

A vertical stained glass window is the central focus, featuring a large dove in flight with its wings spread, set against a background of colorful geometric patterns including diamonds and triangles. The colors used are primarily purple, blue, green, and yellow. The window is set within a dark, textured stone or concrete frame. Two semi-transparent grey text boxes are overlaid on the image: one at the top and one at the bottom.

Welcome to Christ Episcopal Church
in Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 9th 2023

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude.....James Reifinger, Organist
Prelude in G Major Felix Mendelssohn

Processional.....#657 Love divine, all loves excelling

Greetings *BCP 355*

Presider: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Gloria.....Hendrick's Gloria

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.**

First Reading *Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67*

The servant said to Laban, "I am Abraham's servant. The Lord has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O Lord, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also" –let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master's son.'

"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then

I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshiped the Lord, and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

And they called Rebekah, and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will." So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, "May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes." Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way. Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, and said to the servant, "Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

Psalm 45: 11-18

Eructavit cor meum

- 11 "Hear, O daughter; consider and listen closely; *
forget your people and your father's house.
- 12 The king will have pleasure in your beauty; *
he is your master; therefore do him honor.
- 13 The people of Tyre are here with a gift; *
the rich among the people seek your favor."
- 14 All glorious is the princess as she enters; *
her gown is cloth-of-gold.
- 15 In embroidered apparel she is brought to the king; *
after her the bridesmaids follow in procession.
- 16 With joy and gladness they are brought, *
and enter into the palace of the king.

- 17 "In place of fathers, O king, you shall have sons; *
you shall make them princes over all the earth.
- 18 I will make your name to be remembered
from one generation to another; *
therefore nations will praise you for ever and ever."

Second Reading

Romans 7:15-25a

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

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

The People stand for the hymn.

The Sequence Hymn.....#544 Jesus shall reign

The Gospel

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30



Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

Jesus said to the crowd, "To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such

was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

Nicene Creed

BCP 358

A/: 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,
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

BCP 387

Reader: Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

People: **That we all may be one.**

Reader: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

People: **That your Name be glorified by all people.**

Reader: We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

People: **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

Reader: We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

People: **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Reader: Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

People: **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Reader: Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

People: **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Reader: We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

People: **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Reader: Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

The Confession

BCP 360

All kneel. The Presider says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

A period of silence is observed.

Presider 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 Presider 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 Peace

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

We greet each other in the name of the risen Christ. Stay standing for hymn.

Offertory Hymn.....#482 Lord of all hopefulness

The Great Thanksgiving

BCP p. 372

People remain standing

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 him thanks and praise.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Presider proceeds

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you
alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from
before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and
fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the
splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and
day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you
unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every
creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we
sing (say),

Sanctus.....Hendrick's Insert

The people stand or kneel. The Presider continues

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Presider is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Presider and People

We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.

The Presider continues

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

[Remember (NN. and) all who minister in your Church.]

[Remember all your people, and those who seek your truth.]

[Remember _____.]

[Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.]

And grant that we may find our inheritance with [the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, (with _____) and] all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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

The Lord's Prayer

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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 this is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept. Then may be sung or said:

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

Fraction.....Hendricks Agnus Dei

Facing the people, the Presider says the following Invitation

Presider: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion Hymn.....#516 Come down, O love divine

Post Communion Prayer

After Communion, the Presider says

Presider: Let us pray.
Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Announcements

Blessing

May Almighty God, who enlightened the minds of the disciples by pouring out upon them the Holy Spirit, make you rich with his blessing, that you may abound more and more in that Spirit for ever.
Amen.

Stand for the hymn and dismissal.

Recessional Hymn.....#693 Just as I am

Dismissal

Postlude.....James Reifinger, Organist
Allegro maestoso e vivace (from Sonata No. 2) Felix Mendelssohn

This Service's Servers

<i>Presider</i>	Rev. Heather McCain
<i>Eucharistic Minister</i>	Kent Miller
<i>Preacher</i>	Rev. Heather McCain
<i>Verger</i>	Chris Masters
<i>Reader</i>	Sheila Thiele
<i>Greeter</i>	Gloria Miller
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Monica Waldon
<i>St. Isidore's Guild</i>	Bob Lowe
<i>Vestry Counter</i>	Dana Dickerson
<i>Organist</i>	James Reifinger

Notes on the Service

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Gen 24:34-38,42-49,58-67 • Ps 45:11-18 • Rom 7:15-25a • Mt 11:16-19, 25-30

Today's collect appears in the oldest extant manuscript of mass prayers, the Leonine Sacramentary, from about A.D. 625, now in the library of the Cathedral of Verona, Italy. It refers to Jesus' summary of the Law as love for God and neighbor. One might think of that love as the "easy yoke" which Jesus will describe in today's Gospel.

In his old age, Abraham, like many an expatriate, sought a proper bride for his son. So he dispatched his steward to look for some suitable woman in his homeland. Today's first reading opens with that steward's narrative to the family of the prospective bride, Rebekah, of his errand and of his signal meeting with her at the well where she has performed the herculean chore of watering his ten camels. Having heard the servant's case, Rebekah's mother and brother ask her consent and give theirs. Omitted from the reading is a delay for ten days' hospitality before the steward and the bride and their entourages, lavishly blessed, set out to return to Canaan. The story concludes with the first glimpses that the couple have of each other as the bridal caravan approaches Isaac's camp. Rebekah will become a matriarch to succeed Sarah. This story displays the lyric beauty of the oldest strand of Genesis. Its scene of man-meets-maid-at-the-well would become a set piece of Hebrew literature. It will be the backdrop for Jesus' meeting a Samaritan woman.

The two responses to the reading about a courtship are both parts of love poems, not familiar to many readers of the Bible. Psalm 45 is a wedding song, probably to accompany the procession of a princess about to be married to a prince of Judah. The Song of Solomon is erotic poetry, collected in the 3rd century B.C. and filed under the name of Solomon who is said to have had multiple wives. This section is a girl's soliloquy about her lover's approach to her window, a Jewish Juliet.

In contrast with the first two readings, Paul the ascetic contrasts his flesh which is captive to sin with his mind which desires to obey the Torah. He asks, Who can save me from myself? Christ has freed Paul from this inner conflict and has enabled him to live not in the service of bodily addictions but in the service of the Spirit. Christ had accomplished what Paul had failed to do, that is, satisfy God's requirements. At least initially, Paul did not find God's yoke "easy" nor his burden "light," but Christ made it so.

Jesus reproaches Galilean villagers who had been unresponsive to both his laxity and John the Baptist's sternness. Exasperated, now Jesus turns to God in an address which sounds like the Fourth Gospel, "no one knows the Father except the Son....my burden is light."

Rev. Stephen Weissman
Asheville, North Carolina