



# The Season after Pentecost

# Gathering

## Prelude

Mary Miller, Organist

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"March"

David Johnson

## Processional Hymn

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#665 All My Hope On God Is Founded

(See bulletin p.14)

*All standing, the Celebrant says:*

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

***People:* And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

## Opening Collect

BCP, p.355

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*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.**

## Gloria

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WLP #900 Glory to God

(See bulletin p.15)

## Collect of the Day

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BCP, p.230

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant:* Let us pray: Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in your steadfast faith and love, that through your grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness, and minister your justice with compassion; for the

sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The Readings

### The First Reading

1 Samuel 15:34 - 16:13

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**S**amuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul. Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the LORD was sorry that he had made Saul king over Israel.

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is

the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

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

## The Psalm of Response

Psalm 20

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- 1 **M**ay the LORD answer you in the day of trouble, \*  
the Name of the God of Jacob defend you;
- 2 Send you help from his holy place \*  
and strengthen you out of Zion;
- 3 Remember all your offerings \*  
and accept your burnt sacrifice;
- 4 Grant you your heart's desire \*  
and prosper all your plans.
- 5 We will shout for joy at your victory  
and triumph in the Name of our God; \*  
may the LORD grant all your requests.
- 6 Now I know that the Lord gives victory to his anointed; \*  
he will answer him out of his holy heaven,  
with the victorious strength of his right hand.
- 7 Some put their trust in chariots and some in horses, \*  
but we will call upon the Name of the LORD our God.
- 8 They collapse and fall down, \*  
but we will arise and stand upright.
- 9 O LORD, give victory to the king \*  
and answer us when we call.

**W**e are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord – for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

*Reader:*        The Word of the Lord.

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

## Gospel Hymn

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LEVAS #184 Blessed Assurance

(See bulletin p.17)

## The Gospel

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Mark 4:26-34



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

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

Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

*Celebrant:* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Sermon

Rev. Annette Joseph

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## Affirmation of Faith

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*Celebrant:* Let us affirm our faith: Do you believe in God?

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

*Celebrant:* Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

***People:* We 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.**

*Celebrant:* Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

***People:* We 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.**

*Celebrant:* May Almighty God, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, and called us to ministry in Jesus Christ, keep us in eternal life by his grace; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Prayers of the People

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*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8)*

*Celebrant:* Let us offer our prayers and petitions to Almighty God.

*Reader:* Engage us O God in the renewal of this Diocese towards your Christ-centered vision. Help us to realize that we are bound one to another in our common life and ministry. Spirit of God;

***People:* We are listening.**

*Reader:* Empower us, O God, to energize the ministry of all the baptized, making our communities of faith healthy and holy places of your presence that reach out in compassion and hope in Christ's name. Spirit of God;

***People:* We are listening.**

*Reader:* Unite us, O God, to be compassionate and not competitive, to be consoling and not controlling, to be faithful and not fearful as we continue to build relationships in communities centered on the vision of your reign. Spirit of God;

**People: We are listening.**

*Reader:* Guide us, O God, to be responsible stewards here on earth, to prophetically witness to your reign. We pray especially for members of the United Nations, for Joseph, our President, for Michael, our Governor, Robert, our Mayor, and other civic leaders, that they may do justice and love mercy. Spirit of God;

**People: We are listening.**

*Reader:* Deliver us, O God, from mistrust of one another and the misuse of our gifts. Help us to see in our worshiping communities, large and small, growing and struggling your grace and promise. Spirit of God;

**People: We are listening.**

*Reader:* Heal us, O God, in our communities, our families, and in the hidden places in our hearts. We pray for those in this community who are ill or in any kind of need, especially \_\_\_\_\_. Give us the courage and the grace to be your presence among them. Spirit of God;

**People: We are listening.**

*Reader:* Comfort us, O God, as we remember all those saints who have gone before us in light and have finished their course in faith. Give to the departed the comfort of your promise and presence, especially \_\_\_\_\_. Spirit of God;

**People: We are listening.**

*Reader:* Support us, O God, as we support each other, particularly in Justin the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael our Presiding Bishop; Deon, our Bishop; Annette, our priest; and all who minister in witness in your Church. Spirit of God;

