

# The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Healing Service With Social Distancing  
October 11, 2020  
10:30AM

## We Gather

*Instructions for standing, sitting, and kneeling are rubrics from the Book of Common Prayer. Any person who is unable to stand or kneel is welcome to sit for any part of the service regardless of the printed instruction. Please feel comfortable using any posture you wish.*

### Processional Hymn:

**May The Peoples Praise You**

*Please stand as you are able.*

### Introduction:

*Please be seated.*

*Celebrant:* Welcome to Grace in-person and online.

Today we have moved the commemoration of St. Francis from last Sunday forward to today. We will bless the animals later today here at Grace, and you are welcome to bring your pets, livestock and well-behaved animal friends for a blessing at 4:30PM.

If you are watching online, we may be able to broadcast our blessing of the animals, in which case your favorite animals will get a virtual blessing over the Internet.

Our lectionary readings give us images of banquets in three different lessons. We will dive into those heavenly banquets in the context of the life and teachings of Francis.

Thank you for joining us today.

### Opening Acclamation / Call to Worship

*Please stand as you are able.*

*Celebrant:* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

*People:* **And blessed be His kingdom, now and for ever. Amen**

### Collect for Purity

*Celebrant:* 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**

### Song of Praise:

**Gloria**

*Please remain standing.*

### Collect of the day

*Please be seated.*

*Celebrant:* Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

## We Hear God's Word

### First Lesson: Isaiah 25:1-9

*Please remain seated.*

*Reader:* A reading from the book of Isaiah.

O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt.

Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.

When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled.

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation .

*Reader:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 23

*Reader:* The LORD is my shepherd; \*

*People:* **I shall not be in want.**

*Reader:* He makes me lie down in green pastures \*

*People:* **and leads me beside still waters.**

*Reader:* He revives my soul \*

*People:* **and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.**

*Reader:* Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; \*

*People:* **for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

*Reader:* You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; \*

*People:* **you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.**

*Reader:* Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, \*

*People:* **and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.**

## Second Lesson: Philippians 4:1-9

*Reader:* A reading from the book of Philippians.

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

*Reader:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

## Gradual Hymn:

### *King Of Love*

*Please stand as you are able.*

## Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

*Please remain standing as you are able.*

*Reader:* The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

*People:* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Once more Jesus spoke to the people in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

*Reader:* Alleluia! Alleluia! Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people and kindle in them the fire of your love.

*People:* **Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**Sermon:** *The Rev. Bob Wickizer*

*Please be seated.*

*It is all a matter of love*

It may be a bit ironic that I write this sermon from Moab, Utah which was named for the biblical tribe of Moabites. If you look at the history, this is not a flattering name. The Moabite tribe is related to the Israelites shortly after the exodus. After the towns of Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed for their sinfulness, Abraham's nephew, Lot had two sons Ammon and Moab who had children with their sisters. The Moabite tribe is descended from that unhappy union. The Moabites worshiped a pagan fish-god and were in frequent conflict with the Israelites.

The Moabites may be one of the ruthless nations or ruthless warriors our prophet Isaiah mentions today. This section of Isaiah is set in a context before the exile. The prophet is holding up ruthless enemies of Israel perhaps as examples of the corrupt and selfish rulers of Israel under whom the common people were suffering at the time. Later, Isaiah will claim that the exile and deportation of the leaders of Israel was directly caused by their sinfulness.

In addition to celebrating St. Francis today and the blessing of the animals, we could call today's lectionary readings "Banquet Sunday" because Isaiah, Psalm 23 and Matthew all deal with banquets. We need to ask, if the people are suffering under unjust rule, what is the point of a banquet?

Let me answer the question first, and then we will circle back to the specifics. These banquets in all three lessons are "eschatological." They are staged at the end of time when God makes all things right. When the poor and the downtrodden are lifted up. When justice rolls like a mighty river. When the ruthless rulers are sent away empty. When the sheep and goats are separated. When the shroud that is cast over the people is destroyed. When God has done wonderful things fulfilling God's plans for all of God's people. This is when the banquet takes place.

Who is invited to the banquet at the end of time? On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. It may seem confusing that Isaiah mentions God as subduing the ruthless and the aliens while emphasizing that "all peoples" will come to the banquet. I think that "all people" of God means the people who follow the commandments, who try to do God's will in all things, who are fair and just in their dealings with others, and who know that after all they try to do right, they still come up short.

Whether you look at people in 500 BC, in Jesus' day, or today, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, you will find faithful people trying to do the right thing but missing the mark from time to time. When we fail to do the right thing, we are in need of God's forgiveness and mercy. This is the constant thing about people for the past 3,000 years or more.

