



## SAINT JOHN'S

### *The Episcopal Church in Pine Meadow*

## The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 17, 2023

*Welcome to Saint John's! A brochure in your pews has information about our community and an opportunity to learn more about Saint John's. Please visit our website at [RedDoors.com](http://RedDoors.com) for more information. Greeters are available for questions or requests. Regarding our worship today: In this Order of Service instructional notes are in italics. Parts for the Community are in bold print. You will find the hymns in the Blue Hymnal in the pew rack. We thank you for worshipping with us today.*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

PRELUDE Adagio on O Love Divine, How Sweet Thou Art

A.Jordan

### THE TOLLING OF THE STEEPLE BELL

*The Community Stands*

HYMN 596 Judge Eternal, Throned in Splendor

### THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit

**And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

### THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.**

### THE GLORIA HYMN S280

**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.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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

Genesis 50:15-21

A Reading from The Book of Genesis.

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 103:1-13 *Benedic, anima mea*

The psalm appointed for today is a portion of Psalm 103. We will say the psalm in unison.

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, \***  
**and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.**  
**Bless the Lord, O my soul, \***  
**and forget not all his benefits.**  
**He forgives all your sins \***  
**and heals all your infirmities;**  
**He redeems your life from the grave \***  
**and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;**  
**He satisfies you with good things, \***  
**and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.**  
**The Lord executes righteousness \***  
**and judgment for all who are oppressed.**  
**He made his ways known to Moses \***  
**and his works to the children of Israel.**  
**The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, \***  
**slow to anger and of great kindness.**  
**He will not always accuse us, \***  
**nor will he keep his anger for ever.**  
**He has not dealt with us according to our sins, \***  
**nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.**  
**For as the heavens are high above the earth, \***  
**so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.**  
**As far as the east is from the west, \***  
**so far has he removed our sins from us.**  
**As a father cares for his children, \***  
**so does the Lord care for those who fear him.**

THE SECOND READING

Romans 14:1-12

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

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.

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

*The Community Stands*

HYMN 408 Sing Praise To God, Who Reigns Above

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. **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."

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

THE DOXOLOGY – HYMN 380 v. 3

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

SERMON

The Rev. Evelyn Wheeler

THE NICENE CREED

**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

Form III BCP p. 387

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

**That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

**That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;  
**That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

**That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

**That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

**That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Give to the departed eternal rest.

**Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

**May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*Silence*

We pray for Joseph our President, Ned our Governor, Daniel our Selectman, and all those who hold public office; and Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Jeffrey and Laura, our Bishops, Reverend Evelyn Wheeler our Supply Priest, and all those who lead your Church.

In the Episcopal Church in Connecticut we pray for St. John's, Stamford; Calvary, Stonington; St. Mark's, Storrs; Children and Children's ministries; and ministries for children for special needs.

We pray for the members of St. John's especially Sherri & Mel Johnson, Brian & Susan Jones, Marie Keefe, Phyllis Kelleher, Grace & Fernando Kelly, Joe Kenney, Barbara & Kenny Krohner, Mary & Dale Lemp, Kimberly & Jason Levesque and Nancy & Jeff Linton.

We pray for those celebrating birthdays this week; especially Barbara Hinman, Ginny Hoffmann, Michael Hayes and Ben Read.

We pray for the members of the armed forces, the diplomatic service, emergency responders and essential workers.

*The People may add their own petitions.*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask: Help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Deacon or Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People*

**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.**

*The Bishop, when present, or the Priest, stands and says*

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 Community stands*

THE PEACE

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

*The Community exchanges a sign of peace.*

THE OFFERTORY

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

*Ephesians 12:1*

OFFERTORY HYMN 411 vs. 1,2,4,5 O Bless The Lord, My Soul

*A collection is taken for the work of the Church.*

*The Community stands*

AT THE PRESENTATION OF ALMS

All things come of Thee, O Lord. **And of thine own have we given thee.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING – Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*The Community stands or kneels*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where 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 forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

THE SANCTUS

S129

**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.**

*The people stand or kneel.*

*Then the Celebrant continues*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.*

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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 LORD'S PRAYER

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

THE FRACTION AND INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

*The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is observed.*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

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.

THE ACT OF RECEPTION

**Gracious God, in union with the faithful across the Church, we thank you for gathering us as your people. We present ourselves to You, along with all who cannot gather around the altar at this time, believing and trusting in Your real presence in the sacrament of Holy Communion. We love you above all things; our soul longs for you. And so, we call to remembrance the many times we have been fed at your table. As we cannot now receive you sacramentally, we implore you to come spiritually into our hearts. We embrace you with all the affection of our soul. May this spiritual Communion be for us an armor of faith and shield of goodwill and liberation. Sustain us, heal us, and encourage us, with your Holy Spirit until we meet again as one Church and one Body. We ask this for your love. Amen.**

THE COMMUNION

*Please maintain an atmosphere of quiet reverence during communion.*

COMMUNION HYMN 516 Come Down, O Love Divine

*The Community Stands or Kneels*

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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 BLESSING

*The Presider faces the people and says*

May the Spirit of truth lead you into all truth, giving you grace to confess that Jesus Christ is lord, and to proclaim the wonderful works of God; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*The Community Stands*

RECESSIONAL HYMN 347 vs. 1,2,4 Go Forth for God, Go To The World in Peace

THE DISMISSAL Let us go forth in the name of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE Largo from Voluntary in E Flat Major

George Green