**People: We are listening.**

*Reader:* Teach us, O God, as we journey through the Christian life to continually engage each other, young and old, in the spiritual formation, discernment, discipleship and stewardship. Spirit of God;

**People: We are listening.**

*Celebrant:* O God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come: You have journeyed with your people Israel and we pray you, journey with us now, in this time of dreaming, daring and doing. Walk beside us on the road that is ahead, calm our fears, awaken our hope, and open our hearts, as together we seek your guidance. Inspire us to discern your will for the Diocese of Missouri. May we put our whole trust in you as we look to Christ, the great shepherd of our souls; who together with the Holy Spirit is alive and reigns now and forever. **Amen.**

## The Confession

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

*Silence may be kept.*

**All: 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 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

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*Celebrant:* 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.*

## The Offering

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*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.*

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

## Offertory Hymn

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#594 God of Grace and God of Glory

(*See bulletin p.18*)

## Holy Communion

### The Great Thanksgiving

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*The People remain standing.*

*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.19)*

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*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

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*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

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*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

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*(See bulletin p.19)*

## Communion

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*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

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#302 Father, We Thank Thee

*(See bulletin p.20)*

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

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*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

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*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.**

## The Blessing

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*Celebrant:* May God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, + the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## Recessional Hymn

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#525 The Church's One Foundation

*(See bulletin p.21)*

## Dismissal

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*Celebrant:* Let us go forth in the name of Christ. *Alleluia! Alleluia!*

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

## Postlude

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Mary Miller, Organist

"Postlude"

David Johnson



1 All my hope on God is found - ed; he doth still my  
 2 Mor - tal pride and earth - ly glo - ry, sword and crown be -  
 3 God's great good - ness e'er en - dur - eth, deep his wis - dom  
 \* 4 Dai - ly doth the al - might - y Giv - er boun - teous gifts on  
 5 Still from earth to God e - ter - nal sac - ri - fice of



1 trust re - new, me through change and chance he  
 2 tray our trust; though with care and toil we  
 3 pass - ing thought: splen - dor, light, and life at -  
 4 us be - stow; his de - sire our soul de -  
 5 praise be done, high a - bove all prais - es



1 guid - eth, on - ly good and on - ly true. God un -  
 2 build them, tower and tem - ple fall to dust. But God's  
 3 tend him, beau - ty spring - eth out of nought. Ev - er -  
 4 light - eth, plea - sure leads us where we go. Love doth  
 5 prais - ing for the gift of Christ, his Son. Christ doth



1 known, he a - lone calls my heart to be his own.  
 2 power, hour by hour, is my tem - ple and my tower.  
 3 more from his store new-born worlds rise and a - dore.  
 4 stand at his hand; joy doth wait on his com - mand.  
 5 call one and all: ye who fol - low shall not fall.

Words: Robert Seymour Bridges (1844-1930), alt., after Joachim Neander (1650-1680)

Music: Michael, Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

87. 87. 337

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, —  
 — and peace to his peo-ple on earth. — Lord God,  
 heav'n - ly King, al - migh - ty God and Fa - ther, — we wor - ship  
 you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry. —

(d = d. of preceding - same beat as before, not slower) Fa - ther, —

Lord Je - sus Christ, — on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,  
 Fa - ther, —  
 (d = d. of preceding - same beat as before, not slower) Fa - ther, —

Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
 world: — have mer - cy on us; — you are seat - ed at the right

hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer. For  
Fa - ther: re - ceive

Fa - ther: re - ceive

you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the

Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,

Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Setting: John Rutter (b. 1945)  
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1. Bless-ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! \_\_\_ O what a  
 2. Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per - fect de - light, \_\_\_ Vi - sions of  
 3. Per - fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest, \_\_\_ I in my

1. fore - taste of glo - ry di - vine! \_\_\_ Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of  
 2. rap - ture now burst on my sight; \_\_\_ An - gels de - scend - ing, bring from a -  
 3. sav - ior am hap - py and blest; \_\_\_ Watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a -

1. God, \_\_\_ Born of His spir - it, washed in His blood. \_\_\_  
 2. bove \_\_\_ Ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love. \_\_\_  
 3. bove, \_\_\_ Filled with His good - ness, lost in His love. \_\_\_

