



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
ESSEX, NY

**St. John's Episcopal Church  
Essex, NY**

**PENTECOST 16**

**Holy Communion  
In-Person & Zoom Worship  
September 17, 2023 ☐ 10:00 A.M.**

**The Rev. Florence Ledyard**

**Loose Plate Offering  
Food Shelves**

**Zoom Link for Sunday Worship:  
<https://www.stjohnsessexny.org/worshipmeet>**

Prelude – Please use this time in silence and to pray

Processional (Please stand) **Father we praise Thee** Hymn

1

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

**And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen**

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.*

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit  
Gloria

S 280

The Collect of the Day

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The First Reading Genesis 50: 15-21

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Psalm 103: [1-7], 8-13

*Benedic, anima mea*

1 [Bless the Lord, O my soul, \*  
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.

2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, \*  
and forget not all his benefits.

3 He forgives all your sins \*  
and heals all your infirmities;

4 He redeems your life from the grave \*  
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;

5 He satisfies you with good things, \*  
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

6 The Lord executes righteousness \*  
and judgment for all who are oppressed.

7 He made his ways known to Moses \*  
and his works to the children of Israel.]

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

9 He will not always accuse us, \*  
nor will he keep his anger for ever.

10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, \*  
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, \*  
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

12 As far as the east is from the west, \*  
so far has he removed our sins from us.

13 As a father cares for his children, \*  
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.

### The Epistle Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who

to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

## Gradual Hymn (Please stand) Now thank we all our God

Hymn 397, last verse  
sung after Gospel

## Gospel Matthew 18:21-35

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Gradual Hymn (Please stand) Now thank we all our God

Hymn 397, last verse

The Homily (Please be seated) The Rev. Florence Ledyard

The Nicene Creed (Please stand)

**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 substance with the Father,  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven;  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made human.  
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.  
who with the Father and the Son, is worshipped 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**

**we look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Leader: In the power of the Spirit who aids us in our weakness and teaches us to pray, let us offer to God our intercessions, thanksgivings, and the deep yearnings of our hearts, saying: ***Come, Holy Spirit***

Leader: For the church, for bishops, for clergy, and for all the people of God, that they may be made whole and free by the Spirit, and bear witness in every aspect of life to the full force of Christ's resurrection, we pray: ***Come, Holy Spirit***

Leader: For the world in its brokenness, that the peace of the risen Christ heal the wounds of all victims of injustice and exploitation, and transform the hearts of those who lead the nations, and who make public policy, that they may truly become makers of peace, we pray: ***Come, Holy Spirit***

Leader: That liberals and conservatives in our country may be drawn together in truth by the Spirit and come to rejoice in their different gifts and points of view, we pray: ***Come Holy Spirit***

Leader: For those weighted down by despair, suffering from addiction, or burdened by illness especially: Ron, Jeff, Peggy, Bill, Eugene, Carolyn, Sarah, Lynne, Rae, Aaron, Matt, Geoffrey, Arthur, Anne, Stanley, Bobby, Trish, Eve, Bob, Judy, Abra, Noa, Lillian, Hazel, Thomas, Matt, Mike, Chris, Beverly, Jill, Louise, Cheryl, Olivia, Larry and Steven that they may experience the freedom which the Spirit gives to the children of God, we pray: ***Come, Holy Spirit***

Leader: In thanksgiving for the departed, and for all who witnessed to us of God's love poured into our hearts by the Spirit, and for the grace to be faithful to all they have been for us, we pray: ***Come, Holy Spirit***

Celebrant: Gracious God, receive our prayers; hear our hearts' deep yearnings, yet to be formed into words. Give us the courage to yield ourselves, all that we are and have yet to become, to the transforming motion of your Holy Spirit, and carry out in us and through us your work of new creation. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the risen and living one. **AMEN**

[Here other intercessions may be offered]

**Dear Lord, grant us your wisdom and guidance as we embark**

**upon our search process. Help us to humbly discern and accomplish your will for St. John's. We know this will be a challenging journey for all of us, but we pray that it will strengthen our faith and our respect and love for each other. Help us to share more deeply our faith in you as we learn to listen to each other with open hearts and minds and hear your voice in all we say and do. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen**

**All: Preserve us all, O Christ and take us home to your heart, so that all our lives may be woven together in prayer and praise, in your ever merciful name we pray. Amen.**

*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 Priest, stands and says*

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

Prayer for Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays this week:

Richard Reis, Debbie Walker, Peter Paine

**Watch over our sisters and brothers, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes all understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Announcements (Please be seated)

Offertory (Please stand) Lord, make us servants of your peace Hymn 593

Doxology

Hymn 380

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER A**

*The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and says:*

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, facing the Holy Table, 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.

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:

*Celebrant and People* *Sanctus*

Hymn S128

*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



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.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

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.

Celebrant: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

**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.**

Celebrant: Christ, our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Celebrant: 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

FRACTION ANTHEM The disciples knew the Lord Jesus S167

Congregation comes forward at this time to receive communion.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

### **Post Communion Prayer**

*Celebrant and People*

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
you have graciously accepted us as living members  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.**

**Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you  
with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.  
The Blessing**

Recessional Joyful, joyful we adore Thee  
376

Hymn

Dismissal

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

**People: Thanks be to God**

Postlude (Please be seated)

*The ringing of the bell signals the end of the service.*

*Please join us for coffee in Persell Hall*

### **Ministers of the service**

Usher Greeters-- David & Betsy Tisdale  
Altar Guild-- Bobbi Perez/Anne Zilch  
Altar Flowers-- Etta Moredock  
Lector-- Dick Walker  
Intercessor-- Daphne Hallowell  
Crucifer-- Edward O'Neill  
Lay Eucharistic Minister-- Joel Pero  
Acolytes-- Megan Harris Pero & Louisa Pero  
Zoom Host-- Carole Harsh  
Coffee Hour Host-- O'Neill/Wever  
Cantor-- Michael Bergman  
Organist & Music Director-- Jennifer Moore