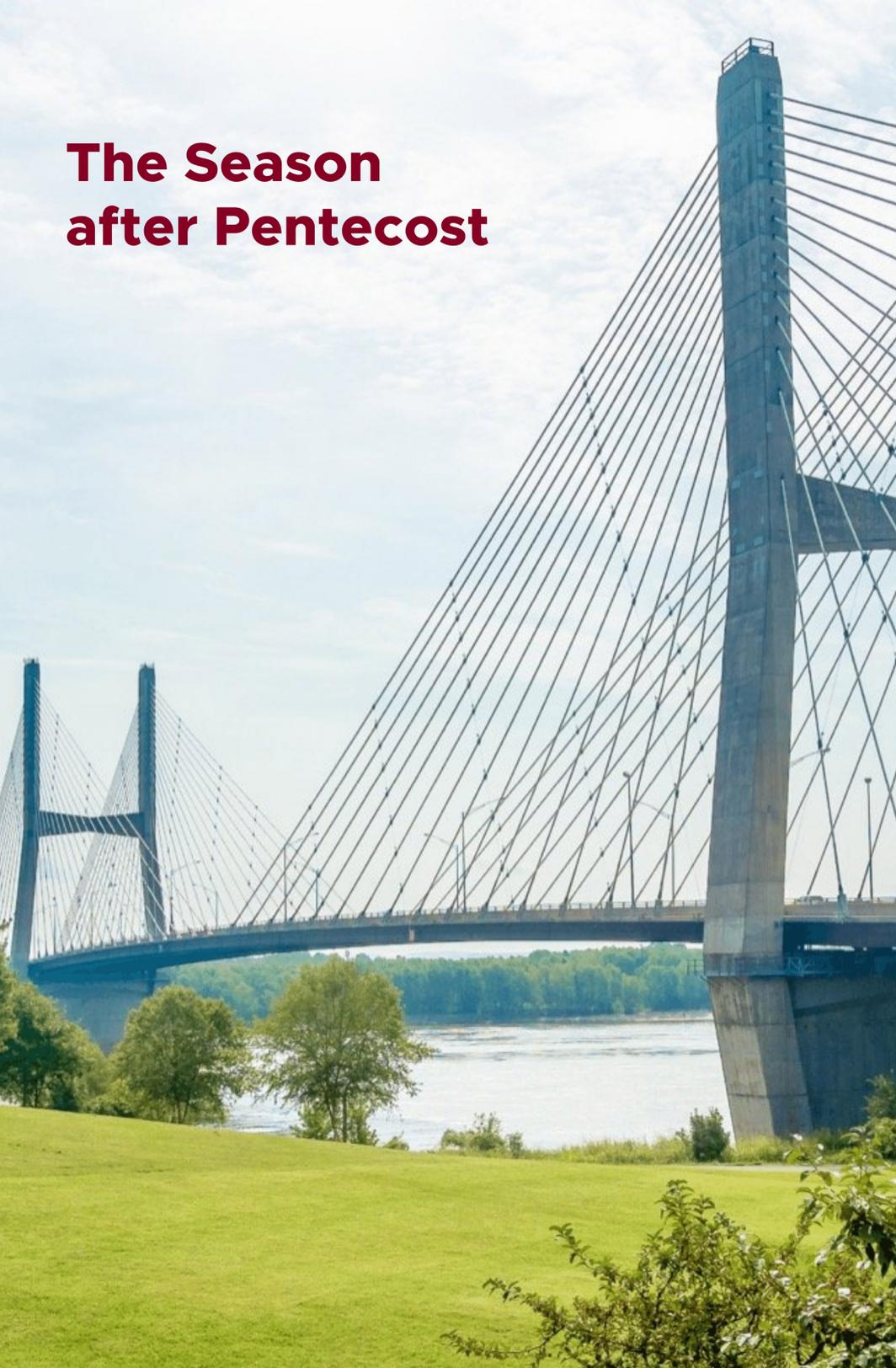


The Season after Pentecost





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

christchurchcape.org

Welcome to Christ Church!

