

St. Francis Episcopal Church

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 20 September 24, 2023 9:30 am

Welcome to St. Francis. Your presence among us deepens and enriches our worship, and for that we are grateful. In this service leaflet, the people's responses are in **bold**. The time prior to the service is set aside for prayerful waiting and reflection. Please be respectful in observing silence at this time. Please silence all electronic devices. If you are a guest this morning and would like to know more about St. Francis, please fill out a visitor card in the pew pocket and place it in the offering plate. The Rev. Toni Belhu would like to sit down with you for a visit. You may reach her at the church office at 828-287-3888 ext. 2 or her cell at 704-215-1882.

THE PRELUDE



Words: Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965), alt. By permission of David Higham Associates Limited, London. Music: *Bunessan*, Gaelic melody; harm. Alec Wyton (b. 1921). Harmonization Copyright © by The Church Pension Fund.

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

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.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO (S-280)



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**.

All sit for the lessons

FIRST LESSON

A reading from the Book of Jonah.

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live." But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?" The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 145:1-8

Book of Common Prayer p. 801

I will exalt you, O God my King, *

 and bless your Name for ever and ever.

 Every day will I bless you *

 and praise your Name for ever and ever.

Jonah 3:10-4:11

- 3 Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; * there is no end to his greatness.
- 4 One generation shall praise your works to another * and shall declare your power.
- 5 I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty * and all your marvelous works.
- 6 They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts, * and I will tell of your greatness.
- 7 They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; * they shall sing of your righteous deeds.

8 The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, * slow to anger and of great kindness.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: * as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

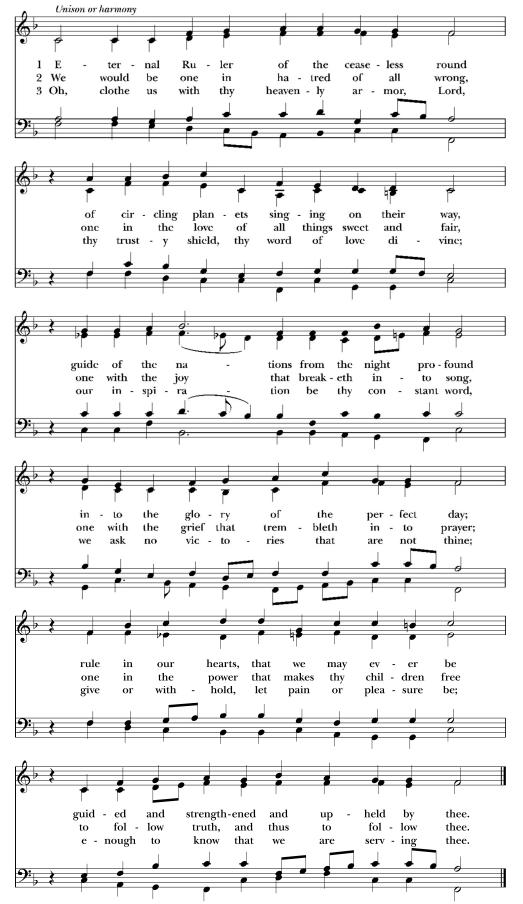
SECOND LESSON

Philippians 1:21-30

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians.

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well-- since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have. The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.



Words: John White Chadwick (1840-1904), alt. Music: Song 1, melody and bass Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), rev.

THE GOSPEL

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them. You also go into the vinevard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last." The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE HOMILY

Silence may be kept after the homily.

All stand, d	is able	
THE NICENE CREED		Book of Com
We believe	e in one God,	
	the Father, the Almighty,	
	maker of heaven and earth,	
	of all that is, seen and unseen.	
We believe	e 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:	

The Rev. Toni Belhu

Book of Common Prayer p. 358

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

Book of Common Prayer p. 387

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, especially Michael our Presiding Bishop, José our Bishop, and Toni our Rector;

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. Today we pray especially for **Josephine**, Larry, James, John, Ruth, Beverly, Jesse, Bobby, Helen, Chris, June, Rob, Nancy, Dickinson, Wesley, Debbie, Ms. B, Ramona, Emmie Jane, Sandra, Charles, Betty, Jordan, Michael, James, Faye, Sally, Miles, Larry, Rita, Orwen, the people of Maui, Rachel, Judy, Harold, Ellen, Roger, Tabatha, Chuck, Marianna, Karen, 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 **Kimberly Lloyd (25)**, **Steve Ross (25)**, **Rev. Toni Belhu (25)**, **Elizabeth Morgan (30)**.

