

St. Francis Episcopal Church

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 17 September 3, 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

All stand, as able.



Words: Thomas Olivers (1725-1799), alt. Music: Leoni, Hebrew melody; harm. Hymns Ancient and Modern, 1875, alt.

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.

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; 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

Jeremiah 15:15-21

A reading from the Book of Jeremiah.

O Lord, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts. I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail. Therefore, thus says the Lord: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the Lord. I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 26:1-8

Book of Common Prayer p. 616

1 Give judgment for me, O Lord, for I have lived with integrity; *

I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.

2 Test me, O Lord, and try me; *

examine my heart and my mind.

3 For your love is before my eyes; *

I have walked faithfully with you.

4 I have not sat with the worthless, *

nor do I consort with the deceitful.

- 5 I have hated the company of evildoers; * I will not sit down with the wicked.
- 6 I will wash my hands in innocence, O Lord, * that I may go in procession round your altar,

7 Singing aloud a song of thanksgiving *

and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

8 Lord, I love the house in which you dwell * and the place where your glory abides.

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

Romans 12:9-21

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

All stand, as able THE SEQUENCE



Words: Georg Neumark (1621-1681); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1829-1878), alt. Music: Wer nur den lieben Gott, Georg Neumark (1621-1681).

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 16:21-28

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom." The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Rev. Toni Belhu

THE HOMILY Silence may be kept after the homily.

All stand, as	s able	
THE NICEN	E CREED Bo	ook of Common Prayer p. 358
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 Pila	ate;
	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 a	nd 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 an	d glorified.
	He has spoken through the Prophets.	
	We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Cl	
	We acknowledge one baptism for the forgivenes	s 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, remembering especially Ned Harbin; 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, 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 Kathryn McGowan (3), Mary Saunders (4), June Callahan (6), Jed Turner (9), Terry & Kathryn McGowan (9).

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.** 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 St. Giles Chapel and residents & staff of Deerfield Episcopal Retirement Community in Asheville. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean.

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

Praise the Lord through every nation Hymnal p. 484





Words: Rhijnvis Fcith (1753-1824); para. James Montgomery (1771-1854), alt. Music: *Wachet auf*, mclody Hans Sachs (1494-1576); adapt. Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608); arr. and harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

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



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.

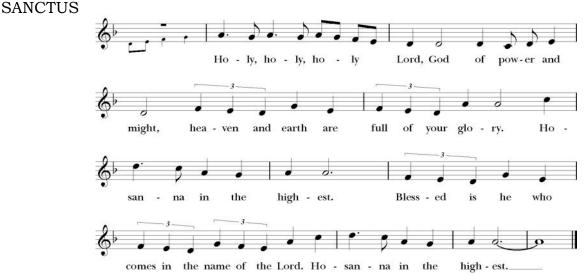
People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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

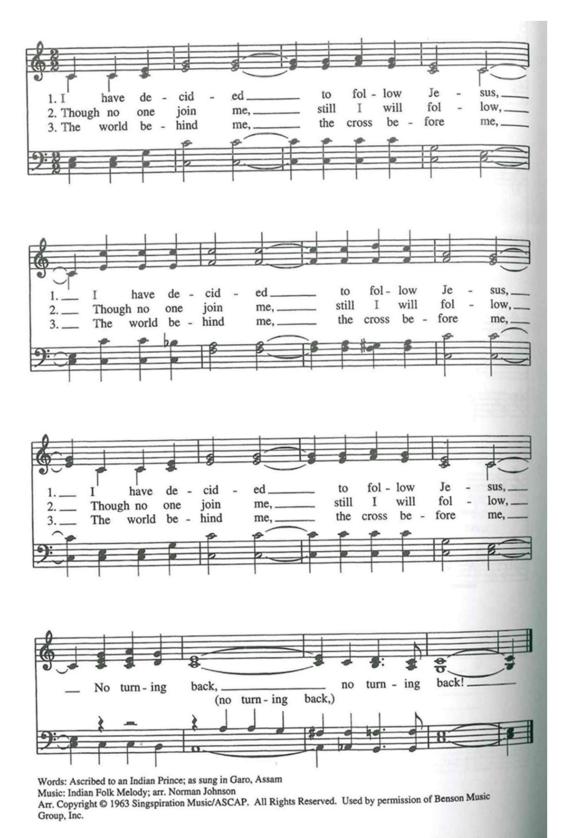
The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

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: Att. Richard of Chichester (1197-1253). Music: Sumner, Arthur Henry Biggs (1906-1954). Copyright © The Church Pension Fund.





Words: from the Iona Community. Music: Mary Alexandra, John L. Hooker (b. 1944).

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Book of Common Prayer p. 366

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

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



Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (B. 1944). Music: Abbot's Leigh, Cyril Vincent Taylor (1907-1991).

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 Fred E. Lowery, Jr. and David Belhu by The Rev. Toni Belhu.

Worship Leaders 9:30	Worship Leaders for next Sunday 9:30 am	Saint Francis Episcopal Church 408 North Main Street Rutherfordton, NC 28139
Usher – Rebecca Melton Greeter – Anita Quinley 1 st Lesson – Allison Ross 2 nd Lesson – Linda Jeanne Harrill Chalicist – Dee Ullrich Acolyte – Nancy Bole Vestry Lock Up – Doug Tribou Camera – Steve Ross Punch on the Lawn – Kathy Demas	Usher – Elizabeth Morgan Greeter – Harold Morgan 1 st Lesson – Bob Blanton 2 nd Lesson – Barbara Locricchio Chalicist – Dee Ullrich Acolyte – Anthony Guarriello Vestry Lock Up – Rebecca Melton Camera – Rob McDaniel Punch on the Lawn – Ministry Fair	828-287-3888 Rector: The Rev. Toni Belhu Email: <u>rector@stfrancisrutherfordton.org</u> - Cell Phone: 704-215-1882 Parish Administrator: Kathryn McGowan Email: administrator@stfrancisrutherfordton.org Organist: Steven Noll Sexton: Debbie Hamrick www.stfrancisrutherfordton.org <u>www.facebook.com/stfrancisrutherfordton</u>