTION

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

All **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.**

Deacon Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all your 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 PEACE

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

PRAYER FOR A BIRTHDAY

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants *she/he/they* begin another year. Grant that *she/he/they* may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *his/her/their* trust in your goodness all the days of *his/her/their* life(ves); through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ANNIVERSARY

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Officiant During this time in which we cannot gather to celebrate the great sacrament of Holy Communion, let us offer our selves, souls, and bodies to God in this prayer for spiritual communion.

All In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your church where your blessed Body and Blood are being offered, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving for creation and all the blessings of this life. I present to you my soul and body, with the earnest wish that I may ever be united to you.

I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you, and embrace you with all the affections of our souls. Let nothing ever separate you from me. May I live in you, and may you live in me, both in this life, and in the life to come. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

When Morning Gilds the Skies

vv. 1,2

1 When morn - ing gilds the skies, my heart, a - wak - ing, cries,
 2 When mirth for mu - sic longs, this is my song of songs:
 3 No love - lier an - ti - phon in all high heaven is known
 4 Ye na - tions of man - kind, in this your con - cord find:
 5 Sing, suns and stars of space, sing, ye that see his face,

1 may Je - sus Christ be praised! When eve - ning sha - dows fall,
 2 may Je - sus Christ be praised! God's ho - ly house of prayer
 3 than, Je - sus Christ be praised! There to theg - ter - nal Word
 4 may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let all the earth a - round
 5 sing, Je - sus Christ be praised! God's whole cre - a - tion o'er,

1 this rings my cur - few call, may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 2 hath none that can com - pare with: Je - sus Christ be praised!
 3 theg - ter - nal psalm is heard: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 4 ring joy - ous with the sound: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 5 both now and ev - er - more shall Je - sus Christ be praised!

THE BLESSING

THE DISMISSAL

Questions for Reflection

After Jesus caught Peter in the water, was Jesus' question, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" a reproach? When we are facing a great difficulty, do we doubt God's power? Do we doubt ourselves? Can you recall other biblical stories, or a story from your own life, when God reached out to rescue or to overcome doubt and fear with the gift of increased faith?

Household Prayer: Morning

Holy God, the new day begins with such promise. Help me to enter into this day with joy and confidence in your power and goodness. Whatever challenge I may face, help me to trust in your presence, remembering that you are stronger than any difficulty or threat. If you will surround me in the embrace and affection of steadfast love and faithfulness, of righteousness and peace, then I will be lifted up and strengthened to follow you. In Christ's name, I pray. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Gracious God, favor me with the sheer silence of your presence at the end of this day. Quiet any voices of fear and doubt that would trouble me, toss and turn me. Grant me, and anyone who enters the night hours with anxiety or pain, your perfect peace. Favor your children with calm and rest, with healing and renewal, as we sleep and dream in your arms of mercy. In your Son's dear name, I pray. Amen.

PERMISSIONS

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