



## *St. Thomas' Episcopal Church*

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# The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 2020

## Morning Prayer: Rite Two

**Prelude**

*This Is My Father's World*

Johnson

**Opening sentence**

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Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. *Philippians 1:2*

**Confession of Sin**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People:*

**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 Bishop when present, or the Priest, stands and says*

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 Invitatory and Psalter

*Officiant* Lord, open our lips.

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*People* **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

*Officiant and People*

**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.**

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!**

**Psalm 99** *(read responsively by whole verse)*

- <sup>1</sup> The LORD is King;  
let the people tremble; \*  
he is enthroned upon the cherubim;  
let the earth shake.
- <sup>2</sup> **The LORD is great in Zion; \***  
**he is high above all peoples.**
- <sup>3</sup> Let them confess his Name, which is great and awesome; \*  
he is the Holy One.
- <sup>4</sup> **"O mighty King, lover of justice,**  
**you have established equity; \***  
**you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob."**
- <sup>5</sup> Proclaim the greatness of the LORD our God  
and fall down before his footstool; \*  
he is the Holy One.
- <sup>6</sup> **Moses and Aaron among his priests,**  
**and Samuel among those who call upon his Name, \***  
**they called upon the LORD, and he answered them.**

<sup>7</sup> He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud; \*  
they kept his testimonies and the decree that he gave them.

<sup>8</sup> **O LORD our God, you answered them indeed; \*  
you were a God who forgave them,  
yet punished them for their evil deeds.**

<sup>9</sup> Proclaim the greatness of the LORD our God  
and worship him upon his holy hill; \*  
for the LORD our God is the Holy One.

**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. A-men.**

### **The First Lesson**

**Exodus 33:12-23**

A reading from the book of Exodus.

Moses said to the LORD, “See, you have said to me, ‘Bring up this people’; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, ‘I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.’ Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.” He said, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” And he said to him, “If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth.”

The LORD said to Moses, “I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name.” Moses said, “Show me your glory, I pray.” And he said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, ‘The LORD’; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But,” he said, “you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live.” And the LORD continued, “See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen.”

*Lector* The word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God**

**The Second Lesson****1 Thessalonians 1:1-10**

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead-- Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

*Lector* The word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God**

**Canticle 10 The Second Song of Isaiah** *Isaiah 55:6-11 (all recite in unison)* **p. 86**

**Seek the Lord while he wills to be found; \***

**call upon him when he draws near.**

**Let the wicked forsake their ways \***

**and the evil ones their thoughts;**

**And let them turn to the Lord, and he will have compassion, \***

**and to our God, for he will richly pardon.**

**For my thoughts are not your thoughts, \***

**nor your ways my ways, says the Lord.**

**For as the heavens are higher than the earth, \*  
so are my ways higher than your ways,  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.  
For as rain and snow fall from the heavens \*  
and return not again, but water the earth,  
Bringing forth life and giving growth, \*  
seed for sowing and bread for eating,  
So is my word that goes forth from my mouth; \*  
it will not return to me empty;  
But it will accomplish that which I have purposed, \*  
and prosper in that for which I sent it.**

**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.**

### **The Gospel**

**Matthew 22:15-22**

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

Lector The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God**

### **Sermon**

#### **The Apostles' Creed**

*Officiant and People together*

**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**

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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

*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.**

*Then follows one of these sets of Suffrages*

**A**

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;

R. **And grant us your salvation.**

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

R. **Let your people sing with joy.**

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

R. **For only in you can we live in safety.**

V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;

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**R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

