

# THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday 4 July 2021 ♦ 9:00 AM

Grace Episcopal Church, Hinsdale, IL



## GATHERING TOGETHER

PRELUDE

Pastorale

Sydney Watson (1903-1991)

WELCOME

HYMN

“As We Gather at Your Table”

NETTLETON



1 As we gath - er at your Ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your Word,  
2 Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;  
3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast



Help us know, O God, your pres - ence: let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
Send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.  
Where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.



Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own:  
Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;  
There will no more en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



Teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.  
May we still be - hold your i - mage in the world you came to save.  
As we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

## 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.

O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; 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 INDEPENDENCE DAY

Lord God Almighty, you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace: Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## THE WORD OF GOD

### THE FIRST READING

Ezekiel 2:1-5

**T**he Lord said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you. And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, "Thus says the Lord God." Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

*Silence for reflection is kept.*

## THE PSALM

Psalm 123

### Response



- 1 To you I lift up my eyes,  
to you enthroned in the heavens.
- 2 As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters,  
and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,  
so our eyes look to you, O Lord our God, until you show us your mercy. **Response**
- 3 Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy,  
for we have had more than enough of contempt,
- 4 too much of the scorn of the indolent rich,  
and of the derision of the proud. R

## THE SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows—was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I

am weak, then I am strong.

*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

“Take My Life, and Let It Be”

HOLLINGSIDE



1 Take my life, and let it be con - se - crat-ed, Lord, to thee;  
2 Take my voice, and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;



take my mo - ments and my days, let them flow in cease - less praise.  
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.



Take my hands, and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;  
Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no long - er mine.



take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy roy - al throne.  
Take my - self, and I will be ev - er, on - ly all for thee.

## THE GOSPEL

Mark 6:1-13

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

Jesus came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, “Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. Then Jesus

said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

*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.*

God of all, through the waters of baptism you claim people of all races, ethnicities, and languages as your beloved children. Sustain the baptized and increase their faith, that your gospel may be proclaimed throughout the earth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of the heavens, your creating Spirit animates the universe. We give you thanks for the moon and stars, for the planets and the Milky Way Galaxy, and for all of the mysteries of the cosmos that remain unknown to us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of freedom, you have liberated us from sin and death and rescue us from all forms of spiritual, social, and political oppression. Defend us from tyrants in our midst and deliver us from all forms of slavery or corruption. Direct our freedom for works of liberation and wholeness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, you became vulnerable in the person of Jesus Christ in solidarity with the disempowered. Strengthen those who feel faint, give courage to those who fear, and bring wholeness to those in need. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of holiness, you send us out into the world to proclaim your love. We pray for the outreach ministries of this community. Equip us as we leave this place to witness and serve our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give you thanks that in every time and place you call forth prophets who move us towards freedom. Thank you for those who work for human rights, community organizers, and all who strive for liberty for all. 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

*We thank God for every gift which helps continue the mission and ministries of Grace Church.  
To give electronically, please scan the QR code or follow the link to our giving platform. Thank you!*



<http://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



1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions,  
 2 My coun - try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean,  
 3 This is my prayer, O God of all earth's king - doms,



a song of peace for lands a - far and mine. This is my home,  
 and sun - light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine. But oth - er lands  
 your king - dom come; on earth your will be done. O God, be lift



the coun - try where my heart is; here are my hopes, my  
 have sun - light, too, and clo - ver, and skies are ev - 'ry -  
 -ed up till all shall serve you, and hearts u - nit - ed



dreams, my ho - ly shrine; but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are  
 where as blue as mine. So hear my song, O God of all the  
 learn to live as one. So hear my prayer, O God of all the



beat - ing with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.  
 na - tions, a song of peace for their land and for mine.  
 na - tions; my - self I give you; let your will be done.

## SENT FORTH TO THE WORLD

### THE DISMISSAL

*The preacher offers a dismissal, and the people respond*

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

## **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.

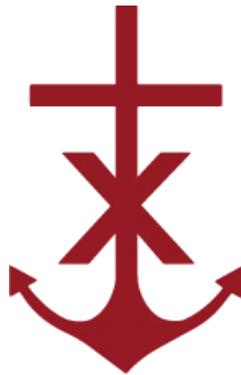
The sweet smell of incense is a doorway to the holy in the same way that beautiful music, flowers, stained glass, or a room/building can lead us to ponder the mystery of God's presence. Incense in worship is an ancient practice that connects us to the Church around the world and through the ages.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

“As We Gather at Your Table,” Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944), © 1989, Hope Publishing Co. Tune: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Pt. II, 1813. Psalm 123, response setting David Christiansen, © 1996, Augsburg Fortress. “Take My Life, and Let It Be,” Text: Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-1879), alt. Tune: HOLLINGSIDE, John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876). “This Is My Song, Text: Stanzas 1-2: Lloyd Stone (1912-1993), © 1934, 1962, Lorenz Publishing Co. Stanza 3: Georgia Harkness (1891-1974), © 1964, Lorenz Publishing Co. Tune: FINLANDIA, Jean Sibelius (1865-1957), © Breitkopf & Härtel. 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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