



St. John's Episcopal Church

**St. John's Episcopal Church
Helena, Arkansas**

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

August 7, 2022

**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.**

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

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

THE LESSONS

FIRST READING

Genesis 15:1-6

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of Genesis.

¹The word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” ²But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” ⁵He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

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

PSALM

Psalm 33:12-22

Remain seated and read responsively by whole verse.

¹²Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD! *
happy the people he has chosen to be his own!

¹³**The LORD looks down from heaven, ***
and beholds all the people in the world.

¹⁴From where he sits enthroned he turns his gaze *
on all who dwell on the earth.

¹⁵**He fashions all the hearts of them ***
and understands all their works.

¹⁶There is no king that can be saved by a mighty army; *
a strong man is not delivered by his great strength.

¹⁷**The horse is a vain hope for deliverance; ***
for all its strength it cannot save.

¹⁸Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon those who fear him, *
on those who wait upon his love,

¹⁹**To pluck their lives from death, ***
and to feed them in time of famine.

²⁰Our soul waits for the LORD; *
he is our help and our shield.

²¹**Indeed, our heart rejoices in him, ***
for in his holy Name we put our trust.

²²Let your loving-kindness, O LORD, be upon us, *
as we have put our trust in you.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

The people sit.

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Hebrews.

¹Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

²Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. ⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going.

⁹By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise.

¹⁰For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is

God. ¹¹By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.” ¹³All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN *Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly Dove* (H 510)

All stand.

GOSPEL

Luke 12:32-40

All stand.

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

[Jesus said to his disciples,] ³²“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

³⁹“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

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

THE SERMON

Rev. Teresa Cantrell

THE CREED

(BCP 358)

All standing

**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

Congregation may stand or kneel.

Do not be afraid, children of Abraham; God, your God, is your shield. So, let us approach our God, saying, "Let your loving-kindness, O Lord, be upon us; we put our trust in you."

As your Church, we confess that we are strangers seeking a homeland. Do not be ashamed to call yourself our God and make us worthy of that heavenly city you have prepared for us.

Silence

Let your loving-kindness, O Lord, be upon us;

We put our trust in you.

Mighty God, you behold all of the people in the world. May all tribes and nations come to understand that our strength is not found in violence or weapons but in the power of your love.

Silence

Let your loving-kindness, O Lord, be upon us;

We put our trust in you.

Creator God, you are the one who made the stars of heaven and the sand by the seashore. We bless and honor you for the gifts of creation.

Let your loving-kindness, O Lord, be upon us;

We put our trust in you.

Defend the orphans, O God; rescue the oppressed; show compassion to those who feel lonely or isolated. And let the heavens declare the rightness of your cause.

Silence

Let your loving-kindness, O Lord, be upon us;

We put our trust in you.

Comfort and heal the sick and the sorrowful, especially those suffering from covid – 19, and the people of Ukraine and their refugees in foreign lands. May they know that you are their help and shield. Deliver them from all fear and help them to trust in your righteousness.

Let your loving-kindness, O Lord, be upon us;

We put our trust in you.

And with one voice, let us all pray,

O God, who has blessed and sustained this parish through the years; we ask that you continue to lead us, stretch us, and direct us in our search for a new rector. Raise for us, we pray, a priest and pastor who will boldly proclaim your Gospel, faithfully administer your sacraments, and serve your people with love and compassion, that we may continue to grow in the likeness of Christ and be a beacon of love and hope to our community and the world. To the glory of your holy Name. Amen.

Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. We praise you, God, that those who have died are welcomed home, where they will dwell with all men and women of faith in the city you have prepared for them. We remember especially today, Walter L. & Bennette Morris, Sr., Walter L. Morris, IV (Walt), & James H. McCain.

Let your loving-kindness, O Lord, be upon us;

We put our trust in you.

The celebrant may add a concluding collect

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

CONFESSION OF SIN

(BCP 360)

The 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 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 PEACE

All stand.

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 and birthday and anniversary blessings.*

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

(BCP 368)

The People stand or kneel.

