

Worship at Home, August 15, 2021
The Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. **We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.**

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honour and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

GATHERING SONG

EvLW # 535 Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises

Refrain

Hallelujah! We sing your praises,
all our hearts are filled with gladness.
Hallelujah! We sing your praises,
all our hearts are filled with gladness. *Repeat.*

1. Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread,
I am wine, I am bread, give to all who thirst and hunger. *Refrain*
2. And he sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt,
strong in faith, free of doubt. Tell to all the joyful gospel. *Refrain*

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Ever-loving God, your Son gives himself as living bread for the life of the world. Fill us with such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life to serve you continually, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

SERMON - Introduction

FIRST READING

1 Kings 2: 10-12, 3: 3-13

David slept with his ancestors and was buried in the city of David. The time that David reigned over Israel was forty years; he reigned seven years in Hebron, and thirty-three years in Jerusalem. So Solomon sat on the throne of his father David; and his kingdom was firmly established.

Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of his father David; only, he sacrificed and offered incense at the high places. The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the principal high place; Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. At Gibeon, the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honour all your life; no other king shall compare with you. If you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life."

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON - Part 1

- 1. Why might Solomon ask God for understanding to discern what was right instead of things for himself?*
- 2. In what ways could wisdom and discernment be important to this time at St. James?*

PSALM

Psalm 111

Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

Great are your works, O Lord, pondered by all who delight in them.

Majesty and splendour mark your deeds, and your righteousness endures forever.

You cause your wonders to be remembered; you are gracious and full of compassion.

You give food to those who fear you, remembering forever your covenant.

You have shown your people the power of your works in giving them the lands of the nations.

The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice; all of your precepts are sure.

They stand fast forever and ever, because they are done in truth and equity.

You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever; holy and awesome is your name.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who practice this have a good understanding.

God's praise endures forever.

SERMON - Part 2

1. *What gets in the way of trusting God in your life?*
2. *Several verses in Proverbs (The Message) offer insight into the benefits and real life results of a humble attitude of trust and respect for God ("The fear of the Lord"). Which outcome of the fear of God speaks to your life today?*

Proverbs 1:7

Start with God - the first step in learning is bowing down to God; only fools thumb their noses at such wisdom and learning.

Proverbs 9:10-12

Skilled living gets its start in the Fear-of-God, insight into life from knowing a Holy God. It's through me, Lady Wisdom, that your life deepens, and the years of your life ripen. Live wisely and wisdom will permeate your life; mock life and life will mock you.

Proverbs 2:1-5

Good friend, take to heart what I'm telling you; collect my counsels and guard them with your life. Tune your ears to the world of Wisdom; set your heart on a life of Understanding. That's right - if you make Insight your priority, and won't take no for an answer, Searching for it like a prospector panning for gold, like an adventurer on a treasure hunt, Believe me, before you know it Fear-of-God will be yours; you'll have come upon the Knowledge of God

Proverbs 8:13

The Fear-of-God means hating Evil, whose ways I hate with a passion - pride and arrogance and crooked talk.

Proverbs 14:27

The Fear-of-God is a spring of living water, so you won't go off drinking from poisoned wells.

Proverbs 15:16

A simple life in the Fear-of-God is better than a rich life with a ton of headaches.

Proverbs 19:23

Fear-of-God is life itself, a full life, and serene - no nasty surprises.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 5:15-20

Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON- Part 3

1. What might you/we do at St James to “give thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

GOSPEL

John 6:51-58

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said,] “I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” So Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON - Invitation to Pray Daily

O Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrod, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY

EvLW # 810 *O Jesus, I Have Promised*

1. O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
remain forever near me, my master and my friend.
I shall not fear the battle if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.
2. Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ever near.
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me, around me and within;
but, Jesus, then draw nearer to shield my soul from sin.
3. Oh, let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will.
Now speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
now speak and make me listen, O Guardian of my soul.
4. O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you
that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
oh, give me grace to follow, my master and my friend.

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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 INTERCESSION

Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

God of wisdom, enlighten your church. Guide theologians, biblical scholars, authors, and seminary professors as they seek greater knowledge and invite others into deeper understanding. Teach us to ask faithful questions and open our minds to new ideas. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of creation, mend the earth. Cool warming oceans and preserve melting ice caps. Increase our awareness of changing climate patterns and reveal new approaches to the ecological challenges we face. Shield those in the path of hurricanes or tropical storms. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all nations, direct our leaders. Grant them courage to lay aside political grudges and renew their determination to address difficult conflicts. Guide them in the work of reconciliation. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, tend to the wounded. Rescue those tormented by mental illness or mired in addiction. Ease the anxiety of those struggling with dementia. Come quickly to help all who are grieving and all those who suffer especially Beryl, Daryl, Elethia, Ferolyn, Jordon, Pat, and those we name quietly in our hearts. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of beauty, inspire artists. Bless those whose visual and musical gifts enliven this assembly especially Mark and Rod. Bless the creative work of poets, hymnwriters, composers, painters, sculptors, and others that enrich our worship and daily life. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of resurrection, bring us to new life. Give us the living bread from heaven through which we abide in your love, and on the last day raise us with all the saints to eternal life. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with us always.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray. **O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory forever. Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favour and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

EvLW # 689 *Praise and Thanksgiving*

1. Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer for all things living,
you have made good: harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.
2. God, bless the labour we bring to serve you,
that with our neighbour we may be fed. .Sowing or tilling,
we would work with you, harvesting, milling for daily bread.
3. Father, providing food for your children,
by Wisdom's guiding teach us to share one with another,
so that, rejoicing with us, all others may know your care.
4. Then will your blessing reach ev'ry people,
freely confessing your gracious hand. Where you are reigning,
no one will hunger; your love sustaining showers the land.

DISMISSAL

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Thanks be to God.**

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon	Aug 16	Genesis 43:1-15	Acts 6:1-7	Psalm 36
Tue	Aug 17	Genesis 45:1-15	Acts 7:9-16	Psalm 36
Wed	Aug 18	Genesis 47:13-26	Mark 8:14-21	Psalm 36
Thu	Aug 19	Joshua 22:1-9	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Psalm 34:15-22
Fri	Aug 20	Joshua 22:10-20	Romans 13:11-14	Psalm 34:15-22
Sat	Aug 21	Joshua 22:21-34	Luke 11:5-13	Psalm 34:15-22
Sun	Aug 22	Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18	John 6:56-69	Psalm 34:15-22 (15) Ephesians 6:10-20

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