We are so glad you have joined us for worship this morning. As we continue to recover from the recent COVID-19 pandemic, here are a few important guidelines for in-person services:

- Masks continue to be required for all indoor gatherings at this time.
- Social distancing is recommended between cohorts. Cohorts are family members and/or friends who agree to share close proximity to one another.
- No one should sit directly behind anyone else unless they are part of the same cohort.
- If possible, distance should be kept between cohorts.
- It is each parishioner's responsibility to follow social distancing guidelines, taking into consideration other parishioners' safety and level of comfort.

Gathering

Prelude

Mary Miller, Organist

"Toccata in Seven"

John Rutter

Processional Hymn

#492 Sing, Ye Faithful, Sing with Gladness

(See bulletin p.14)

Greeting

The People standing, the Bishop says:

Bishop: + Blessed be the One, Holy, and Living God.

***People:* Glory to God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Bishop then continues:

Bishop: There is one Body and one Spirit;

***People:* There is one hope in God's call to us;**

Bishop: One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

***People:* One God and Creator of all.**

Collect of the Day

BCP, p.231

Bishop: The Lord be with you.

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

Bishop: 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.**

The Readings

The First Reading

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19

David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. David and all the people with him set out and went from Baale-judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the LORD of hosts who is enthroned on the cherubim. They carried the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were driving the new cart with the ark of God; and Ahio went in front of the ark. David and all the house of Israel were dancing before the LORD with all their might, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals.

So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing; and when those who bore the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fatling. David danced before the LORD with all his might; David was girded with a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.

As the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal daughter of Saul looked out of the window, and saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.

They brought in the ark of the LORD, and set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it; and David offered burnt offerings and offerings of well-being before the LORD. When David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the offerings of well-being, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts, and distributed food among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, to each a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins. Then all the people went back to their homes.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

- 1 **T**he earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, *
the world and all who dwell therein.
- 2 For it is he who founded it upon the seas *
and made it firm upon the rivers of the deep.
- 3 "Who can ascend the hill of the LORD?" *
and who can stand in his holy place?"
- 4 "Those who have clean hands and a pure heart, *
who have not pledged themselves to falsehood,
nor sworn by what is a fraud.
- 5 They shall receive a blessing from the LORD *
and a just reward from the God of their salvation."
- 6 Such is the generation of those who seek him, *
of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.
- 7 Lift up your heads, O gates;
lift them high, O everlasting doors; *
and the King of glory shall come in.
- 8 "Who is this King of glory?" *
"The LORD, strong and mighty,
the LORD, mighty in battle."
- 9 Lift up your heads, O gates;
lift them high, O everlasting doors; *
and the King of glory shall come in.
- 10 "Who is he, this King of glory?" *
"The LORD of hosts,
he is the King of glory."

The Second Reading

Ephesians 1:3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely

bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sequence

LEVAS #118 Spirit Song

(See bulletin p.14)

The Gospel

Mark 6:14-29



Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

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

King Herod heard of Jesus and his disciples, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for

Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Bishop Deon Johnson

Presentation and Examination of the Candidate for Confirmation

BCP, p.413

The Bishop says:

Bishop: The Candidate will now be presented.

Presenters: I present Julie Wittenborn-Sikorski for Confirmation.

The Bishop asks the Candidate:

Bishop: Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

Candidate: I do.

Bishop: Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

Candidate: I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.

The Bishop addresses the congregation, saying:

Bishop: Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support Julie in her life in Christ?

People: **We will.**

The Bishop addresses the congregation, saying:

Bishop: Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant

Bishop: Do you believe in God the Father?

People: **I believe in God the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

Bishop: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People: **I believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who 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 God.
He will come again to judge
the living and the dead.**

Bishop: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People: **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.**

Bishop: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and

fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Prayers for the Candidate

The Bishop then says to the congregation:

Bishop: Now let us pray for Julie, who has renewed her commitment to Christ.