V. Let your way be known upon earth;

**R. Your saving health among all nations.**

V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

**R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;

**R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit**

*The Collect of the Day*

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*A Collect for Sundays*

p. 98

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*A Collect for Peace*

p. 99

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*A Collect for Grace*

p. 100

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Prayer for Mission*

p. 101

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. **Amen.**

**Anthem**

*Jesus, Our Mighty Lord*

Monk's Gate



For the Human Family

p. 815

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For the Sick

p. 459

Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve your sick servants **Ashley Burnett, Jeanine Wilson, Al Cowand, Randy Tyler, Ben Procter, Joan Leggett, Kay Barnacascel, Becky Godwin, John Tolbert, Coley McCally, Karen Gudiksen, Bobbie and Rendol Cobb, Libby Smith, Marian Watts, Lena Evans, Charles Taylor Spruill, Larry Watson, Julia Credle, Joey Ezelle, Racheal Coward, Peggy Parker, Sylvia Dawson, David Dunn, Elsie Benson, Riley Raines, Andy Walker, The Rev. Jim Horton, Will Copeland, Jim Davis, Mary Gillam, Rita Hoggard, The Rev. Archie Skirving, those with COVID-19, and others known to us,** and give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that they may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Prayer from Episcopal Relief and Development (revised)

Compassionate God, source of all comfort, we pray for the people whose lives have been devastated by recent disasters of hurricane, tornado, and fire. Bring them comfort, we pray. Protect the vulnerable. Strengthen the weak. Have mercy on all those working to provide relief and to feed the hungry. And may our response to their suffering be generous and bring you praise. For we ask it in Jesus' Name. **Amen.**

*Authorized intercessions and thanksgivings may follow.*

**The General Thanksgiving**

p. 101

*Officiant and People*

**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.**

***A Prayer of St. Chrysostom***

p. 102

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

*The Officiant may then conclude with the following*

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.** *Ephesians 3:20, 21*

**Postlude**

*Jesus Shall Reign Where'er The Sun*

Hatton

**MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY**

**Officiant:** The Rev. Bonnie Smith

**Organist and Soloist:** Tom Parker

**Altar:** Pat Ivey, Kristin Warren, Harriet Stout

**Lector:** Mike Spruill

**Ushers:** Wood Farless, Chip Warren

**Hostesses:** Jaquelin Perry, Gina Rascoe, Karen Ray

**Money Counters:** Rosanna Rhea, Tra Perry

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you for observing proper precautions for any gatherings during COVID-19: wear a mask, wash your hands, and wait 6 feet apart between households.

Under COVID-19 guidelines, the following changes must be made to our worship:

- Offering plates will not be passed. Please deposit your offering in the designated basket as you arrive or exit. Or you may mail your offering to St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, PO Box 400, Windsor, NC 27983.
- Congregational and choral singing are not permitted. A soloist is allowed, while physical distancing and wearing a face covering.
- Nursery care and children's Sunday School cannot be offered. A ziploc activity bag is available for each child. Please keep it in your car and bring with you each Sunday. A new activity sheet will be available each Sunday.
- No receptions or meals may be offered before or after worship.
- Please limit use of church restrooms.

Please take your printed bulletin home or drop it in the designated recycling container.

Small water bottles are available for your use.

Weather permitting, we will continue with outdoor Morning Prayer on Sundays at 11:00 a.m. with video on Facebook.

The United Thank Offering Ingathering will be held November 1.

Bishop Skirving's Visitation to St. Thomas' Church is scheduled for Sunday, January 24, 2021. If you are interested in being confirmed as a member of St. Thomas' Church, please let The Rev. Bonnie Smith know as soon as possible so that instruction can be planned.

Reminder: The Opportunity Shoppe is open Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the first three Saturdays of the month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Masks are required. Donations are accepted on Mondays between 10 and 2 or by appointment. Leave a message at 252-794-5595.

The diocesan Department of Youth Ministries series on Mental Wellness for grades 6-12 continues November 1 and November 15 via Zoom. Advance registration is required.

College students are invited to a diocesan campus ministry conversation "Success and Failure in These Times" via Zoom on Thursday, October 29 at 6:00 p.m. Contact The Rev. Donna Kraus at [puglovingpastor@gmail.com](mailto:puglovingpastor@gmail.com) for registration.