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 the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. John the Evangelist, and 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 LORD'S PRAYER

(BCP 364)

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

People remain kneeling in silence as soloist sings our prayer for 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 Breaking of the Bread

FRACTION ANTHEM *Christ our Passover (Hurd)* (S-154)

All sing

(Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.)

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast.

(Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.)

The Celebrant says

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 ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.

The Bread and the Cup are given to all baptized persons. The wine is received three ways: The Common Cup, Intinction (**slightly** dipping the wafer into the wine not allowing one's fingers to touch the wine), and Spiritually (by crossing one's arms over one's chest until the chalice passes by).

COMMUNION MUSIC

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

**Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

BLESSING

The Priest blesses the people

POST-COMMUNION HYMN *Jesus shall reign where'er the sun* (H 544)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

A Note on Today's Readings

Proper 14: Sunday closest to August 10—Year C

Welcome to our parish. Central to today's liturgy is the gospel call to live always in expectation of the Lord's return. That stance of waiting enables us to put all other aspects of our lives in the correct order. Material needs become not irrelevant, but secondary to our life in relationship to God in Christ. Jesus calls us to live as though he is at hand. The Eucharist is the repeated foretaste of the coming of the Lord to take us into the kingdom.

We will spend several Sundays reading through the concluding portion of Hebrews. This section deals with the call to faith that we have in Christ. Our forebearers in the faith, especially Abraham and Sarah, are presented as models of this faith, which is described as the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things unseen. It is in remembering that God was faithful to our ancestors in faith that we are equipped for our own time of waiting.

The first reading relates God's promise to Abraham and Sarah, old and childless, to give them an heir and produce from them a new people. For the first time, the Scriptures express what will become central to the Gospel proclamation: righteousness depends on faith.

As we gather to celebrate the Eucharist, we are upheld in our expectation of Jesus' promise to take us into his kingdom by the memory of our mothers and fathers in the faith whose hope was fulfilled by God.

From *The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year*. Copyright © 2007 by Michael W. Merriman. Church Publishing Incorporated, New York.

Welcome to St. John's. We are glad you are here to worship with us today and enjoy the great music. We are so very happy to have with us again our special soloist Kallen Esperian.

Please keep the following in your prayers: Debra Richardson, Kathy Sullivan, Courtney Turner, Kathleen Gibson, Cole Jefferies, Carol Spencer, Bonnie & Charles Rowland, Jo Liddy, Janet Juengel, Jim Howe, Cliff Clark, Sylvia Ross, Linda Dowling, Susan Taylor, Abigail Grace Fox, Sarah Jones, Pam Catlett, Debbie Ewart, Vivian Wright, Chuck Pierotti, and Susan Carter.

St. John's continues to support the Angels of Grace and the Anchor Mission ministries. Grace Food Pantry – plastic bags go in the labeled container in the narthex. Thank you for your donations. They are all greatly appreciated and needed.

Bingo at The Manor, Tuesday, August 9, from 1 'til 2 pm. There is a small box at the back of the church for prize donations.

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The Most Rev. Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury
The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church
The Rt. Reverend Larry R. Benfield, Bishop of Arkansas
Rev. Teresa Cantrell

The Vestry of St. John's Church, Helena

Allison Biederman, Senior Warden (2022)
Ed Pat Wright, Junior Warden (2023)
Brooke Tappan, Clerk (2023), Tap Jennings (2023)
Mark Rogers (2022), Susan Carter (2022)
West Hornor (2024), Ned Pillow (2024)
Walter Morris, Treasurer

Pianist –Dagmar Bergan

Organist – Dr. Gabriel Statom

Soloist – Kallen Esperian

Lay Eucharist Minister – Ann Lee

Acolyte – Eli Pillow

Ushers – Bob Lee

Facebook Live – Jessica Pillow

Altar Guild – Julie Pittman & Andrea Clark

Angelic Autos – Paulette Parker

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and
in memory of Bennette & Walter L. Morris, Sr.,
Walter L. Morris, IV (Walt), & James H. McCain.

Given by Walter & Jayne Morris