Who are the "ruthless" in Isaiah's vision, the "enemies" in Psalm 23, and the bozo who shows up without a wedding robe in Matthew's banquet? These are the people who do not even try to do the right thing. They care only about themselves. They do not practice the Golden Rule. When they are rulers, they oppress the people. When they are merchants, they cheat people by dishonest means. You find them from beginning to end of the bible. You find them in society today. They do not pray to God. They do not acknowledge their own shortcomings. They do not depend upon God for mercy and forgiveness. Life begins and ends with their own selfish needs.

These are the people who do not attend the banquet. In a parable of Jesus, they have already "received their reward." So, what is the point of this banquet at the end of time?

It gives hope and we affirm that God is in charge. There will be a judgment. There will be a reversal. There will be a banquet for ALL of God's people. We are hopeful because we believe in a God of mercy, forgiveness and justice. And we wait, actively, trying our best to bring God's mercy, justice and love into the world.

Francis was born into a life of wealth and luxury. Known for his partying and drinking in his youth, he volunteered for military service, was captured in battle, and spent a year in prison waiting for his father to find him and pay ransom. During his time in prison, Francis received visions from God to repair his church and live a life of poverty.

My sister-in-law has been a Franciscan nun for sixty years. Recently, she wrote to me saying that "life now and in the hereafter is a matter of love." We might take our cue from the Lord's Prayer, "Your will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven." God wants us to love others, especially our enemies and especially those who are NOT invited to the banquet. Francis taught that and lived it fully.

I don't know about you, but lately, I have had a very difficult time feeling the love. As I reflected on that, looking out at the mountains in Moab, I understood my error.

In marriage counseling, I always tell couples young and old that love is not a feeling, it is a choice. It is a commitment. Loving other people is a choice you make every day, every hour of the day to smile, to give someone the benefit of the doubt, to understand their point of view, to learn their fears and their hopes, to share what you have in common. You do this with your spouse and your children. You do this with your friends. Being faithful and being truly Christian is to make this commitment to love with EVERYONE.

Being invited to the banquet is all about you making that commitment to love others no matter what. With no conditions or exceptions, no matter what. The question Isaiah, Jesus and Francis pose to you today is, "Will you make a commitment to love ALL others as much as yourself?"

*Silence for reflection after the sermon*

## Nicene Creed

*All in unison; Please stand as you are able.*

**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. 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

*Please kneel, sit or stand.*

*Reader:* As we have offered gratitude for God's grace upon this community, let us now offer our gifts to the Lord, trusting that by the power of the Holy Spirit, we will be led to ever more faithful fellowship and service.

*Reader:* For peace from things that separate us from one another and for our salvation.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Reader:* For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy churches of God, especially...

*People:* **Diocesan Seminarians, Iona School of Formation and Aspirancy Program; Diocese of South Carolina; The Church of Bermuda.**

*Reader:* For this holy gathering and for those who enter with faith, reverence, and fear of God.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Reader:* For...

*People:* **Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Ed and Poulson, our Bishops; Bob and Tom, our clergy; Tim & Jennifer, our wardens; vestry delegates, and all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God. Lord, have mercy.**

*Reader:* For the world and its leaders, our nation and its people. We pray for our leaders, especially...

*People:* **Donald, our President; Mike, our Vice-president; Markwayne, our Congressman; James & Jim, our Senators; Kevin, our Governor; and Marlon, our Mayor. Lord, have mercy.**

*Reader:* For prisoners, the oppressed, all those in need or suffering, especially...

*People:* **Barbara & Family, Blackwell Family, Brad, Brewer Family, James & Shirley, Judy, Sherri, Bea, Eathen, Linda, John, Vicki, Angie, Brian, Glen, Dante, Marilyn, Gary, Ann, Connie, Isabella, Jan, all those affected by the pandemic, and those whose suffering is known only to God.**

*Reader:* We pray for those in the armed services. We pray for those who have died (*especially...*)

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Reader:* For ourselves, our families, and those we love. We pray for those in our parish, especially ...  
*People:* **Sage, Scott, Cheryl, Mike, Slade, Sam.**

*Reader:* Also those who are traveling, (*especially...*)  
*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Reader:* Bless all those everywhere who give themselves to the service of others; that with wisdom, patience, and courage, they may minister to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy for love of him who laid down his life for us.  
*People:* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Reader:* Remembering our most blessed Mary and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.  
*People:* **To you, O Lord.**

*Reader:* Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.  
*People:* **Amen.**

### **Laying on of Hands and Anointing for Healing**

*Celebrant:* Brothers and sisters in Christ, if you wish to seek prayer, for yourself, on behalf of someone, or for a crisis in the world, you are invited to come forward at this time. Jesus says, "Come to me all you who are troubled and I will give you rest." So come, you who are burdened by regrets and anxieties, you who are broken in body or in spirit, you who feel deeply within yourselves the divisions and injustices of our world. Come, for Jesus invites us to bring him our brokenness.