We pray for all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad especially those on our military prayer list, saying together, **Ben, Jeremiah, Daniel, David, Christopher, Daniel, Adam, Jeremy, Nicholas, Nathan, Peter, Joseph, Tony, Christian, Brendan, Will, Tom, Christopher, Nick.** We pray also for their families, friends, and neighbors who await their safe return.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. Gabriel's in Rutherfordton. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Church of Ireland.

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

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.

The Celebrant concludes with a 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

Book of Common Prayer p. 360

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.

ALL ARE WELCOME AT THE TABLE 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.

All stand, as able THE OFFERTORY HYMN

Glorious things of thee are spoken

Hymnal p. 522





Words: John Newton (1725-1807), alt. Music: Austria, Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1807); desc. Michael Y. Young, (b. 1939). Descant Copyright © 1979, G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

All stand, as able, as the offering is presented, singing together the Doxology. THE DOXOLOGY



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING - Prayer A

Book of Common Prayer p. 367

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.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

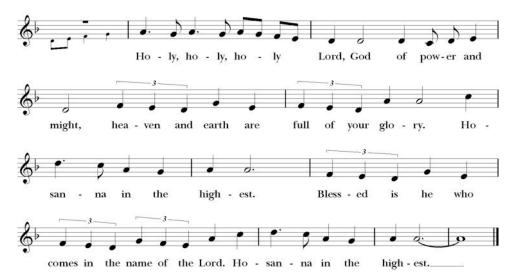
Then the Celebrant proceeds

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:





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.

AGNUS DEI

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,

grant us thy peace.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENT

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.

To receive communion, come to the communion rail. Receive the bread in the palm of your hand. Eat the bread and then drink from the cup when it is offered to you, or, if you wish, you may hold one finger up to indicate to the priest you would prefer intinction.

Gluten-free wafers are available. Please make your need known to the priest.

If you wish to receive a blessing rather than receive communion, please join in the movement to the communion rail and cross your arms over the front of your chest. If you do not wish to receive the wine, after receiving the bread, please cross your arms over the front of your chest. This will alert the ministers of your wishes.

> During communion, members of our congregation will join together in our choir loft to lead the congregation in singing the communion hymns.



Words: James Montgomery (1771-1845), alt. Music: *St. Agnes*, melody John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876); harm. Richard Proulx (b. 1937), after John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876). Copyright © 1985, G.I.A. Publications.

Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendor



Words: George Hugh Bourne (1840-1925), alt. Music: Bryn Calfaria, melody William Owen (1813-1983); harm. Christian Hymns, 1977.

Jesus in the Morning

LEVAS p. 76



Words: Traditional. Music: Negro Spiritual.

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray. Celebrant and People

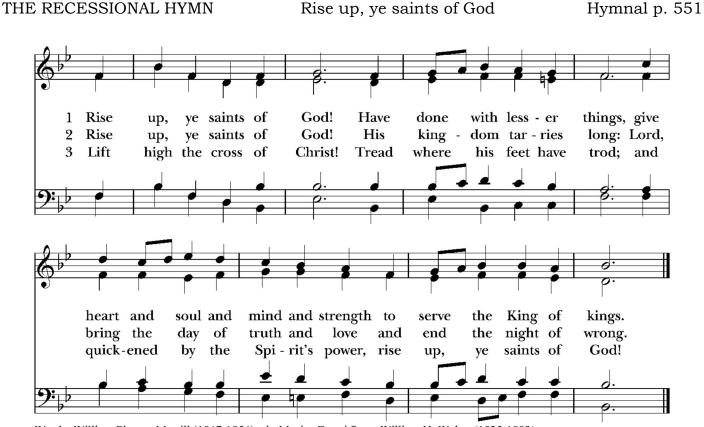
Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood

Book of Common Prayer p. 366

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

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.



