



**The 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
September 13, 2020**

**Welcome**

**Opening Songs**

*You Are My King (Amazing Love)*

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken  
I'm accepted you were condemned  
I'm alive and well your Spirit is within me  
Because You died and rose again

I'm forgiven  
Because You were forsaken  
I'm accepted  
You were condemned  
I'm alive and well  
Your Spirit is within me  
Because You died  
And rose again

Amazing love  
How can it be  
That You my King  
Would die for me  
Amazing love  
I know it's true  
It's my joy to honor You

Amazing love  
How can it be  
That You my King  
Would die for me  
Amazing love  
I know it's true  
It's my joy to honor You  
In all I do I honor You

You are my King  
You are my King  
Jesus You are my King  
Jesus You are my King

I'm forgiven  
Because You were forsaken  
I'm accepted  
You were condemned  
I'm alive and well  
Your Spirit is within me  
Because You died  
And rose again

Amazing love  
How can it be  
That You my King  
Would die for me  
Amazing love  
I know it's true  
It's my joy to honor You  
In all I do I honor You!

*Come Thou Fount*

Come Thou fount of ev'ry blessing  
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace  
Streams of mercy never ceasing  
Call for songs of loudest praise  
Teach me some melodious sonnet  
Sung by flaming tongues above  
Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it  
Mount of Thy redeeming love

Here I raise mine Ebenezer  
Hither by Thy help I'm come  
And I hope by Thy good pleasure  
Safely to arrive at home  
Jesus sought me when a stranger  
Wand'ring from the fold of God  
He to rescue me from danger  
Interposed His precious blood

O to grace how great a debtor  
Daily I'm constrained to be  
Let Thy grace Lord like a fetter  
Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee  
Prone to wander Lord I feel it  
Prone to leave the God I love  
Here's my heart Lord take and seal it  
Seal it for Thy courts above

## Opening Acclamation

*Leader* The world belongs to God  
*All* **the earth and all its people.**

*Leader* How good it is, how wonderful  
*All* **to live together in unity.**

*Leader* Love and mercy come together;  
*All* **justice and peace join hands.**

*Leader* Open our lips, O God,  
*All* **and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.**

## Collect of the Day

*Clergy* The Lord be with you.

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

*Clergy* Let us pray.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## Reading

## Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

## Psalm 103:8-13

- 8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,  
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 9 He will not always accuse us,  
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
- 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins,  
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
- 12 As far as the east is from the west,  
so far has he removed our sins from us.
- 13 As a father cares for his children,  
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.

## Gospel Song

From the break - ing of the dawn to the set - ting of the sun, I will  
Through this dark and trou - bled land, You will guide me with Your hand as I  
stand on ev - 'ry pro - mise of Your word. Grace suf - fi - cient, grace for  
stand on ev - 'ry pro - mise of Your word.  
me, grace for all who will be - lieve, we will stand on ev - 'ry pro - mise of Your word.

From the breaking of the dawn  
To the setting of the sun  
I will stand on every promise of Your word  
Through this dark and troubled land  
You will guide me with Your hand  
As I stand on every promise of Your word  
Grace sufficient grace for me  
Grace for all who will believe  
We will stand on every promise of Your word

## Holy Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

*Priest* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I

forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

*Priest*        The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Sermon

**The Rev. Toppie Bates**

## The Apostles' Creed

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

*Leader*        Let us pray to the Lord who is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

*(A brief silence)*

*Leader*        Enliven the Church for its mission: In our Parishes, we pray for the people of St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, Hamilton and their priest, the Rev. Brooks Cato; and the people of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Horseheads and their priest, the Very Rev. Wanda Copeland. In our Companion Diocese, we pray for the Salvadoran people on Independence Day in El Salvador, September 15th. In the Episcopal Church, we pray for the people of the Diocese of Bethlehem and their bishop, the Rt. Rev. Kevin Nichols. And in the Anglican Communion, we pray for the Anglican Church of South America and their Presiding Bishop, the Most Rev. Gregory James Venables. May the church's life be marked by prayer and service to those in need.