Reader: Deliver her, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: Open her heart to your grace and truth.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: Fill her with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: Keep her in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: Teach her to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: Send her into the world in witness to your love.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: Bring her to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

A period of silence follows. Then the Bishop says:

Bishop: Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in these your servants the covenant you made with them at their Baptism. Send them forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Bishop lays hands upon the Candidate and says:

Bishop: Strengthen, O Lord, your servant Julie with your Holy Spirit; empower her for your service; and sustain her all the days of her life. **Amen.**

The Bishop concludes with this prayer:

Bishop: Almighty and everliving God, let your divine hand ever be over these your servants; let your Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that they may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

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

People: **And also with you.**

The Offering

Here at Christ Church, we consider gratitude and generosity to be spiritual disciplines. While some of us still can't be together to pass the collection plate to one another in person, we encourage you to offer your gifts and service in any way that makes the most sense to you.

If you are worshiping with us online, [click here](#) to contribute to our ongoing ministry.

The plate offering for the first Sunday of each month is dedicated to the Rector's Discretionary Fund.

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

Offertory

"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"

CEC Men's Quartet

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

The People stand.

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 our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ,

your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

Sanctus

(See bulletin p.16)

The people stand or kneel. The Celebrant continues:

Celebrant: Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said:

“Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said:

“Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

And so, remembering all that was done for us: The cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ’s coming in glory, and presenting

to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

All: **Dying, you destroyed our death.
Rising, you restored our life.
Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

Celebrant: Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

All: **Blessed are you now and for ever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

People: **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed by 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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

***People:* Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

Fraction Anthem

(See bulletin p.17)

Communion

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

LEVAS #146 Break Thou the Bread of Life

(See bulletin p.17)

Prayer for Spiritual Communion St. Augustine's Prayer Book, p.192

Celebrant: Blessed Jesus, we believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since we cannot at this time receive communion, we pray you to come into our hearts. We unite ourselves with you and embrace you with all our heart, soul, and mind. Let nothing separate us from you; let us serve you in this life until, by your grace, we come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. ***Amen.***

Prayer after Communion

After communion, the Celebrant says:

Celebrant: 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.**

Sung Benediction

(See bulletin p.18)

"Send Us Now Into the World in Peace"

Richard Michael Joseph

The Blessing

Celebrant: 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.**

Announcements

(See bulletin p.20)

For more information about upcoming events at Christ Church and in the broader Cape Girardeau community, [click here](#) to sign up for our weekly email newsletter, or visit us online at christchurchcape.org.

Recessional Hymn

#686 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

(See bulletin p.19)

Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

Postlude

Mary Miller, Organist

"Trumpet Tune"

Charles Callahan



1 Sing, ye faith - ful, sing with glad - ness, wake your no - blest,
 2 Sing how he came forth from hea - ven, bowed him-self to
 3 So, he tast - ed death for mor - tals, he, of hu - man -
 4 Now on high, yet ev - er with us, from his Fa - ther's



sweet - est strain, with the prais - es of your Sa - vior
 Beth - lehem's cave, stooped to wear the ser - vant's ves - ture,
 kind the head, sin - less one, a - mong the sin - ful,
 throne the Son rules and guides the world he ran - somed,



let his house re - sound a - gain; him let all your
 bore the pain, the cross, the grave, passed with - in the
 Prince of life, a - mong the dead; thus he wrought the
 till the ap - point - ed work be done, till he see, re -



mu - sic hon - or, and your songs ex - alt his reign.
 gates of dark - ness, thence his ban - ished ones to save.
 full re - demp - tion, and the cap - tor cap - tive led.
 newed and per - fect, all things gath - ered in - to one.

Words: John Ellerton (1826-1893), alt.
 Music: *Finnian*, Christopher Dearnley (b. 1930)

87. 87. 87

LEVAS 118

Spirit Song

1. Oh, let the Son of God en - fold you, with His
 2. Oh, come and sing this song with glad - ness, as your

1. Spir - it and His love, Let Him fill your heart and
 2. hearts are filled with joy, Lift your hands in sweet sur -

1. sat - is - fy your soul. Oh, let Him
 2. ren - der to His name. Oh, give Him

1. have the things that hold you, and His Spir - it like a
 2. all your tears and sad - ness, give Him all your years of

1. dove, Will de - scend up - on your life, and make you
 2. pain, And you'll en - ter in - to life in Je - sus'

1. whole. Je - sus. Oh,
 2. name.

