



Apostles

Anglican Church

The Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 1, 2024

Liturgy for the Contemporary Service
The Anglican Church in North America

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

THE BELL

OPENING SONGS

Better is One Day

(Verse 1)

*How lovely is Your dwelling place
O Lord almighty
For my soul longs and even faints for You
For here my heart is satisfied
Within Your presence
I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings*

(Chorus)

*Better is one day in Your courts
Better is one day in Your house
Better is one day in Your courts
Than thousands elsewhere*

(Verse 2)

*One thing I ask and I would seek
To see Your beauty
To find You in the place
Your glory dwells*

(Bridge)

*My heart and flesh cry out
For You the living God
Your Spirit's water to my soul
I've tasted and I've seen
Come once again to me
I will draw near to You
I will draw near to You*

How He Loves
How He Loves Me

(Verse 1)

*And He is jealous for me
Love's like a hurricane. I am a tree,
Bending beneath the weight of His wind and mercy
When all of a sudden,
I am unaware of these afflictions eclipsed by glory
And I realize just how beautiful You are,
And how great Your affections are for me*

(Chorus)

*And, oh, how He loves us, oh
Oh, how He loves us
How He loves us, oh*

(Bridge)

*Yeah, He loves us
Oh, how He loves us
Oh, how He loves us
Oh, how He loves*

(Verse 2)

*And we are His portion and He is our prize,
Drawn to redemption by the grace in His eyes
If His grace is an ocean, we're all sinking
And Heaven meets earth like a sloppy wet kiss
And my heart turns violently inside of my chest
I don't have time to maintain these regrets,
When I think about the way*

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Bishop: The Lord pour out his Spirit upon all flesh,

People: *And your sons and daughters shall prophesy.*

Bishop: Your old men shall dream dreams,

People: *And your young men shall see visions.*

Bishop: You shall know that the Lord is in the midst of his people,

People: *That he is the Lord and there is none else.*

Bishop: And it shall come to pass

People: *That everyone who calls on the Name of the Lord shall be saved.*

Bishop: The Lord be with you.

People: *And with your spirit.*

Bishop: Let us pray.

O Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow after us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

Deuteronomy 4:1-9

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 have seen for yourselves what the LORD did with regard to the Baal of Peor—how the LORD your God destroyed from among you everyone who followed the Baal of Peor, while those of you who held fast to the LORD your God are all alive today.

See, just as the LORD my God has charged me, I now teach you statutes and ordinances for you to observe in the land that you are about to enter and occupy. 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—

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: *Thanks be to God*

Psalm 15

1 LORD, who shall dwell in your tabernacle? *

Or who shall rest upon your holy hill?

2 Whoever leads an uncorrupt life, *

and does that which is right, and speaks the truth from his heart.

3 He has not spoken deceitfully with his tongue, nor done evil to his neighbor, *
and has not slandered his neighbor.

4 In his eyes the wicked is rejected, *

and he makes much of those who fear the LORD.

5 He swears to his neighbor and disappoints him not, *
though it were to his own hindrance.

6 He has not given his money for usury, *
nor taken a bribe against the innocent.

7 Whoever does these things *
shall never be overthrown.

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

Ephesians 6:10-20

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel (*congregation standing*)

***Speak, Oh Lord, as we come to You
To receive the food of Your holy word
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us
Shape and fashion us in your likeness
That the light of Christ may be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith
Speak, Oh Lord, and fulfill in us
All Your purposes for your glory My comforter, my all in all
Here in the love of Christ I stand***

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Mark 7:1-23

Now 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 honours 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 said to them, 'You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition! For Moses said, "Honour your father and your mother"; and, "Whoever speaks evil of father or mother must surely die." But you say that if anyone tells father or mother, "Whatever support you might have had from me is Corban" (that is, an offering to God)— then you no longer permit doing anything for a father or mother, thus making void the word of God through your tradition that you have handed on. And you do many things like this.'

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.'

When he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about the parable. He said to them, 'Then do you also fail to understand? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile, since it enters, not the heart but the stomach, and goes out into the sewer?' (Thus he declared all foods clean.) And he said, 'It is what comes out of a person that defiles. 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.'

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**Speak, Oh Lord, and renew our minds
Help us grasp the heights
Of your plans for us
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time
That will echo down through eternity
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us
Speak, Oh Lord, 'til your Church is built
And the Earth is filled with Your glory**

THE SERMON

THE NICENE CREED *(congregation standing)*

***We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, visible and invisible.***

***We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten 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,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and 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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.***

CONFIRMATION & RECEPTION

THE PRESENTATION, EXHORTATION AND EXAMINATION

Presenters: *Reverend Father in God, we present these persons to receive the laying on of hands.*

Bishop: Have they been adequately prepared?

