

THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday 13 June 2021 ♦ 9:00 AM

Grace Episcopal Church, Hinsdale, IL



GATHERING TOGETHER

PRELUDE

Chorale prelude on LOBE DEN HERREN

J. G. Walther (1684-1748)

WELCOME

HYMN

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

LOBE DEN HERREN



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
2 Praise to the Lord; o - ver all things he glo - rious - ly
3 Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy way and de -
4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -



a - tion; O my soul, praise him, for he is thy
reign - eth: borne as on ea - gle - wings, safe - ly his
fend thee; sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall
dore him! All that hath life and breath come now with



health and sal - va - tion: join the great throng, psal - ter - y,
saints he sus - tain - eth. Hast thou not seen how all thou
ev - er at - tend thee; pon - der a - new what the Al -
prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his



or - gan, and song, sound - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion.
need - est hath been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?
might - y can do, who with his love doth be - friend thee.
peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for ev - er a - dore him.

THE ACCLAMATION

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

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in your steadfast faith and love, that through your grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness, and minister your justice with compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST READING

Ezekiel 17:22-24

Thus says the Lord God:

I myself will take a sprig
from the lofty top of a cedar;
I will set it out.

I will break off a tender one
from the topmost of its young twigs;

I myself will plant it
on a high and lofty mountain.

On the mountain height of Israel
I will plant it,

in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,
and become a noble cedar.

Under it every kind of bird will live;
in the shade of its branches will nest
winged creatures of every kind.

All the trees of the field shall know
that I am the Lord.

I bring low the high tree,
I make high the low tree;
I dry up the green tree
and make the dry tree flourish.
I the Lord have spoken;
I will accomplish it.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

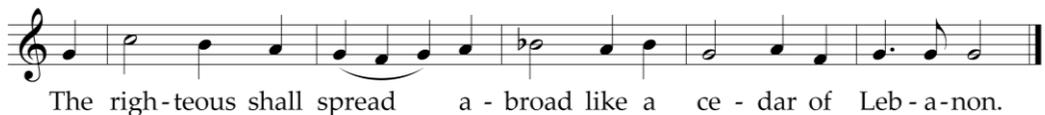
People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence for reflection is kept.

THE PSALM

Psalm 92:1-4, 11-14

Response



- 1 It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord,
and to sing praises to your Name, O Most High;
- 2 To tell of your loving-kindness early in the morning
and of your faithfulness in the night season;
- 3 On the psaltery, and on the lyre,
and to the melody of the harp.
- 4 For you have made me glad by your acts, O Lord;
and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands. *Response*

- 11 The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree,
and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.
- 12 Those who are planted in the house of the Lord
shall flourish in the courts of our God;
- 13 They shall still bear fruit in old age;
they shall be green and succulent;
- 14 That they may show how upright the Lord is,
my Rock, in whom there is no fault. *Response*

We are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord— for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence for reflection is kept.

The people stand, as able, for the Sequence Hymn.

SEQUENCE HYMN



1 Al - might - y God, your Word is cast like seed up - on the ground,
 2 Let not our self - ish - ness and hate this ho - ly seed re - move,
 3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares the ris - ing plant de - stroy,



now let the dew of heav'n de - scend and right - eous fruits a - bound.
 but give it root in ev - 'ry heart to bring forth fruits of love.
 but let it yield a hun - dred - fold the fruits of peace and joy.

THE GOSPEL

Mark 4:26-34

Preacher The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Mark.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

Preacher The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

REFLECTION

Donna Ialongo

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

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
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 OF THE PEOPLE

The people kneel or stand for the Prayers.

Reader Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

A brief silence.

Holy God, you plant the seeds of faith in every nation. Enliven your church, so that the good news of your grace may root and grow throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creator, even the trees, shrubs, and flowers delight in your goodness. From the depths of the soil to the highest mountain, bring forth new plants. Restore growth to places suffering drought. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Judge of nations, we pray for our leaders and those in power. Grant them the ability to regard those under their charge with humility, dedicating their lives in service to others. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Divine comforter, you show compassion to those in need and provide relief to those who call on you. Bless all who suffer, especially people trapped in cycles of poverty and homelessness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, this house of worship belongs to you. We give thanks and pray for our Minister of Music, Andrew Fredel, and all who serve as musicians in this community. We dedicate to you the joyful noise that comes from this place; the cries of children, the melody of voice and instruments, and the songs from our hearts. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Eternal God, we give thanks for our ancestors in the faith who are now at home with you. Today we remember especially Fred Krehbiel, and this week we commemorate Basil the Great and Evelyn Underhill. We look forward to that day when we are all reunited in your new creation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Presider We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace. **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

Silence is kept.