*The people may come forward for healing prayers at this time. The Laying on of Hands is administered using these or other suitable words:*

*Celebrant:* In the name of God and trusting in his might alone, receive Christ's healing touch to make you whole. May Christ bring you wholeness of body, mind and spirit, deliver you from every evil, and give you his peace. Amen.

*Anointing may be administered.*

*Celebrant:* N, I anoint you in the name of God who gives you life. Receive Christ's forgiveness, his healing and his love. May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ grant you the riches of his grace, his wholeness and his peace. **Amen.**

### **Healing Hymn:**

**Healer**

*Please remain seated.*

### **Confession and Absolution**

*Please kneel, sit or stand.*

*Celebrant:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Celebrant 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.**

*Celebrant:* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

### **Peace**

*Please stand as you are able.*

*Celebrant:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Greet one another in the name of Christ.*

### **Announcements; Anniversary and Birthday Blessings**

## Offertory

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

**Offertory Hymn:** ***Broken Vessels (Amazing Grace)*** *Please remain seated.*

**Doxology:** ***Praise God from whom all blessings flow*** *Please stand as you are able.*

## The Great Thanksgiving

### Sursum Corda

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you**

*Celebrant:* Lift up your hearts.

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

*Celebrant:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

**Sanctus:** ***Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One*** *Please stand, sit, or kneel.*

### Lord's Prayer:

*Celebrant:* And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

*Celebrant and People:* **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.**

**Fraction Anthem:** ***Lamb of God*** *Please remain seated.*

### Breaking of the Bread

*A period of silence is kept.*

*Please come forward to receive communion while maintaining distances from one another. The celebrant will give you a small plastic bag with several consecrated communion wafers in it. You are not to consume it at church. Instead, take it home, say the prayers on the card and consume it with family and friends. You are the light of the world. Take the body of Christ with you this week and feed on it in your heart while praying for others.*

*Celebrant:* The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

**Communion Hymn:** ***O Come to the Altar*** *Please remain seated.*

## We Go Out To Do Our Work

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People:* **Almighty God, giver of every good gift. All that we have and all that we are comes from you. Accept the humble gifts of who we are with our differences, our goodness, and our mistakes. Help us be the blessing to others that you are to us. Help us not to fear but to love fearlessly. Help us not to worry but to get busy and help. We ask you to remind us in our hearts and minds of the great needs of so many in the world today for love, truth, and clarity. Keep the clouds of darkness and confusion away as we work to make the world a better place. Thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit who guides, defends, and protects us. And who leads us into all truth. Amen**

### Pentecost Blessing

*Celebrant:* Rejoice in the Lord always... Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

And the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with you now and always. **Amen**



**Sending**

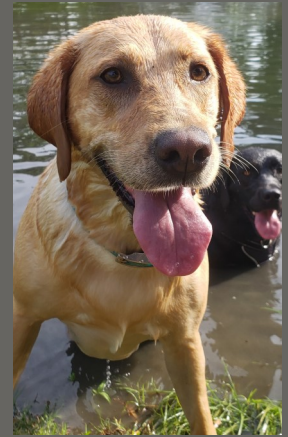
*Celebrant:* Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life. Alleluia, Alleluia.

*People:* Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Recessional Hymn:**

**God is For Us**

*Please stand as you are able.*



*Hi everyone, we are the Coburn bunch.*

*Joan, Bob I am waiting*

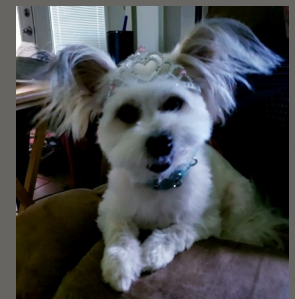
*Ok Laura what's next*



*Nora, I love your hugs*



*BJ, lets play ball*



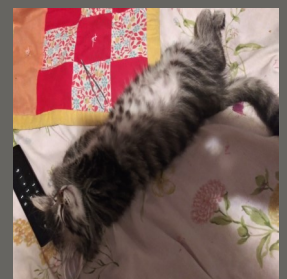
*My humans are Lance & Nancy*



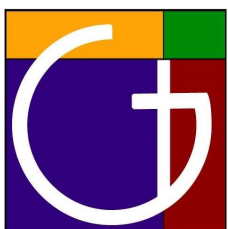
*I am Dr. Edith's dog*



*We are the Harrington's beloved pets*



*Thomas, time to play*



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