Presenters: *They have.*

Dearly beloved, it is essential that those who wish to be Confirmed or Received in this Church publicly confess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior; become his disciples; know and affirm the Nicene Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments; and have received instruction in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments and the Catechism of the Church. God's grace is imparted in Baptism, through which we are made God's children by adoption and given the Holy Spirit. By the power of the Spirit, manifested in gifts and fruit, we are enabled to be God's people for the sake of the world.

Now, these Candidate desire publicly to confess their faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and their commitment to follow him as Lord. They also desire the strengthening of grace through the laying on of hands, that the Holy Spirit may fill them more and more for their ministry in the Church and in the world.

Bishop: Do you, here in the presence of God and the Church, renew the solemn promises and vows made at your Baptism and commit to keep them?

Candidate: *I do.*

Bishop: Do you renounce the devil and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Candidate: *I renounce them.*

Bishop: Do you renounce the empty promises and deadly deceits of this world that corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Candidate: *I renounce them.*

Bishop: Do you renounce the sinful desires of the flesh that draw you from the love of God?

Candidate: *I renounce them.*

Bishop: Do you turn to Jesus Christ and confess him as your Lord and Savior?

Candidate: I do.

Bishop: Do you joyfully receive the Christian Faith, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

Candidate: I do.

Bishop: Will you obediently keep God's holy will and commandment, and walk in them all the days of your life?

Candidate: I will, with the Lord being my helper

Bishop: Will you witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

People: We will

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we beseech you to strengthen this your servant for witness and ministry through the power of your Holy Spirit. Daily increase in Him you manifold virtues of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and true godliness, and the spirit of holy fear, now and forever. **Amen.**

FOR CONFIRMATION

Defend, O Lord, this your servant Samuel, with your heavenly grace, that he may continue yours for ever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more until he comes into the fullness of your everlasting kingdom. **Amen.**

Bishop: Samuel, I sign you with the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

FOR RECEPTION

Bishop: Strengthen, O Lord, with your Holy spirit, your servant Rebecca, whom we recognize as a member of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church, and receive into the fellowship of this Communion. Empower her for your service, and sustain her all the days of her life. **Amen.**

Bishop: Rebecca, I sign you with the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Bishop: Almighty and everliving God, let your fatherly hand be ever upon these your servants; let your Holy Spirit ever be with them, and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Holy Word, that they may faithfully serve you in this life, and joyfully dwell with you in the life to come: through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE (*congregation standing*)

Minister: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: *And with your spirit.*

Minister: Let us greet one another and share the peace of Christ.

THE OFFERTORY

The Doxology (*congregation standing*)

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 SURSUM CORDA

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And with your spirit.*

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: *We lift them up to the Lord.*

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

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 SANCTUS

***Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and when we had sinned against you and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent your only Son Jesus Christ into the world for our salvation. By the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary he became flesh and dwelt among us. In obedience to your will, he stretched out his arms upon the Cross and offered himself once for all, that by his suffering and death we might be saved. By his resurrection he broke the bonds of death, trampling Hell and Satan under his feet. As our great high priest, he ascended to your right hand in glory, that we might come with confidence before the throne of grace.

On the night that he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this is my Body, which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, Jesus took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for 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 in remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Word and Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Sanctify us also, that we may worthily receive this holy Sacrament, and be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us and we in him. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us with all your saints into the joy of your heavenly kingdom, where we shall see our Lord face to face.

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your Name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins

as we forgive those

who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial,

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and for ever. Amen.

THE FRACTION

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

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

THE MINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

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 PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Dear Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to possess you within my soul. And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you, together with all your faithful people gathered around every altar of your Church, and I embrace you with all the affections of my soul. Never permit me to be separated from you. *Amen.*

THE PRAYER OF CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

Heavenly Father,

*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

Go forth into the world in peace, be of good courage, and fight the good fight of faith, that you may finish your course with joy; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

THE RECESSIONAL *(congregation standing)*

CLOSING SONG

Reckless Love

(Verse 1)

*Before I spoke a word, You were singing over me
You have been so, so good to me
Before I took a breath, You breathed Your life in me
You have been so, so kind to me*

(Chorus)

*Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God
Oh, it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found, leaves the ninety-nine
I couldn't earn it, I don't deserve it, still You give Yourself away
Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God*

(Verse 2)

*When I was Your foe, still Your love fought for me
You have been so, so good to me
When I felt no worth, You paid it all for me
You have been so, so kind to me*

(Bridge)

*There's no shadow You won't light up
Mountain You won't climb up
Coming after me
There's no wall You won't kick down
Lie You won't tear down
Coming after me*

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Let us go forth in the Name of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!