Je - sus, come and

fill your lambs.

Je - sus, Oh, Je - sus,

come and fill your lambs.

Words: John Wimber
 Music: John Wimber
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Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of pow-er and might, hea-ven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho -

- san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

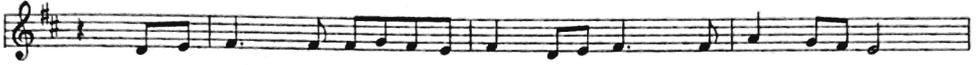
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Composer Tempo ♩ = 120

Agnus Dei



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

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LEVAS 146

Break Thou the Bread of Life

1. Break thou the bread of life, Dear Lord, to me,
2. Bless thou the truth, dear Lord, To me, to me,
3. Teach me to live, dear Lord, On - ly for thee,

1. As thou didst break the loaves Be - side the sea;
2. As thou didst bless the bread By Gal - i - lee;
3. As thy dis - ci - ples lived in Gal - i - lee;

1. Be - yond the sa - cred page I seek thee, Lord;
2. Then shall all bond - age cease, All fet - ters fall,
3. Then, all my strug - gles o'er, Then, vic - t'ry won,

1. My spir - it pants for thee, O liv - ing word!
 2. And I shall find my peace, My all in all.
 3. I shall be - hold thee, Lord, The liv - ing one.

Words: Mary A. Lathbury (1841-1913)
 Music: William F. Sherwin (1826-1888)

Send Us Now into the World in Peace

Book of Common Prayer

Richard Michael Joseph

Send us now in - to the world in peace, and

grant us strength and cour - age to love and serve you with

glad - ness and sin - gle - ness of heart through Christ our

Lord, A - men, A - men, A - men.

686

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

1 Come, thou fount of ev - ery bless - ing, tune my
 2 Here I find my great - est trea - sure; hith - er,
 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly

heart to sing thy grace! Streams of mer - cy nev - er
 by thy help, I've come; and I hope, by thy good
 I'm con - strained to be! Let thy good - ness, like a

ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
 plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
 fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to thee:

Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by
 Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger wan - dering
 prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to

flam - ing tongues a - bove. Praise the mount! Oh, fix me
 from the fold of God; he, to res - cue me from
 leave the God I love; here's my heart, oh, take and

on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love.
 dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
 seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Words: Robert Robinson (1735-1790), alt.

Music: Nettleton, melody from *A Repository of Sacred Music, Part II*, 1813

Servers

Priest-in-Charge
Eucharistic Minister
Verger
Reader
Host
Altar Guild
Organist
St. Isidore's Guild
Vestry Counter

Rev. Annette Joseph
Toni Alexander
Chris Masters
Carl Muench
Donna Richardet
Barbara Giddens
Mary Miller
Bruce Mims
Kevin Hampton

Music reprint & broadcast licensing:

OneLicense A-705012

Announcements

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Centering Prayer

Every Saturday morning at 8:30 a.m. in the CEC Sanctuary.

Evening Prayer

Every Wednesday evening at 5:30 p.m. in the CEC Sanctuary. Sign up to help with our Evening Prayer service rotation by visiting our website or by contacting the office through our weekly email newsletter.

Lay-Led Pastoral Care Team

Christ Church now has an enthusiastic lay pastoral care group that attends to the spiritual and emotional needs of CEC parishioners. They meet on the second Thursday of each month at different locations throughout Cape. Sign up for our weekly newsletter to learn more about how to get involved, or contact Gloria Miller at gnwmiller@yahoo.com.

VBS Planning Meeting

The VBS team will meet in the CEC Parish Hall on August 3 at 6 p.m. for one last walkthrough before VBS starts on August 9.

