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Saint Paul’s Episcopal Church

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**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

July 18, 2021

Pastor Dan Wilfrid

79 Cross Street, Gardner, Massachusetts ~ 01440

*Directions for participants: Words in* ***boldface type*** *are the congregation’s responses. Whether or not you are wearing a mask, please continue to safely distance from one another while in the pews. At the distribution of Holy Communion (bread only), please come forward one at a time, and return to your seat through the door to your right and from the rear of the nave down the center aisle.*

**Prelude:**  *O Bless the Lord My Soul ~* Setting by Healey Willan

**The Word of God**

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

**Collect for Purity**

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**

**Gloria in Excelsis** *1982 Hymnal #S280*

**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.**

**The Collect**

The Lord 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:** Jeremiah 23:1-6

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 23**

***Dominus regit me***

**1 The Lord is my shepherd; \*  
 I shall not be in want.**

**2 He makes me lie down in green pastures \*  
 and leads me beside still waters.**

**3 He revives my soul \*  
 and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.**

**4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
 I shall fear no evil; \*  
 for you are with me;  
 your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

**5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; \*  
 you have anointed my head with oil,  
 and my cup is running over.**

**6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, \*  
 and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

**Second Reading:** Ephesians 2:11-22

Remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called “the uncircumcision” by those who are called “the circumcision” —a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands— remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual Hymn:** *“Celtic Alleluia”*

*All Sing:***Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Gospel Reading:** Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

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

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, “Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Gradual Hymn:** *“Celtic Alleluia”*

*All Sing:* **Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia!**

**The Sermon ~ Pastor Dan Wilfrid**

**The Hymn:** *The King of Love My Shepherd Is;* *#645, Verses 1,2,4,6*

1. **The King of love my Shepherd is,  
   Whose goodness faileth never;  
   I nothing lack if I am his  
   And he is mine for ever.**
2. **Where streams of living water flow  
   My ransomed soul he leadeth,  
   And where the verdant pastures grow  
   With food celestial feedeth.**
3. **In death's dark vale I fear no ill  
   With thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
   Thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
   Thy cross before to guide me.**
4. **And so through all the length of days  
   Thy goodness faileth never;  
   Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
   Within thy house for ever.**

**The Nicene Creed**

**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 ~ The Book of Common Prayer p. 387*

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 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.**

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.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. *Silence*

For particular concern:

Pat Lewis Aaron Harris

Suzanna Cleveland Jon Bowdoin

Lisa Boulanger Betty Caldwell

Cindy Richard Maureen Owens

Brandon Grenier Eveline Beauregard

Millie Williams Jay Hipkins

Jacob Decarolis Dawn Deluca

Cyndi Flanagan Andy LePage

Christopher Sharon Hamel

Kim Shea Bob and Lorene McLaughlin

Kathy Lewis Fred and Ginny Monette

Evelyn Wolenty Tom and Felicity Littlepage

Joni Pulnik Robin Hatch and family

We pray for those in military service.

We pray for our parishioners unable to be with us.

We pray for the repose of the soul**s** of Frank Wells and Linda Leclerc. We also pray for the repose of the souls of Roger & Doris Meunier, Edward, Barbara & Bobby Richard, Ron, Craig & Randy Hamel and Sandra & John Robichaud.

We give thanks for the birthdays of Leslie Osborne and Stephanie O’Brien.

**The Collect**

Hasten, loving God, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our risen Savior and Lord. **Amen**

**The Confession of Sin**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**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.**

**The Absolution**

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 Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

**The Peace**

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

**Announcements**

**The Holy Communion**

**Offertory Invitation**

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

**Offertory Hymn:** *The Church’s one foundation; #525, Verses 1,2,5*

1. **The church's one Foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;  
   she is His new creation by water and the Word;  
   from heaven He came and sought her to be His holy bride;  
   with His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died.**

**2. Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,  
 her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
 one holy Name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
 and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.**

**5. Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,  
 and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.  
 O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,  
 like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.**

**Offertory**

Gracious God, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us, - ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your generosity and love.

**Receive them for the sake of the one who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Eucharistic Prayer A** *~ from the Book of Common Prayer p. 361*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Sanctus** *1982 Hymnal, #S130*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **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, forever and ever. Amen.**

**The Breaking of the Bread**

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

**Lamb of God** *sung by all*

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world:**

**Give us your peace, give us your peace.**

**The Distribution**

Prayer of Spiritual Communion

*A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion, but is also fitting for use by those worshipping with us from home:*

**My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving as I proclaim your resurrection. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.**

**Communion Hymn:** *Just as I am; #693 Verses 1,2,4,5*

**1 Just as I am, without one plea, but that Thy blood was shed for me;  
 And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

**2 Just as I am, though tossed about, with many a conflict, many a doubt;  
 Fighting and fears within without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

**4 Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind. Sight, riches, healing of the mind:  
 Yea, all I need, in Thee to find. O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

**5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive; wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
 Because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

**Post Communion Prayer**

Let us pray.

**Eternal God, heavenly Father, 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.**

**The Blessing**

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and for ever. **Amen**

**Sending Hymn:** *Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless; #343, All Verses*

1. **Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless thy chosen pilgrim flock  
   with manna in the wilderness, with water from the rock.**
2. **We would not live by bread alone, but by thy word of grace,  
   in strength of which we travel on to our abiding place.**
3. **Be known to us in breaking bread, and do not then depart;  
   Savior, abide with us, and spread thy table in our heart.**
4. **Lord, sup with us in love divine, thy Body and thy Blood,  
   that living bread, that heavenly wine, be our immortal food.**

**Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude:** *Fugue in G ~* by D. Buxtehude

Reader … Stephanie O’Brien LEM …Brian Chipman

Substitute Organist … Cathy Tyng

Altar Guild … Eva Eaton-Price Camera …Susan Hubbard