

**The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 12, 2021**

**Prelude**

**The Liturgy of the Word**

*The Celebrant says*

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy, and Holy Spirit.

*People*

And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen

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**

**S-277**

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

*People*           The Lord be with you.  
                      And also with you.  
*Celebrant*       Let us pray.

**Collect of the Day**

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.*

## First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens--wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord  
*People*            Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 116:1-8

*Dilexi, quoniam*

- 1 I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, \*  
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.
- 2 The cords of death entangled me;  
the grip of the grave took hold of me; \*  
I came to grief and sorrow.
- 3 Then I called upon the Name of the LORD: \*  
"O LORD, I pray you, save my life."
- 4 Gracious is the LORD and righteous; \*  
our God is full of compassion.
- 5 The LORD watches over the innocent; \*  
I was brought very low, and he helped me.
- 6 Turn again to your rest, O my soul, \*  
for the LORD has treated you well.
- 7 For you have rescued my life from death, \*  
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.
- 8 I will walk in the presence of the LORD \*  
in the land of the living.

## Second Reading

James 3:1-12

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small

member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue-- a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

*Reader*                    The Word of the Lord  
*People*                    Thanks be to God.

## **Holy Gospel**

**Mark 8:27-38**

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

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

*Celebrant*            The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*                    Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## **Sermon**

**The Reverend Patricia Coller**

## **Nicene Creed**

*After a period of silence following the sermon, all stand and say*

**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,  
of one Being with the Father.  
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.*

### **The Prayers of the People**

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence, after which the reader says*

*For all people in their daily life and work;  
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.*

*For this community, the nation, and the world;  
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.*

*For the just and proper use of your creation;*

***For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.***

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

***For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.***

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

***For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.***

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, and Ian and Laura our Bishops, for Patricia, Laura and Jim our priests and for all bishops and other ministers;

***For all who serve God in his Church.***

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation especially

**Rebecca, Bob Kuzmich, Antonietta Rinaldi, Sun Wing Lui, Yuk Yee Cheung, Hailan Luo, Donald Lane, Jeff, Judy Stengel, Joan Bettini, Chris Moffat, Karen Johnson, Brenda Jones, Dave, Chris P., Tom Penny, Gina Bakota, Sandy, Cynthia Lordi, Tim Taylor, Walt Smith, Marilyn Neale, Ted Neale, John Beltz, Nick Vertucci, Susan, Don Bodell, Octavia Pierce, Kathie Powell, Tracy Lynn, David Van Vlack, Jean Walker, Lillian, Betty, Anna Pettinicchi and others we now name, (pause)**

Hear us, Lord;

***For your mercy is great.***

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life, especially those we now name.

*The People may add their own thanksgivings*

We will exalt you, O God our King;

***And praise your Name for ever and ever.***

We pray for all who have died, especially those we now name, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

*The People may add their own petitions*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

***Who put their trust in you.***

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins

Silence is kept.

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;**

**in your compassion forgive us our sins,**

**known and unknown, things done and left undone;**

**and so uphold us by your Spirit  
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,  
to the honor and glory of your Name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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**

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**

*Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

### **Announcements**

## **The Holy Communion**

*The Celebrant says an Offertory Sentence.*

**Offertory Anthem** The spacious firmament on high *Creation*

### **Great Thanksgiving**

*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 him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth

For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

### **Sanctus**

**S 124**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*Then the Celebrant continues*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ 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."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

*The Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*The Celebrant then continues*

And now, as our Savior  
Christ has taught us,  
we are bold to say,

*People and Celebrant*

**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.**

### **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**

**S 161**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.**

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.

*After Communion, the Celebrant says;*

Let us pray.

**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 priest blesses the people, saying*

**Blessing**

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

**Postlude****Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

practice of social distancing. Therefore mask wearing is **encouraged** at Christ Church. For those not fully vaccinated masks are **required**.

**MUSIC NOTE:** Because singing is known to be a vehicle for the spread of the COVID-19 virus, we will continue to refrain from congregational singing during our worship services for the time being. However, feel free to hum if you are wearing a mask!

**OFFERINGS AND PLEDGES** can now be made electronically. Simply log on to the Christ Church website at [christchurchstratford.org](http://christchurchstratford.org) and you will be able to click on a button to make your contribution. Offerings may also be dropped into the offering box at church, or mailed to the church office.

**DWELLING IN THE WORD** – a different kind of Bible Study will resume this Tuesday, September 14 at noon in the meeting room. Bring a brown-bag lunch...all are welcome! No experience necessary!

**CENTERING PRAYER** is a method of silent prayer in which we experience God's presence within us in a new way. Sometimes described as resting in God, it is the practice of opening our minds and hearts in order to deepen our relationship with God. Cyndi Casinelli will facilitate the practice of Centering prayer beginning on Tuesday September 21 at 10am. All are welcome.