



THE 12TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, LECTIONARY 21, AUG 23, 2020

Welcome to worship! We are one family of faith even as we worship in-house and wherever we are sheltering in place. Let us gather together in heart and spirit, encouraging, praying and caring for one another.

In Isaiah God's people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God's deliverance will come soon, and will never end. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world. Our values and viewpoints are not determined by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ. As Jesus declares to Peter the church is and will be built on the rock of faith.

GATHERING

Announcements and time for prayer and preparation.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Blessed be the Trinity, Father, Son ✝ and Holy Spirit,
whose steadfast love is everlasting,
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. **Amen.**

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reforming God,

**You have promised to be with us and abundantly bless
yet in fear we are divided.**

**We confess that we do not trust your abundance,
failing to believe that you provide enough for all.
We close our hand to our neighbor,
and use your good creation carelessly for our own benefit.**

**We place our hope in ourselves, yet our efforts fall short of your love
and your children suffer.**

**By your grace, forgive us;
through your love, renew us;
and in your Spirit, re-form us ;
so that the world may know us by your love. Amen.**

Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all our sins. Now, seek good, and not evil; love mercy. Encourage one another to acts of love as we await the fullness of the coming Kingdom in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GREETING

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Let us pray: - *Silence*- O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**



The Readings

The first reading is from Isaiah, the 51st chapter.

¹Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness,
you that seek the LORD.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

²Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you;
for he was but one when I called him,

but I blessed him and made him many.
³For the LORD will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places,
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation;
for a teaching will go out from me,
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵I will bring near my deliverance swiftly,
my salvation has gone out
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.

⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats;
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Silence for Reflection

The second reading is from Romans, the 12th chapter

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment,

each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. The Word of the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

The Gospel, Matthew, is offered

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. May God be merciful and bless us;

let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice. *Alleluia.*

The Gospel according to Matthew, the 16th chapter! **Glory to you O Lord!**

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. The Gospel of our Lord! **Praise to you, O Christ!**

Teaching the Word/Sermon

CONFESSION OF FAITH & PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

When we were baptized into Christ, we received the promised gift of the Holy Spirit, that we would be made part of the Body of Christ and be strengthened in the

Spirit and power to follow Christ. Before God, and one another, let us confess the faith of the Church in trust and confidence.

**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 into hell.

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 CHURCH

Sustained by the promised hope of healing and new life, we join our voices and prayers with God's people in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Lord our rock, you are our foundation in Jesus Christ, your Son, and we confess You as the living God. Prepare your church here for the challenge of mission in these changing and challenging times. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our scholarship recipients: Skyler, Jacob, Stephen, Emily, Kaitlynn, Jason, Ashley, Rachel, Courtney, Shane and Gabriella and all students, that they may be blessed with a school year of learning, administrators committed to their safety and wellbeing, and teachers, professors, staff and volunteers with a deep desire to share wisdom. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, direct the leaders of countries, legislators and magistrates, mayors and councils, to walk in your ways. Help leaders regard those in need with mercy and fulfill your loving purposes in the governance of peoples. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here we may offer the needs of our hearts in the silence after each petition

Though we walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve us, deliver us, and fulfill your purpose for us. According to your steadfast love, grant healing and wholeness to those whose needs we bring before you:

all in need of wholeness from any and every cause of body, mind or spirit
and those unable to access care...

all weighed down by fear and loss and grief...

families struggling and stressed to meet the needs of work and home...

those struggling and anxious for health and balance in home and finances....

Hear our needs, and the needs known only to You. Be our strength to meet the days ahead. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Other petitions may be offered as there is need...

You are the everlasting Rock from which we were hewn, and you restore your people to joy and gladness. In blessed memory and hope, we thank you for the lives of our beloved dead. Bring us with them to our heavenly home. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace of the Lord be with you always! **And also with you!**

Pause to share Peace and offer thanks for God's gifts that sustain and bless us. If you wish, offer thanks out loud for blessings received, something or someone for whom you are grateful. Offerings can be made online by going to the website christpipersville.org, or using the QR code with your smartphone. Offerings can also be gathered and mailed.

Then continue:



Let us pray. *Silence* God of goodness and growth,
all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

Water and word, wine and bread:

these are signs of your abundant grace.

**Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love
in our communities and in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. Amen.**

A Brief Silence

Praise and thanks to you, holy God,
for by your Word you made all things:
you spoke light into darkness,
called forth beauty from chaos,
and brought life into being.

For your Word of life, O God,

We give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you called your people Israel
to tell of your wonderful gifts:
freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey,
a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you.

For your Word of life, O God,

We give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh,
you speak to us and call us to witness:
forgiveness through the cross,
life to those entombed by death,
the way of your self-giving love.

For your Word of life, O God,

We give you thanks and praise.

Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

Let us pray in the words Jesus taught us:

**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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The God of all grace + bless us now and forever.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Postlude

*We give thanks to God that we are able to gather where we are sheltering in place
and in-house, and for your faithful support as we move forward serving one
another and out community.*

POSTLUDE



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*'make a leg' is term from the 17th into the 18th c for an elegant bow made by a man.