*People*        **that we may reveal Christ in word and action.**

*Leader*        Lead this and every nation into ways of justice and peace,

*People*        **that we may respect one another in freedom and truth.**

*Leader* Inspire with your wisdom, those whose decisions affect the lives of others,  
*People* **that all may act with integrity and courage.**

*Leader* Awaken in us a sense of wonder for the earth and all that is in it,  
*People* **teach us to care creatively for its resources.**

*Leader* Restore all who suffer in body, mind or spirit, especially those we name now \_\_\_\_\_,  
*People* **may they know the power of your healing love.**

*Leader* We remember with thanksgiving, those who have died, especially those we name now \_\_\_\_\_,  
*People* **Give comfort to those who mourn, bring them peace in their time of loss.**

*Leader*

Lord you have called us to serve you. Grant that we may walk in your presence: your love in our hearts, your truth in our minds, your strength in our wills; until, at the end of our journey, we know the joy of our homecoming and the welcome of your embrace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Music for Reflection**

### *Take Forgiveness*

Take My body broken for you  
Offered freely if you will choose  
Drink My suffering poured out for sins  
Come believing in Me  
Take forgiveness

In remembrance of You I lift this cup  
Deeply grateful to You  
I lift it up and worship You  
For You say

Take My body broken for you  
Offered freely if you will choose  
Drink My suffering poured out for sins  
Come believing in Me  
Take forgiveness

In remembrance of You I lift this cup  
Deeply grateful to You  
I lift it up and worship You  
For You say

Take My body broken for you  
Offered freely if you will choose  
Drink My suffering poured out for sins  
Come believing in Me  
Take forgiveness  
Take forgiveness!

## The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

## Prayer for mission

God of all power and love, we give thanks for your unfailing presence and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss. Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire. Revive us to live as Christ's body in the world: a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbors, bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit. Wherever and however we gather, unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission, that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Announcements

### Anniversary & Birthday Blessings

**May the strength of God pilot you, May the power of God preserve you, May the wisdom of God instruct you, May the hand of God protect you, May the way of God direct you, May the shield of God guard you against the snares of evil and the temptations of the world. May the Spirit of God bless you in the coming year.**

*Adapted from Patrick, c.389 - c.46*

## Blessing

*Clergy* Now may God,  
who gives seed to the sower  
and grain to the reaper,  
provide all that we need  
so that we may produce a rich harvest  
of faith, love, justice, and joy  
for the good of the earth and its people  
and to the glory of God.  
And the blessing of God,  
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,  
be with you all now and evermore.

*All* **Amen.**

## Closing Song

### *Better Is One Day*

How lovely is Your dwelling place  
O Lord almighty  
For my soul longs and even faints for You  
For here my heart is satisfied  
Within Your presence  
I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings

Better is one day in Your courts  
Better is one day in Your house

Better is one day in Your courts  
Than thousands elsewhere  
Better is one day in Your courts  
Better is one day in Your house  
Better is one day in Your courts  
Than thousands elsewhere  
Than thousands elsewhere

One thing I ask and I would seek  
To see Your beauty  
To find You in the place  
Your glory dwells  
One thing I ask and I would seek  
To see Your beauty  
To find You in the place  
Your glory dwells

Better is one day in Your courts  
Better is one day in Your house  
Better is one day in Your courts  
Than thousands elsewhere  
Better is one day in Your courts  
Better is one day in Your house  
Better is one day in Your courts  
Than thousands elsewhere

My heart and flesh cry out  
For You the living God  
Your Spirit's water to my soul  
I've tasted and I've seen  
Come once again to me  
I will draw near to You  
I will draw near to You to You

Better is one day better is one day  
Better is one day than thousands elsewhere  
Better is one day better is one day  
Better is one day than thousands elsewhere

Better is one day in Your courts  
Better is one day in Your house  
Better is one day in Your courts  
Than thousands elsewhere  
Better is one day in Your courts  
Better is one day in Your house  
Better is one day in Your courts  
Than thousands elsewhere  
Than thousands elsewhere!

## Dismissal

*Clergy* Reconciled to God, made a new creation in Christ, and anointed by the Holy Spirit,  
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

*Additional sources for today's liturgy:*

A New Zealand Prayer Book  
Iona Abbey Worship Book  
Prayer for Sundays and Seasons