

A large, colorful stained glass window is the central focus of the image. It features a central panel with a dove, likely representing the Holy Spirit, surrounded by intricate geometric and abstract patterns in shades of blue, purple, red, and yellow. The window is set within a dark, textured stone or wood frame. The overall lighting is soft, with light filtering through the glass, creating a warm and spiritual atmosphere.

Welcome to Christ Episcopal Church

in Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 16th 2023

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude.....James Reifinger, Organist
Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier Anton Wilhelm Leupold

Processional.....#48 O day of radiant gladness

Greetings

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

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." *Psalms 122:1*

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer. *Psalms 19:14*

Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me, and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling. *Psalms 43:3*

The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him. *Habakkuk 2:20*

The hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks to worship him. *John 4:23*

Thus says the high and lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy, "I dwell in the high and holy place and also with the one who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble and to revive the heart of the contrite." *Isaiah 57:15*

Confession of Sin BCP 79

The Presider says to the people

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept. Presider and People together, all kneeling

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 and People

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

Invitatory and Psalter

Presider: Lord, open our lips.

People: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Presider 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. Alleluia.

Gloria.....Hendricks Insert

The Psalm

Psalm 119:105-112

Lucerna pedibus meis

- 105 Your word is a lantern to my feet *
and a light upon my path.
- 106 I have sworn and am determined *
to keep your righteous judgments.
- 107 I am deeply troubled; *
preserve my life, O Lord, according to your word.
- 108 Accept, O Lord, the willing tribute of my lips, *
and teach me your judgments.
- 109 My life is always in my hand, *
yet I do not forget your law.
- 110 The wicked have set a trap for me, *
but I have not strayed from your commandments.
- 111 Your decrees are my inheritance for ever; *
truly, they are the joy of my heart.
- 112 I have applied my heart to fulfill your statutes *
for ever and to the end.

First Reading

Genesis 25:19-34

These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the Lord. And the Lord said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger." When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her

womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called Edom.) Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Romans 8:1-11

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law-- indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The People stand for the hymn.

The Sequence Hymn.....#593 Lord, make us servants of your peace

Third Reading

Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Bob Lowe

The Apostles Creed

BCP 96

Presider and People together, all standing

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.

Prayers of the People

BCP 97

Presider. The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider. Let us pray.

Presider 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.

The Presider then says one or more of the following Collects

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;
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

Presider: God is with you.

People: **And also with you**

Presider: Let us pray.

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Collect for Sundays

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 Grace

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.**

A Collect for Guidance

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayers of Mission

Choose only one

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

or this

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Authorized intercessions and thanksgivings may follow.

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 hymns.

Offertory Hymn.....#440 Blessed, Jesus, at thy Word

The General Thanksgiving

BCP 101

Presider 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

Presider. 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.**

Then may be said

Presider: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Announcements

Stand for the hymn and dismissal.

Recessional Hymn.....#632 O Christ, the Word Incarnate

Dismissal

The Officiant may then conclude with one of the following

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of
God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us
all evermore. **Amen.** *2 Corinthians 13:14*

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in
believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
Romans 15:13

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.....James Reifinger, Organist

Lobt Gott, ihr Christen, allzugleich Johann Gottfried Walther

During the Postlude, please leave in silence

This Service's Servers

<i>Presider</i>	Bob Lowe
<i>Preacher</i>	Bob Lowe
<i>Reader</i>	Toni Alexander
<i>Greeter</i>	Shiela and Jude Thiele
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Elizabeth Miller
<i>St. Isidore's Guild</i>	Bruce and Will Miller
<i>Vestry Counter</i>	Dana Dickerson
<i>Organist</i>	James Reifinger

Notes on the Service

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Gen 25:19-34 • Ps 119:105-112 • Rom 8:1-11 • Mt 13:1-9, 18-23

The collect asks that we may discern what we ought to do, and may have strength to do what we ought, a phrasing which emphasizes more our active cooperation with God than does the passive image of believers as soils receiving the Word, as in today's Gospel.

Isaac's function in Genesis is to provide the link between his father Abraham and his sons Jacob and Esau. He is inactive, rabbis speculated, because of the trauma of having been almost murdered by his father. The twin sons he begat were Esau, "the redhead" father of the Edomites, a tribe to the southeast of Canaan, and Jacob, re-named Israel, father of the Israelites. Today's reading accounts for the proximity and the hostility between Edomites and Israelites, between hunting and herding economies, and between contrasting personality types. Medically-minded readers of this story have speculated that Esau was so willing to relinquish his birthright for red lentil stew because he suffered from hypoglycemia. The King James Version's "a mess of pottage" has become proverbial, meaning a trifle.

Psalm 119 is a meditation on keeping the Torah both in the sense of observing the rules of the Book, and also in the sense of obeying God's will. One who prescribed the recital of Ps. 119 was Benedict of Nursia, c. 480-540, the father of western monasticism. Benedict's feast was July 11; his first biography was written by Pope Gregory the Great, who might have written today's collect also.

Paul was another Jew who was preoccupied with keeping the Torah. Epistles for today and the next two Sundays are from Romans 8, where Paul talks about the new life which Christ has made available to believers. The Torah could not save us from death; Christ has fulfilled the requirements of the Law, and so has set humanity free from sin and death. We are not condemned. Accordingly, we must live in the Spirit, not subject to human addictions. The One who raised Jesus from death also will raise our mortal bodies from death.

The Parable of the Sower includes Matthew's allegory to explain it. A more exact title might be the Parable of the Different Soils. It is one of a collection in Matthew 13, the remainder of which will be read on the next two Sundays. Today's parable calls the seed "the word of the Kingdom"; next Sunday's parable will call the sower the "Son of Man."

Commemorated tomorrow will be William White, chaplain to the Continental Congress, and the first American consecrated a bishop in the Episcopal Church, on February 4, 1787.

Rev. Stephen Weissman
Asheville, North Carolina

Thank you for visiting Christ Episcopal Church!

Who are We?

We are a community, forgiven and loved by God, joyfully called to the work of reconciliation.

Known throughout Cape Girardeau as "the Red Door Church" by those we serve, our mission is to share God's love and grace.

When are our Services?

On Sundays, there are Morning Prayer services every Sunday at 8:00 AM.

Services are held 10:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M. on Sundays and Evening Prayer is from 5:30 P.M. – 6:30 P.M. on Wednesdays.

We are hosting a Bible study group before service at 9:00 A.M. on Sundays as well.