This is my sto - ry, this is my song, \_\_\_ Prais - ing my

sav - ior all the day long; \_\_\_ This is my sto - ry, this is my



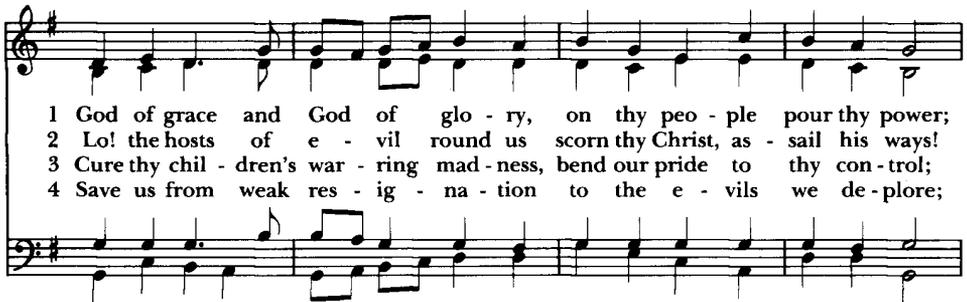
song, — Prais - ing my sav - ior all the day long. —

Words: Fanny J. Crosby (1820-1915)  
 Music: Phoebe P. Knapp (1839-1908)

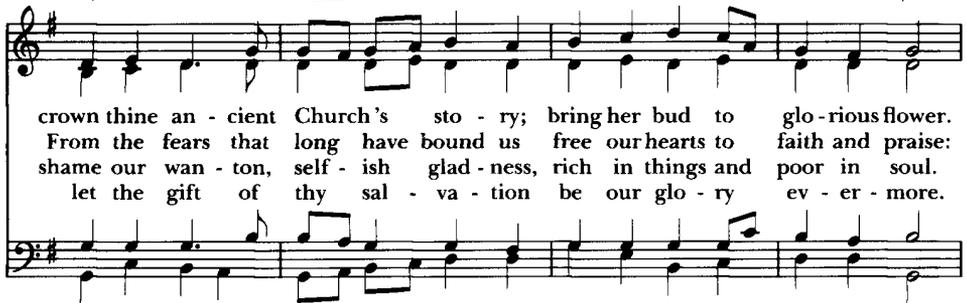
*Hymn continues on the next page.*

594

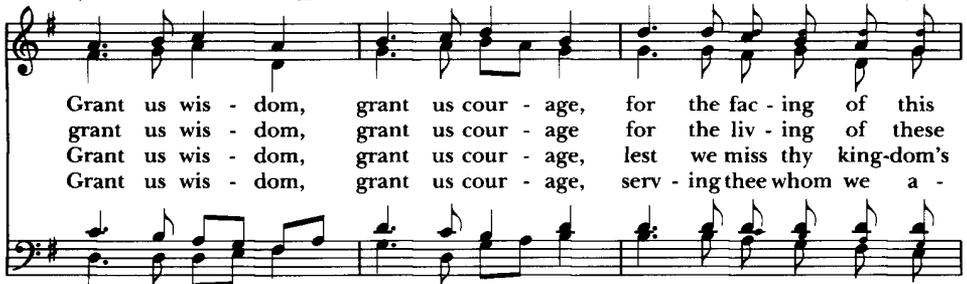
## God of Grace and God of Glory



1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple pour thy power;  
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as - sail his ways!  
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, bend our pride to thy con - trol;  
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils we de - plore;



crown thine an - cient Church's sto - ry; bring her bud to glo - rious flower.  
 From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise:  
 shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in things and poor in soul.  
 let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our glo - ry ev - er - more.



Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, for the fac - ing of this  
 grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age for the liv - ing of these  
 Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, lest we miss thy king - dom's  
 Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, serv - ing thee whom we a -

hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
 days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
 goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.  
 dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

Words: Harry Emerson Fosdick (1878-1969), alt.  
 Music: *Cum Rhondda*, John Hughes (1873-1932)

87. 87. 877

## 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 -  
 Blessed is the one  
 - 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.

Setting: Susan Calvin Fletcher © 2002 Susan Calvin Fletcher.  
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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.

