

St. Christopher's at the Crossroads Episcopal Church



The Rt. Rev. Robert C. Wright, Bishop
The Rt. Rev. Don A. Wimberly, Assisting Bishop
The Rt. Rev. Paul E. Lambert, Assisting Bishop
The Rev. Shirley Porter, Rector

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 12, 2021

HYMN 522

Descant

4 Blest in - hab - it - ants of Zi - on, washed in the Re -

1 Glo - rious things of thee are spo - ken, Zi - on, ci - ty
2 See! the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring - ing from e -
3 Round each ha - bi - ta - tion hov - ering, see the cloud and
4 Blest in - hab - it - ants of Zi - on, washed in the Re -

deem - er's blood! Whom their souls re -

of our God; he whose word can - not be
ter - nal love, well sup - ply thy sons and
fire ap - pear for a glo - ry and a
deem - er's blood! Je - sus, whom their souls re -

ly on, makes them kings and priests to God.

bro - ken formed thee for his own a - bode;
daugh - ters and all fear of want re - move.
cov - ering, show - ing that the Lord is near.
ly on, makes them kings and priests to God.

'Tis his love his peo - ple raise o - ver

on the Rock of A - ges found - ed, what can shake thy
 Who can faint, when such a riv - er ev - er will their
 Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner, light by night, and
 'Tis his love his peo - ple rais - es o - ver self to

self to reign and as priests, his

sure re - pose? With sal - va - tion's walls sur -
 thirst as - suage? Grace which, like the Lord, the
 shade by day, safe they feed up - on the
 reign as kings: and as priests, his sol - emn

sol - emn prais - es each an of - fering brings.

round - ed, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.
 giv - er nev - er fails from age to age.
 man - na which he gives them when they pray.
 prais - es each for a thank - of - fering brings.

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

And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

There is one Body and one Spirit;

There is one hope in God's call to us

One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism

One God and Father of all.

S280 *Glory to God*

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

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

Celebrant Let us pray.

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.*

A Reading from the Book of Proverbs [1:20-33]

Wisdom cries out in the street;
 in the squares she raises her voice.
At the busiest corner she cries out;
 at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:
“How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple?
How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing
 and fools hate knowledge?
Give heed to my reproof;
I will pour out my thoughts to you;
 I will make my words known to you.
Because I have called and you refused,
 have stretched out my hand and no one heeded,
and because you have ignored all my counsel
 and would have none of my reproof,
I also will laugh at your calamity;
 I will mock when panic strikes you,
when panic strikes you like a storm,
 and your calamity comes like a whirlwind,
 when distress and anguish come upon you.
Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer;
 they will seek me diligently, but will not find me.
Because they hated knowledge
 and did not choose the fear of the LORD,
would have none of my counsel,
 and despised all my reproof,
therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way
 and be sated with their own devices.
For waywardness kills the simple,
 and the complacency of fools destroys them;
but those who listen to me will be secure
 and will live at ease, without dread of disaster.”

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 19 BCP, page 606

Caeli enarrant

- 1 The heavens declare the glory of God, *
and the firmament shows his handiwork.
- 2 One day tells its tale to another, *
and one night imparts knowledge to another.
- 3 Although they have no words or language, *
and their voices are not heard,
- 4 Their sound has gone out into all lands, *
and their message to the ends of the world.
- 5 In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; *
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
- 6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again; *
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.
- 7 The law of the LORD is perfect
and revives the soul; *
the testimony of the LORD is sure
and gives wisdom to the innocent.
- 8 The statutes of the LORD are just
and rejoice the heart; *
the commandment of the LORD is clear
and gives light to the eyes.
- 9 The fear of the LORD is clean
and endures for ever; *
the judgments of the LORD are true
and righteous altogether.
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold,
more than much fine gold, *
sweeter far than honey,
than honey in the comb.
- 11 By them also is your servant enlightened, *
and in keeping them there is great reward.
- 12 Who can tell how often he offends? *
cleanse me from my secret faults.
- 13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
let them not get dominion over me; *
then shall I be whole and sound,
and innocent of a great offense.

14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, *
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

A Reading from the letter of James [3:1-12]

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

The Gospel

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Mark 8:27-38

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “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, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

Rev. Canon John Bolton

The Nicene Creed BCP Page 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 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.*

The Prayers of St. Christopher's

The Prayers of the People Form VI BCP Page 392

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, and Robert, Don, and Paul, our Bishop; and for all
bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

For all who are affected by coronavirus, through illness or isolation or anxiety.

For doctors, nurses and medical researchers, and for those working to develop, distribute

and improve vaccines, treatments, and improved measures to reduce the spread of the virus.

