



Welcome to Christ Episcopal Church  
in Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 23rd 2023

# The Gathering of God's People

Prelude.....Leslie Jones, Organist

Processional.....#665 All my hope on God is founded

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.

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## First Reading

Genesis 28:10-19a

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!" And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top

of it. He called that place Bethel.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

### **The Psalm**

Psalm 139: 1-11, 22-23

*Domine, probasti*

- 1 Lord, you have searched me out and known me; \*  
you know my sitting down and my rising up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places \*  
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, \*  
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
- 4 You press upon me behind and before \*  
and lay your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; \*  
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
- 6 Where can I go then from your Spirit? \*  
where can I flee from your presence?
- 7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; \*  
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
- 8 If I take the wings of the morning \*  
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- 9 Even there your hand will lead me \*  
and your right hand hold me fast.
- 10 If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, \*  
and the light around me turn to night,"
- 11 Darkness is not dark to you;  
the night is as bright as the day; \*  
darkness and light to you are both alike.
- 22 Search me out, O God, and know my heart; \*  
try me and know my restless thoughts.
- 23 Look well whether there be any wickedness in me \*  
and lead me in the way that is everlasting.

### **Second Reading**

Romans 8:12-25

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ-- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

*The People stand for the hymn.*

The Sequence Hymn.....#423 Immortal, invisible, God only wise

The Gospel

Matthew 13:24-30,36-43



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

*People:* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples

approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

*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**.....#302 Father, we thank thee who hast planted

### **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**

*BCP p. 364*

**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**.....LEVAS #151 One bread, one body (p.12)

### **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.....#372 Praise to the living God!

Dismissal

Postlude.....Leslie Jones, Pianist

**This Service's Servers**

<i>Presider</i>	Canon Doris Westfall
<i>Eucharistic Minister</i>	Bob Lowe
<i>Preacher</i>	Canon Doris Westfall
<i>Verger</i>	Chris Masters
<i>Reader</i>	Richard Joseph
<i>Greeter</i>	Doc and Karen Cain
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Monica Waldon
<i>St. Isidore's Guild</i>	James Boyer
<i>Vestry Counter</i>	Gina Thomas
<i>Pianist</i>	Leslie Jones

# One Bread, One Body

151

One bread, — one bod - y, —

— one Lord of all, — one cup of

bles - ing which we bless. — And we, — though

Words: 1 Corinthians 10:16, 17; 12:4; Galatians 3:28; The Didache 9

Music: John B. Foley, SJ

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man - y, through - out the earth, we are one

*Last time* ⊕

bod - y in this one Lord.

*Last time* ⊕

1. Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or  
 2. Man - y the gifts, man - y the  
 3. Grain for the fields, scat - tered and

1. free,                      wom - an      or      man, \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. works,                    one      in      the      Lord \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. grown,                    gath - ered      to      one \_\_\_\_\_

*D.S.*

1. —                      no      more, \_\_\_\_\_      One  
 2. —                      of      all, \_\_\_\_\_      One  
 3. —                      for      all, \_\_\_\_\_      One

*D.S.*

⊕ CODA

Lord. \_\_\_\_\_



# Notes on the Service

## Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Gen 28:10-19a • Ps 139:1-11, 22-23 • Rom 8:18-25 • Mtt 13:24-30, 36-43

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Today's collect is one of a few not translated from earlier Latin books but instead composed in English for the first Prayer Book, 1549. Its petition, "have compassion, we beseech thee, on our infirmities, and those things which...for our blindness we cannot ask, mercifully give us..." agrees with Paul's point in the verse following the end of today's epistle, the opening of next Sunday's, "...the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought." A woman whose weakness Christ helped was Mary Magdalene. Magdalene's feast was July 22.

The enmity between Jacob and his brother Esau, about which we read last Sunday, reached a pitch that pushed Jacob out of their home. That, and the desire that he, like their father Isaac, not marry a Canaanite native propel him toward Haran, in what is today Syria. On the way, while camping for the night, Jacob dreams of his famous "ladder," most likely a ramp such as those in front of Babylonian ziggurats. Angels go up and down it, and the Lord repeats to Jacob his promise of countless descendants. So moved is he by this experience of transcendence that he erects a cairn shrine on the spot, using stones, which are his "totems." Notice he uses a stone as a pillow, and soon he will win a bride by rolling a big stone off a well for her.

Psalm 139 is a meditation on God's presence everywhere, including within the psalmist's soul. Although written centuries after Jacob's era, one might imagine Jacob having used similar words, as in v 2, "You are about my path and about my bed," or, "You trace my journeys and my resting-places," literally, the lair where an animal lies down; and v 7, "If I make the grave my bed," literally, "if I bed down in Sheol," the underworld of the dead, (not hell-fire of the Gospel.)

Whereas the Lord promised Jacob physical offspring, spiritual off-spring is what Paul has in mind when he urges the Romans to bear up under their sufferings for they are adopted children of the Spirit. "When we cry, 'Abba,' Father," may be Paul's allusion to the Lord's Prayer. Like a woman in labor, all creation is waiting for God's glory to be revealed at what Matthew will describe as "the close of the age."

The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares stresses God's patience, as he postpones punishment until the Last Moment. The explanation attached five verses later stresses the fiery punishment (in gehenna, hell in the sense of torment), of the children of the evil one, in contrast with the righteous in the kingdom.

**Rev. Stephen Weissman**  
Asheville, North Carolina