Setting: Susan Calvin Fletcher © 2002 Susan Calvin Fletcher.  
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1 Fa - ther, we thank thee who hast plant - ed thy ho - ly Name with -  
 2 Watch o'er thy Church, O Lord, in mer - cy, save it from e - vil,

in our hearts. Know - ledge and faith and life im - mor - tal Je - sus thy  
 guard it still, per - fect it in thy love, u - nite it, cleansed and con -

Son to us im - parts. Thou, Lord, didst make all for thy plea - sure,  
 formed un - to thy will. As grain, once scat - tered on the hill - sides,

didst give us food for all our days, giv - ing in Christ the  
 was in this bro - ken bread made one, so from all lands thy

Bread e - ter - nal; thine is the power, be thine the praise.  
 Church be - gath - ered in - to thy king - dom by thy Son.

1 The Church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord;  
 2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,  
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der men see her sore op - pressed,  
 4 Mid toil and tri - bu - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war  
 5 Yet she on earth hath un - ion with God, the Three in One,

1 she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word:  
 2 her char - ter of sal - va - tion, one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
 3 by schi - sms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed;  
 4 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for ev - er - more;  
 5 and mys - tic sweet com - mun - ion with those whose rest is won.

1 from heaven he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;  
 2 one ho - ly Name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,  
 3 yet saints their watch are keep - ing, their cry goes up, "How long?"  
 4 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blessed,  
 5 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we

1 with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.  
 2 and to one hope she press - es, with ev - ery grace en - dued.  
 3 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.  
 4 and the great Church vic - to - rious shall be the Church at rest.  
 5 like them, the meek and low - ly, on high may dwell with thee.

Words: Samuel John Stone (1839-1900)

Music: Aurelia, Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876)

76. 76. D

## Servers

*Priest-in-Charge*

*Host*

*Altar Guild*

*Organist*

*St. Isidore's Guild*

Rev. Annette Joseph

Sue Balsamo

Randyn Heisserer-Miller

Mary Miller

Matthew Heisserer-Miller

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

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# Notes on the Service

## Third Sunday after Pentecost

1 Sam. 15:34 - 16:13 • Ps. 20 • 2 Cor. 5:6-17 • Mark 4:26-34

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The collect, a modern composition, is informed by Paul's doctrine of the church. But it is difficult to imagine Paul's having written a phrase as clumsy as "minister your justice with compassion...."

Last Sunday's reading from I Samuel was the story of the judge and king-maker Samuel's having chosen Saul, despite his misgivings, as the first king of Israel. Today we read that Samuel got so disillusioned with Saul that he searched for a replacement among the sons of Jesse the Benjaminite. Just as his ancestor Benjamin had been the favored youngest son of the patriarch Israel, so Jesse's youngest son is the favored one, the handsome herd-boy, David. Rubbing olive oil on the head will remain the prescribed ritual for king-making.

The "you/thee" for whom Ps.20 prays is an Israelite king, one of David's successors. A 2nd century pagan variant of Ps 20, either adapted from this psalm or derived from a polytheist original, has been found in Egypt.

As our epistles from II Corinthians continue, today Paul reminds his Corinthian converts that while they are "away from" the Lord insofar as they are living on earth, they must live by faith. Paul then [in the bracketed section] defends his ministry against the suggestion that some must have made that Paul was "beside himself" by saying that any such ecstasy he experienced was from the Lord. Paul will return to discussion of his mystical visions in a section of chapter 12 to be read July 4.

Today's passage finishes with Paul's Easter conviction that Christ died for all, and thus all now can live in Christ, who has made all creation new. This conviction entered the '79 Prayer Book in one Lenten proper preface and in Eucharistic Prayer D, "live no longer unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us...."

In Mark's Gospel, after Jesus has called his twelve apostles, he declares that his true family is not his biological relatives, but those who do God's will. Then follow several parables about the kingdom, expressed in agricultural terms. Today we hear two of those parables, the one about seed sown and sprouting on its own, and the one about mustard. The mustard seed parable is puzzling, because the variety of mustard grown in North America does not have an especially tiny seed, nor is it our biggest shrub.

June 14 will commemorate Basil the Great, 4th cent. master theologian, liturgist, and organizer of monastic communities of the Orthodox East.

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