

# — ST. MICHAEL'S — EPISCOPAL CHURCH



SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

WEEK OF THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

## PRELUDE MUSIC & WELCOME

*Officiant* Blessed be the one, holy and living God.

*People* **Glory to God forever and ever.**

*Officiant* Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. 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.**

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Officiant* God be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have so linked our lives one with another that all we do affects, for good or ill, all other lives: So guide us in the work we do, that we may do it not for self alone, but for the common good; and, as we seek a proper return for our own labor, make us mindful of the rightful aspirations of other workers, and arouse our concern for those who are out of work; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## PRAYER FOR RECTOR SEARCH

O shepherding God, guide the hearts and minds of our Search Committee as we seek to discern the role of Rector for St. Michael's Church. By your light, draw to us those with vision and passion for St. Michael's future. Guide them as they discern your call. Raise up for us a faithful pastor, a dynamic preacher of your Gospel, to shepherd us as your flock, strengthen our ministries, and work with us in building up your kingdom. **Amen.**

## THE LESSON & PSALM

*Reader* A reading from Deuteronomy (4:1-2,6-9)

Moses said: So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your

ancestors, is giving you. You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you.

You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!” For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children’s children.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

**Thanks be to God**

*Officiant* Please pray Psalm 15 responsively by half verse.

1 Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? \*

**who may abide upon your holy hill?**

2 Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, \*

**who speaks the truth from his heart.**

3 There is no guile upon his tongue; he does no evil to his friend; \*

**he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.**

4 In his sight the wicked is rejected, \*

**but he honors those who fear the Lord.**

5 He has sworn to do no wrong \*

**and does not take back his word.**

6 He does not give his money in hope of gain, \*

**nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.**

7 Whoever does these things \*

**shall never be overthrown.**

*Officiant*            A reading from the Gospel of Mark (7:1-8, 14-15,  
21-23)

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

When the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far from me;

in vain do they worship me,  
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.” For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

*Officiant*            The Word of the Lord  
*People*                **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

## CANDLE LIGHTING AND SILENT PRAYER

You are invited to light a candle and observe a period of silent personal prayer time.

### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Officiant*            Generous God, accept and answer our prayers as we say, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

*Leader*              Keep your church humble and keep us ever mindful of our call to serve our neighbors with generous and loving hearts. We pray for Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Sean, our Presiding Bishop-elect, Megan our Bishop, Katie, Mike, Rod, and Jesse our clergy and the people here today. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Strengthen us that we might work together to demand justice and equity for all people in this nation and across the world. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Enliven our faith that we might be doers of the Word and agents of your love to all whom we encounter. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks to all who labor and for meaningful work that gives purpose to all lives. We pray that you will keep workers healthy, safe and strong. We pray for respect in the work place and a sense of accomplishment from all our contributions. Let us all be grateful for the work of all those who work in places we rarely see and with whom there is never enough appreciation expressed. Gracious God, we give thanks for all who labor. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Show us how to be effective stewards and peacemakers that through us our world might be transformed and become a place where all people can thrive and live into their God-created potential. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Care for the suffering, the sick, and all who know oppression and alienation, that we might know hope and be transformed by your peace. Especially we pray for Don, Barbara, Bobbi, Mike, Sandy, Jane, Robert, Sherry, Michael, Eileen, Sarah, Tina, Jennifer, Jay, Mark, Mary, Kay, Hunter, and Billie. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant all who have died the joy of your eternal presence and welcome us into the glorious life of your new age. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For what else and whom else shall we pray? (*A time of silence is kept.*) Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Officiant* We offer these prayers in the sure and certain hope of faith in your Son, Christ our Lord, who is our advocate and guide. **Amen.**

## **THE GENERAL CONFESSION**

*Officiant* Let us confess our sins to God.

*People* **Almighty God, our heavenly Father:**

**We have sinned against you,**

**through our own fault,**

**in thought, and word, and deed,**

**and in what we have left undone.**

**For the sake of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,**

**forgive us all our offenses;**

**and grant that we may serve you**

**in newness of life,**

**to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*Officiant* 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**

*Officiant* The peace of Christ be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Officiant* For those who cannot be here physically to receive the body and blood of Jesus Christ let us invite the Lord Jesus through this prayer for spiritual communion:

In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you, and, since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself with you, and embrace you with all the love of my soul. Let nothing ever separate you from me. May I live in you, and may you live in me, both in this life and in the life to come. **Amen.**

*Julian of Norwich liturgy*

*Officiant* Together, let us pray the prayer Jesus taught 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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**



*Officiant* Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of the vesper light; and we implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

Life is short and we do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So be swift to love and make haste to be kind. And may the Divine Mystery, who is beyond our ability to know - the One who made you, the One who loves you, and the One who travels the way with you – bless you and keep you in peace. **Amen.**

*Officiant* Alleluia, Alleluia. Let us go into the world to love and serve Christ!

*People* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

CONCLUDING REMARKS, DISCUSSION, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND  
CHECK IN.