July 11 Confirmation and Bishop's Visit

Stick around after the service this morning for a special Coffee Hour Q&A with Bishop Deon.

PFLAG Support

The PFLAG Support Group will be meeting at 3 p.m. on Sunday, July 18. Email pflagcape@gmail.com for more details about how to get involved.

CEC Vestry Meeting

Vestry meets on the third Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. All regular CEC attendees are welcome at these meetings.

Community Supper: July 25

CEC's Community Suppers continue to be take-out only for the time being. This month's community supper is being planned by Cheryl and Dan Essner. Contact clessner@semo.edu to find out how you can help.

Spread Hope Now School Supply Giveaway

Christ Church has been invited to help out with Spread Hope Now's annual school supply giveaway on Saturday, Aug. 7, from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Malone Park in Sikeston. We have committed to donating 100 boxes of 10-pack Crayola markers (\$0.98 each at Walmart). Visit <https://bit.ly/3jxcWxR> to purchase the exact markers we need directly from the Walmart website.

#VBS2021: S.P.Y. Parables

Join Christ Church Cape from 6 - 8 p.m. on Aug. 9 - 13 for *S.P.Y. Parables*: An interactive VBS program about a **S**eed, a **P**earl, and **Y**east! Contact Rev. Annette (rector@christchurchcape.org) for more details about how to register your kiddo, or to volunteer with the program.

July 2021 Birthdays

- Harlie Waldon (July 1)
- Karen Cain (July 5)
- Judi Naeter (July 17)
- Matthew Heisserer-Miller (July 19)
- Dan Essner (July 27)

To have your birthday or anniversary added to the Sunday announcements, contact Joshua Smith at ministryintern@christchurchcape.org.

Notes on the Service

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

2 Sam. 1:1, 17-27 • Ps. 130 • 2 Cor. 8:7-15 • Mark 5:21-43

The collect is in a book sent by Pope Hadrian I to Charlemagne in 790.

To consolidate his position not only as military master of Israel, but as divinely anointed one, David transports to his new capital Jerusalem, the ark, the mobile shrine which had traveled with the tribes through Sinai and into the Promised Land, and even still into battles. The ark was a “medicine box” where God was closest to them. It was charged with divine energy, so that it blessed the house of Obedom, and so that (as verses omitted from today’s passage tell,) it killed Uzzah when he had inadvertently touched it. The ark’s progress from temporary resting places to a permanent site inside Jerusalem was accompanied by dancing. Dance is mentioned earliest in the Bible when Miriam dances at the Exodus from Egypt, and is mentioned again in psalms. Dangerous dance will recur in today’s Gospel.

Psalm 24 is a hymn for bearing the ark about Solomon’s temple, where it was finally housed. “Heads” of gates are their lintels. Scholars suspect that verses 3-6 about moral fitness were added to adapt a first-temple military march for the use of second-temple civilian pilgrims. In modern synagogues Ps 24 is sung when a Torah scroll is carried through the congregation.

From today through August epistles will be from Ephesians, which is a tract about the universality of salvation, asserting that God’s plan is to admit “you Gentiles” as well as “us Jews” to the kingdom. Today’s passage is a hymn praising God who has destined us all to be his children, according to his heretofore hidden but now disclosed purpose to unite everyone in Christ.

At the end of last Sunday’s Gospel passage, Mark reported a trial mission on which Jesus sent the twelve through Galilee. Although that mission was targeted solely to Jews, it prefigures the apostles’ later missions to pagan cities such as Ephesus, the address of today’s epistle, in their belief that God’s preordained plan was to include Gentiles. Most apostles would, like the outspoken prophet John the Baptist, be executed by frightened officials.

John’s death is the only story in Mark’s Gospel not about Jesus. Herod Antipas, Tetrarch of Galilee, had jailed John in a fort on the Dead Sea, according to Josephus, lest John incite a rebellion. Mark says Herod was tricked by his Jezebel-like queen and their daughter into beheading John. The episode was sensationalized in 1905 in Richard Strauss’ *Salome*. Strauss imagined the dancer was infatuated with the prophet.

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