For essential workers whom we often ignore and who are now at risk.

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

Confession of Sin Page 393, BCP

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

*Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

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 of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Communion

Eucharistic Prayer A (Page 361)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you,

joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

S128 Sanctus and Benedictus

Ho - ly, ho - ly,
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

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.*

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

*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.*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Fraction Anthem S164

Jesus Lamb of God

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

Prayer for Those Who Cannot be Present

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, we desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. We remember your death, Lord Christ; we proclaim your resurrection; we await your coming in glory. Since we cannot receive you together today, we beseech you to join us spiritually in our hearts with the presence of your Body and Blood. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Come as you are, become what you receive.

Communion Hymn 325 (ss. 1, 3)

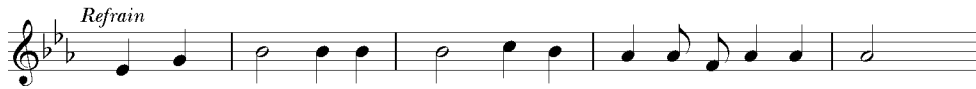
Let us break bread together



1 Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees; _____
2 Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees; _____



let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees; _____
let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees; _____



when I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,



O Lord, have mer-cy on me. _____



3 Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees; _____



let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees; _____



when I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,



O Lord, have mer-cy on me. _____

Prayer after Receiving

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the holy food of the Body and Blood of your Son, and for uniting us through him in the fellowship of your Holy Spirit. We thank you for raising up among us faithful servants of your Word and Sacraments. We thank you especially for the work of Shirley among us. Grant that both she and we may serve you in the days ahead, and always rejoice in your glory, and come at length into your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Rev. Shirley: On the 1st day of March, 2020, I was inducted by the Bishop of Atlanta as rector of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church. I have, with God's help and to the best of my abilities, exercised this trust, accepting its privileges and responsibilities.

It now has been determined that I should leave this charge, and I publicly state that my tenure as rector of St. Christopher's ends this day.

Canon Bolton: Do you, the people of St. Christopher's, recognize and accept the conclusion of this pastoral relationship?

People **We do.**

Then the Minister may express thanksgiving for the time of the tenure, with its joys and sorrows, and state hopes for the future of the congregation. The Minister may also express her thanks to the representatives of parish organizations and offices, and indicate that those organizations will continue to function.

The Bishop's Deputy may then indicate what provision has been made for the continuation of the ministries of the parish. He may declare the name of the persons to have ecclesiastical responsibility, and may request, if it seems appropriate, other leaders in the parish to continue their leadership until a new incumbent is installed. He may express his feelings about the ministry now coming to its end.

Priest and People

O God, you have bound us together for a time as pastor and people to work for the advancement of your kingdom in this place: We give you humble and hearty thanks for the ministry which we have shared in these years now past.

Silence

We thank you for your patience with us despite our blindness and slowness of heart. We thank you for your forgiveness and mercy in the face of our many failures.

Silence

Especially we thank you for your never-failing presence with us through these years, and for the deeper knowledge of you and of each other which we have attained.

Silence

We thank you for those who have been joined to this part of Christ's family through baptism. We thank you for opening our hearts and minds again and again to your Word, and for feeding us abundantly with the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of your Son.

Silence

Now, we pray, be with those who leave and with us who stay; and grant that all of us, by drawing ever nearer to you, may always be close to each other in the communion of your saints. All this we ask for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

May God, who has led us in the paths of justice and truth, lead us still, and keep us in his ways. *Amen.*

May God, whose Son has loved us and given himself for us, love us still, and establish us in peace. *Amen.*

May God, whose Spirit unites us and fills our hearts with joy, illumine us still, and strengthen us for the years to come. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

HYMN LEVAS 144



1. I can hear my Sav - ior call - ing, — I can hear my Sav - ior call - ing, —
2. I'll go with Him through the gar - den, — I'll go with Him through the gar - den, —
3. I'll go with Him through the judge - ment, — I'll go with Him through the judge - ment, —
4. He will give me grace and glo - ry, — He will give me grace and glo - ry, —



1. I can hear my Sav - ior call - ing, — "Take thy cross and fol - low, fol - low me."
2. I'll go with Him through the gar - den, — I'll go with Him, with Him all the way.
3. I'll go with Him through the judge - ment, — I'll go with Him, with Him all the way.
4. He will give me grace and glo - ry, — And go with me, with me all the way.



Where He leads me I will fol - low, — Where He leads me I will fol - low, —



Where He leads me I will fol - low, — I'll go with Him, with Him all the way.

Sending Forth

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