All **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 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

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you. **And also with you.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY

Offertory Sentence

*If you wish to give electronically, please scan the QR code,
or go to www.gracehinsdale.org/give*



The Iona Invitation

This is the table, not of the Church but of Jesus Christ.
It is made ready for those who love him and who want to love him more.

So come, you who have much faith and you who have little;
you who have been here often
and you who have not been here for a long time or ever before;
you who have tried to follow and you who have failed.

Come, not because the Church invites you;
it is Christ, and he invites you to meet him here.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Presider It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world. 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:

All

**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.

Presider

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:

All

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Presider 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

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

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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The bread is broken. Silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem

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

The Invitation

From a sermon by St. Augustine

Presider Behold what you are;
People **May we become what we receive.**

THE COMMUNION

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Presider Let us pray.

All **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

HYMN

"We Are One in the Spirit"

THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS



1 We are one in the Spi - rit; we are one in the Lord;
 2 We will walk witheach oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;
 3 We will work witheach oth - er; we will work side by side;
 4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,



we are one in the Spi - rit; we are one in the Lord,
 we will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,
 we will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side,
 and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,



and we pray that all un - i - ty may one day be re - stored:
 and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
 and we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man pride:
 and all praise to the Spi - rit, who makes us one:



And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our



love; yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.

SENT FORTH TO THE WORLD

THE DISMISSAL

The preacher offers a dismissal, the people respond

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

POSTLUDE

Grand Plein Jeu

Gaspard Corrette (16712-1732?)

How do we deal with difficult Bible passages when we encounter them?

How do we deal with passages which historically have been used by others to vilify groups of people—passages that may seem to condone exclusion or condemnation of groups we may perceive as “other than us”? Everyone looks at scripture through a lens of some kind—a lens which will subsequently help shape the way they approach a given passage and ultimately interpret it.

We use the Baptismal Covenant as our lens, specifically “to seek and serve Christ in all persons,” and “to strive for justice and peace among all people.” (See the *Book of Common Prayer*, p. 304.) Through the Covenant, we understand how we are called to follow Christ and approach the difficult biblical passages with this knowledge in mind.

Why use incense in worship?

Incense has a long history in Christianity, Judaism and other religions. It adds our noses to the multi-sensory experience of worship. The psalmist expresses the symbolism of incense and prayer: “Let my prayer rise like incense before you; the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.”

The clouds of incense represent cleansing and purification. The sweet smell suggests Christ's righteousness that covers sin. In some traditions, incense is used to honor holy things and holy people (the gathered people, that is, the body of Christ). The altar/table, the bread and wine, the ministers and the assembly may be “censed” as a way of showing their importance in the liturgy. Incense adds a festive accompaniment to processions, creating “holy clouds” and “holy smells” in the air.

The sweet smell of incense is a doorway to the holy in the same way that beautiful music, flowers, stained glass, or a room/building can lead us to ponder the mystery of God's presence. Incense in worship is an ancient practice that connects us to the Church around the world and through the ages.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,” text: Joachim Neander (1650-1680); tr. *Hymnal* 1940, alt. Tune: LOBE DEN HERREN, melody from *Erneuerten Gesangbuch*, 1665. Psalm 92: setting by David Christiansen, © 1996, Augsburg Fortress. “Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast,” Text: John Cawood (1775-1852), alt. Tune: ST. FLAVIAN, melody from *Day’s Psalter*, 1562; adapt and harm. Richard Redhead (1820-1901). “We Are One in the Spirit,” Text and music: Peter Scholtes, © 1966, FEL Publications, assigned 1991 to The Lorenz Corp. Scripture texts are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Church of Christ in the USA, and used by permission. Music reprinted under OneLicense.net, license # A-720489.

*Welcome to the transformative power
of Christ's love;
if you're here, you belong!*



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