

THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 8, 2020 10:30 am

Proper 27

PRELUDE

Præludium g-moll, BuxWV 163

D. Buxtehude (c. 1637-1707)

The Complete Organ Works of Dietrich Buxtehude: XI

HYMN 68

Rejoice! rejoice, believers

Tune: *Llangloffan*

1 Re - joice! re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear!
 2 See that your lamps are burn - ing, re - ple-nish them with oil;
 3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.
 a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this dark-en ed sphere!

The Bride-groom is a - ris - ing, and soon he will draw nigh;
 The mar - riage - feast is wait - ing, the gates wide o - pen stand;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! at mid - night comes the cry.
 rise up, ye heirs of glo - ry, the Bride-groom is at hand!
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

Words: Laurentius Laurenti (1660-1722); tr. Sarah B. Findlater (1823-1907), alt.
 Music: *Llangloffan*, melody from *Hymnau a Thonau er Gwasanaeth yr Egbeys yng Nghymru*, 1865

THE OPENING SENTENCE

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

Book of Common Prayer p. 355

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

THE COLLECT OF 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.**

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

All sit for the lessons

FIRST LESSON

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

A reading from the book of Joshua.

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. "Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God." But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the Lord!" Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 78:1-7 (S-413)

Simplified Chant: Robert Knox Kennedy (b. 1945)

In this style of chanting, the slashes in the text indicate when to change notes in the chant.

- 1 **Hear my teaching, O my / people; ***
incline your ears to the words of my / mouth.
 - 2 **I will open my mouth in a / parable; ***
I will declare the mysteries of ancient / times.
 - 3 **That which we have heard and known,**
and what our forefathers have / told us, *
we will not hide from their / children.
 - 4 **We will recount to generations to come**
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the / Lord, *
and the wonderful works he has done.
 - 5 **He gave his decrees to Jacob**
and established a law for / Israel, *
which he commanded them to teach their / children;
 - 6 **That the generations to come might know,**
and the children yet un-/born; *
that they in their turn might tell it to their / children;
- Second half of chant*
- 7 **So that they might put their trust in / God, ***
and not forget the deeds of God,
but keep his com-/mandments.

SECOND LESSON

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Plainsong

The cantor introduces the Alleluia, and then all join.

The cantor sings the verse below, and then all repeat the Alleluia.

Cantor *All*

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

V: The five wise virgins brought flasks of oil with their lamps, and at midnight a cry was heard: "Behold, the bridegroom comes; go forth to greet him, Christ, the Lord." (Matthew 25)

A musical score for 'Alleluia' in G major. The key signature has one sharp. The tempo is marked 'All'. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the notes. The music consists of a single melodic line on a treble clef staff.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 25:1-13

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE HOMILY

Fr. Bruce Walker

Silence may be kept after the homily.

All stand, as able

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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FORM III

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. Saying together **Roscoe, Josephine, Larry, Bill, Gisela, Catherine, James, John, Susan, Betty, Ruth, Corwin, Beth, Janet, Bob, Burtchus, Dickinson, Oscar, Jane, Christine, Sally, Paige, Sherry, Alan, Pam, Elaine, Ricky, Beverly, Lee, and all those on our long term prayer list.** Are there others? (Please add the names of others either silently or aloud)

In thanksgiving we pray for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries in the coming week, especially **Stephanie Williams (8), Pat Jenson (8), Dickinson & Judi Gustafson (9).**

We pray for all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad especially those listed on our military prayer list. We pray also for their families, friends, and neighbors who await their safe return.

We pray for our sister church St. Gabriel's. In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for the Diocese of Western North Carolina Convention and all Delegates. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the Church in the Province of the West Indies.

We pray for our missionaries and their work in the world, for **Russ and Heidi Smith in Chile, John and Zsófi Wilson in Hungary, Daniel & Rachel Aytes in Thailand, and Jim & Jennifer Bowers in Mali.**

We pray for St. Francis Day School, and for its students and teachers and their families, that they may grow in stature and wisdom, and in the knowledge and love of your grace and truth.

A Prayer for our Time of Transition

O God, as we proceed through this interim time, we confidently rely upon your Holy Presence to guide us, and we are thankful for the many blessings you have bestowed upon the parishes of St. Francis and St. Gabriel's.

May we use this time well to discern your will for us in our reading of Sacred Scripture, in our celebration of the Holy Eucharist, through our sensitivity to one another, in our personal meditation and prayer, and through our sharing with others in fellowship.

We ask this, Lord of our lives, through your son Jesus, and through your Holy Spirit, who teaches us how to pray, and how to live together in peace forever. Amen.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

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 ABSOLUTION

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.

The ministers and people greet each other in the name of the Lord.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

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

THE DOXOLOGY

Tune: *Old 100th*

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. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING - Prayer A

The people remain standing.

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.

Then the Celebrant proceeds

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

PROPER PREFACE

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-129)

Robert Powell (b. 1932)

A musical score for three voices (SATB) in common time and G major. The vocal parts are: Tenor (T), Bass (B), and Alto (A). The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est." The score includes three staves of music with corresponding lyrics underneath each note. There are several grace notes and slurs. Measure numbers 1-12 are indicated above the staff.

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.

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:

Celebrant and People

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.**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to pray,

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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS (*The minister and the people receive communion at this time.*)

A spiritual Communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive holy communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion. Please note elements are being made available, prior to the liturgy, for use at this time. Details can be found in the Lych Gate.

