The Episcopal Church of the Ascension

10:30 AM
THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude                Samuel Sebastian Wesley

“O Worship the Lord”   Anna Banick, soprano

Celebrant             Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People                And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity

All  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.

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Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.
The Collect of the Day

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

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The First Lesson

Genesis 45:1-15

Lector  A reading from the book of Genesis.

Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, “Send everyone away from me.” So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’ And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and...
all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Psalm 133

1 Oh, how good and pleasant it is, * when brethren live together in unity!
2 It is like fine oil upon the head * that runs down upon the beard,
3 Upon the beard of Aaron, * and runs down upon the collar of his robe.
4 It is like the dew of Hermon * that falls upon the hills of Zion.
5 For there the Lord has ordained the blessing: * life for evermore.

THE SECOND LESSON

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Lector A reading from Paul’s letter to the Romans.

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

In the Episcopal Church, we stand and face the Gospel Book during the reading to acknowledge its importance as the recounting of the life and words of Jesus.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 15:10-20, 21-28

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.
Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.” Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

Deacon  The Gospel of the Lord.

People  Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon  The Rev. Patrick J. Wingo

A moment of silent meditation follows

The Nicene Creed  Please stand

All  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 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

Intercessor I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishop, Brian, for our Clergy, Pat, Christopher, Caroline, SuZanne, and Larry; and for all ministers and people.
Pray for the Church.

Silence

Intercessor I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.
Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

Intercessor I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison; we pray especially for those on our Ascension prayer list, Lida Barrett, Joel Baxley, Helen Beachy, Avery Browning, Jerri Buck, Charles Gehres, Ann Hansen, Linda Hawley, Richard Hayes, Tristen DeAngelo-Hicks, Tom Hungerford, Jimmy Hunter, Kay Irwin, Keith Kelly, Sam McNutt, Anita Medlock, Jan Neece, the Nelson family, Randy Nichols, Ned & Beth Patterson, Sue Piers, Dottie Peagler, Demi Perez, George Pipes, Melissa Roberts, Suellen Roehl, Nona Rowcliffe, Carmen & Ryan Smith, Dorothy Stair, Terry, Alexander Thomas, Philip Torrey, Dalton and Carolyn Townsend, Martha Williamson
Pray for those in any need or trouble.

**Silence**

**Intercessor**
I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him.
Pray that they may find and be found by him.

**Silence**

**Intercessor**
We pray also for our search committee: Almighty God, giver of every good gift: We thank you for all those who are serving on the Search Committee for Church of the Ascension. We pray that you will send the Holy Spirit to work with them and guide them. We pray that they will work together in faith, trust and in communion, listening for the ever-present guidance of the Spirit. Lead them, we pray, so that we may receive a faithful Rector, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Silence**

**Intercessor**
I ask your prayers for the departed, especially Linda DeAngelo, Becky Hare, and Anne Johnson.
Pray for those who have died.

**Silence**

**Intercessor**
Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.
Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

**Silence**

**Intercessor**
Almighty God, our times are in your hands, our lives are in your hands, and our common life is in your hands. Yet we are a people who are anxious and afraid. We are a people who are divided over many things—ideology, race, religion, and how to live in a pandemic. We pray that your Holy Spirit will powerfully come upon us. We pray that the winds of peace and unity will pervade our lives, our city, our nation and our world. We pray for peace in our cities. We pray for justice for those who have been wrongly accused or targeted. We pray for all who are discriminated against. We pray for wisdom as we confront hard truths. In all things, may those who are followers of Jesus be salt and light in the world, wherever we are. Help us change our communities by how we live. Make us instruments of your peace, so that the world may move quickly toward a realization of your Kingdom. Thy Kingdom come, O Lord, Thy will be done, here on earth, here and now. Through Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. Amen
Confession of Sin and Absolution

Celebrant  Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

All  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.

Celebrant  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  All stand

Celebrant  The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People       And also with you.

At this bridge between the Word of God and Holy Communion, we stand and greet one another in joy as we move together toward sharing the Body and Blood of Christ. Appropriate greetings are “the Peace of the Lord” or “Peace Be With You.”

Backpack Tag Blessing 2020
(Modified from The Episcopal Church and UMC Discipleship Ministries).

Celebrant  Gracious God, we lift to you today, our students. We ask your blessing on each of them as they commit to study and growth during this school year.

We ask your blessing on these backpack tags. As they adorn the backpacks of our students, may they be a reminder of your comforting presence in each moment.

Grant our students peace in this time of change. Fill them with your strength as they embark on new journeys.
We intercede for families learning virtually this year. Grant our families courage as they discover new pathways to education.

We pray, also, for teachers and administrators. May they know that this congregation supports them in their call to teach and serve. Sustain them by your Spirit.

Most of all, we ask for your love and grace to fill the hearts and minds of all during this school year.

We ask all of this in your holy name. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem Samuel Sebastian Wesley

“Who Can Express?”

The Doxology sung to the tune Old Hundredth

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.

The Great Thanksgiving


The word “Eucharist” literally means “thanksgiving.”

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 God thanks and praise.
Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here a Proper Preface is said.
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.

*The people stand or kneel.*

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:

**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. 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.

The Lord’s Prayer

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All 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 Fraction

The Fraction Anthem

Alleluia! Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Prayer Before Communion

All My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.
Post-Communion Prayer

Celebrant  Let us pray.

All   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.

Blessing

Dismissal

Deacon  Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People  Thanks be to God.

Postlude  Dan Locklair

“The People Respond... Amen!” (Rubrics Suite)