Words: William Pierson Merrill (1867-1954), alt. Music: Festal Song, William H. Walter (1825-1893).

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia. *People:* Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

LONG TERM PRAYER LIST: Addison, Zoey, Courtney, Tom, Harper, Kimberly, Diana, Michael, Tony, Becca, Brian, Jane, Christine, Sally, Paige, Alan, Pam, Ricky, Beverly, Lee, Mike, the Snelgrove family, Danielle, the Taft family, Dickinson, Jane, Anna, Linda, Roy, Janice, Jenny, Sarah, Amanda, Michael, Bud, Danny, Rob, Gordon, Daniel, Cullin, June, Billy, Donovan, Maddox, Sutton, Megan, Hunter, Phyllis, Jane, Annie, Bob, David, Doug, Rob, Stewart, Marsha, Avis, Max, Donald, Amy, Dewey, the Wilkerson family, Ryan, Kristy, the Dale family, Anthony, the Simpson family, Jim, the Allen family, Lisa, Bill, Grace, Paula, Bobbie, Glena, Elizabeth, David, Sandy, Sean, Jane, Judy, Tabitha, Elaine, Gennine, Skip, Ernest, Ginger, Mel, Jimmy, Rick, David, Ella Mae, Gregory, Rett, Kristy, Peggy, Dee, Nelson, Julia, Hartford, Nell, Billy, Rita, Janet, Seth, Peggy, Ron, Norris, Mary, Brandy, Lizzie, Sally, Sharon, Ellen, Chuck, Taby, Shirley, Kylie, TJ, Jenny, June, Kevin, Karsen, Sequoia, Millie, Charles, Sherrill, Presley Joe, Elizabeth, Randy, Jeanine, Nancy, Shannon, Robyn, Nicholas, Ellen, Charles, Barbara, Bob, Peggy, Bob, Mike, Chris, Logan, Gavin, Gage, Persphone, Nicky, Corwin, Beth, Junie, Hobby, Molly, Trevor, Wendy, Joshua, Nelson, Dee, Janet, Hartford, Thomas, Shelby, Burtches, Beverly, Shirley, the Peters family, Barbara, Edward, Shirley, Colin, Jane, Bobby, Lois, Paula, Mytheina, Zareeha, ZaNae, Bobby, Debbie, Wesley, Malisha, Becky, Bob, Larry, Sid, Christy, Lyn, Timothy, Brad, Melanie, David, Lois, Keith, Kaylie, Charles, Emily, Brenda, Jenn, Max, Chuck, Toby, Nicky, Emma, the Borders family, Laura, Robin, Bruce, Beverly, Fran and family, Judi, Scotty, Francesco, Dale, Jim, Carmen, Una, Kevin, Chris, Ramona.

> The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God and loving memory of Judy Scott by Gordon Scott and family.

Worship Leaders 9:30

Usher – Anita Quinley Greeter – Bud Quinley 1st Lesson – Dee Ullrich 2nd Lesson – Steve Ross Chalicist – Harold Morgan Acolyte – Tim Turner Vestry Lock Up – Nancy Bole Camera – Rob McDaniel Children's Church – Stephanie Williams, Stacy Guarriello Punch on the Lawn – Stephanie Williams

Worship Leaders for next Sunday 9:30 am

Usher – Richard Stanley Greeter – MaryAnn Joyce 1st Lesson – Walt Joyce 2nd Lesson – Anne Stanley Chalicist – Richard Williams Acolyte – Robin DeLorenzo Vestry Lock Up – Anita Quinley Camera – Stephanie Williams Children's Church – Stephanie Williams, Anita Quinley Punch on the Lawn – Mollie Soirez Saint Francis Episcopal Church 408 North Main Street Rutherfordton, NC 28139 828-287-3888

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