INVITATION TO THE EUCHARIST FOR THOSE AT HOME (may be said during communion)

In union with the faithful of every generation and especially with those present at Saint Francis Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer my own thanks and praise to You, my Lord and my God. I present my mind, soul and body towards heaven with the earnest intention of being present in spirit with those who call You, Lord of all. I remember Your death and resurrection and I await Your coming in glory. I unite myself with those gathered at your altar and embrace You with all my heart, knowing that nothing can ever separate Your love from me. May I live, move and have my being in Your loving presence. Amen (prayer adapted from the Armed Services Prayer Book by Fr. Walker+)

HYMN 462

The Lord will come and not be slow

Tune: York

1 The Lord will come and not be slow, his foot - steps can - not err;
2 Truth from the earth, like to a flower, shall bud and blos - som show;
3 Rise, God, judge thou the earth in might, this wick - ed earth re - dress;
4 The na - tions all whom thou hast made shall come, and all shall frame
5 For great thou art, and won-ders great by thy strong hand are done:

1 be - fore him right-eous - ness shall go, his roy - al har - bin - ger.
2 and jus - tice, from her heaven - ly bower, look down on us be - low.
3 for thou art he who shalt by right the na - tions all pos - sess.
4 to bow them low be - fore thee, Lord, and glo - ri - fy thy Name.
5 thou in thy ev - er - last - ing seat re - main - est God a - lone.

Words: John Milton (1608-1674), alt.

Music: *York*, melody from *The Cl. Psalms of David*, 1615; adapt. *The Whole Book of Psalms*, 1621; harm. John Milton, Sr. (1563?-1647)

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.

THE BLESSING

HYMN 596

Judge eternal, throned in splendor

Tune: *Komm, o komm,
du Geist des Lebens*

1 Judge e - ter - nal, throned in splen - dor, Lord of lords and
 2 Still the wea - ry folk are pin - ing for the hour that
 3 Crown, O God, thine own en - deav - or; cleave our dark - ness

King of kings, with thy liv - ing fire of judg - ment
 brings re - lease, and the ci - ty's crowd - ed clang - or
 with thy sword; feed all those who do not know thee

purge this land of bit - ter things; sol - ace all its
 cries a - loud for sin to cease; and the home - steads
 with the rich - ness of thy word; cleanse the bo - dy

wide do - min - ion with the heal - ing of thy wings.
 and the wood-lands plead in si - lence for their peace.
 of this na - tion through the glo - ry of the Lord.

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

POSTLUDE

Gott der Vater wohn uns bei, BuxWV 190
("God the Father, be our Stay")

D. Buxtehude (c. 1637-1707)

The Complete Organ Works of Dietrich Buxtehude: XI

COMMUNION NOTES

A spiritual Communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive holy communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion. Please note elements are being made available, prior to the liturgy, for use at this time. Details can be found in the Lych Gate.

LONG TERM PRAYER LIST:

Addison, Zoey, Courtney, Tom, Harper, Emmanuel, Kimberly, Maureen, Edmonds, Diana, Michael, Tony, Becca, Brian.

MUSIC NOTES

This Sunday will be the eleventh installment of our complete series of Buxtheude's organ music, and we'll have two delightful pieces.

The prelude (*Præludium in G minor*, BuxWV 163) is about 6 or 7 minutes long, and is just a blast to play! In the middle of the piece, there's a *gigue* fugue, which means that it's a kind of dance. It's for "manuals only," meaning that there isn't a pedal part, meaning it was probably written for harpsichord instead of the pipe organ. Nonetheless, it gets counted in the organ repertoire, so we'll include it on our series!

The postlude (*Gott der Vater wohn uns bei*, BuxWV 190) is a sacred-work, meaning that it's based on a hymn-tune, but not one in our hymnal or any other hymnal we all might be familiar with. It was written Martin Luther in 1524. Here's the first verse: "God the Father, be our Stay, and let us perish never! Cleanse us from our sins, we pray, and grant us life forever. Keep us from the Evil One; uphold our faith most holy, grant us to trust Thee solely with humble hearts and lowly. Let us put God's armor on, with all true Christians running our heav'ly race and shunning the devil's wiles and cunning. Amen, Amen, this be done; so sing we then, Alleluia!" The second and third verse are the exact same, except beginning with "God the Son..." and then "God the Spirit..." Perhaps it feels rather dark and dire?

Some Christians throughout the world, especially the Eastern Church (Greek Orthodox, Russian Orthodox, etc.) observe the season of Advent for *seven weeks* rather than four weeks like the rest of us. Frankly, that practices makes some sense. Throughout the season after Pentecost, the readings for Sunday morning focus on the teachings of Christ and the ministry we all share. But after All Saints' Day, the readings take a turn towards the second coming. The liturgical heartbeat of the Church accelerates. This climaxes in the last Sunday after Pentecost, which we call "The Feast of Christ the King," and then on the next Sunday, then we begin the liturgical year all over again on the first Sunday of Advent. But really, does Advent take us back to Christ's first coming, or does it focus on the second coming? Does Advent return us to something old, or is it about celebrating what will eventually be new?

The answer is both, but the emphasis on "what will eventually be new" is often lacking. I'm not sure I have much else to say about that, but I invite you to join me in contemplating what this all means. The hymns will, of course, reflect the themes of the scripture.

- Thomas Alexander