



5th Sunday After Pentecost

July 5, 2020

*Please continue to care for yourself and your neighbor
by wearing your mask and maintaining safe social distancing
during worship.*

Prayer for our Nation

P: On this weekend of the celebration of our nation's independence, it is fitting that we give thanks to God for the blessing we enjoy and ask God to continue to guide us on a path that sustains and promotes these blessings for us and throughout the world.

P: Let us pray;

C: God of the nations, we give you thanks for having raised up courageous, insightful and wise men and women who devoted their lives to founding our nation with principals and laws that have led to the blessings of freedom, prosperity and opportunity that many Americans now enjoy. Continue to provide our nation with such visionary, energetic and committed leaders that we will continue to strive for all the people to enjoy life and liberty and have the opportunity to pursue happiness. Guard us from the social ills that divide and undermine the greatness of our nation, and inspire us to join together in our unique way to care for those in need for their sake and for the well being of our communities. Stir our own sense of responsibility as citizens, that we will not take our freedoms for granted, but engage in the selfless work necessary to maintain that freedom. With all faith and hope in a prosperous and just future, we entrust America to your care and providence and pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

1) *O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain;
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with
brotherhood,
From sea to shining sea.*

2) *O beautiful for pilgrim feet
Whose stern impassion'd stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat
Across the wilderness.
America! America!
God mend thine ev'ry flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law.*

3) *O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country
loved,
And mercy more than life!
America! America!
May God thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness,
And every gain divine.*

4) *O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam,
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self control,
Thy liberty in law.*

Confession

P : In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit
C: Amen

*P: Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us gather with true hearts that
confess our sins to God, that earnestly ask for forgiveness and that
trust in our renewal through the work of our Savior Jesus the
Christ.*

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C: who made heaven and earth. [Psalm 124:8]

P: I said I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.
C: And you forgave the iniquity of my sin. [Psalm 32:5]

A: Almighty God, merciful Father:

**C: I confess to you all my sins with which I have offended
you and my neighbors. I am sorry for them. I devote
myself to repentance and pray for your mercy. In your
boundless grace and compassion send me your Holy Spirit
that I may be strengthened in my faith and made ready for a
life obedient to your will and your way.**

P: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and full of steadfast love. [Exodus 34:6] Therefore, in obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I declare the entire forgiveness of all your sin in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Prelude

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: You are the treasured people of the Lord,

C: A people holy to the Lord our God.

P: We have seen what our God has done

C: We declare His faithfulness from age to age for all time.

P: We hear and keep His Word,

C: And all that God has spoken we will do.

P: Let us pray:

C: Gracious Lord, you came to enlighten us about the nature of God and teach us how to be faithful followers. Open our ears and unbind our minds, that we can hear and learn, for we desire to know and follow. Amen.

Entrance Hymn

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*1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways
to keep his statutes still!*

**Oh, that my God would grant me grace
to know and do his will!**

*2 Order my footsteps by your word
and make my heart sincere;*

**let sin have no dominion, Lord,
but keep my conscience clear.**

*3 Assist my soul, too apt to stray,
a stricter watch to keep;
and should I e'er forget your way,
restore your wand'ring sheep.*

*4 Make me to walk in your commands,
'tis a delightful road;
nor let my head or heart or hands
offend against my God.*

Lesson

Isaiah 55

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Psal m

Psal m 78

*Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.*

**I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will utter dark sayings from of old,**

*things that we have heard and known,
that our ancestors have told us.*

**We will not hide them from their children;
we will tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might,
and the wonders that he has done.**

*He established a decree in Jacob,
and appointed a law in Israel,*

**which he commanded our ancestors
to teach to their children;**

*that the next generation might know them,
the children yet unborn,*

**and rise up and tell them to their children,
so that they should set their hope in God,
and not forget the works of God,
but keep his commandments;**

Gospel Acclamation

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 13th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

Gospel

Matthew 13

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables . . .

Then the disciples came and asked him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?"

He answered, "To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For to those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. The reason I speak to them in parables is that

*'seeing they do not perceive,
and hearing they do not listen,
nor do they understand.'*

With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah that says:

*'Hearing you will hear and never understand,
and seeing you will see but never behold.
For this people's heart has grown dull,
and their ears are hard of hearing,
and they have shut their eyes;
never beholds the eyes,
and the ear hear,
and the heart understand and turn--
and I would heal them.'*

But blessed are your eyes that see, and your ears that hear. Amen I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to behold the things you see, and did not see, and to hear the things you hear, and did not hear. . .

Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables; without a parable he told them nothing. This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

*"I will open my mouth to speak in parables;
I will proclaim what has been hidden
from the foundation of the world."*

P: The Gospel of the Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

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*"Come to me, all pilgrims thirsty;
Drink the water I will give.
**If you knew what gift I offer,
You would come to me and live."***

*Jesus, Ever flowing fountain,
**Give us water from your well.
In the gracious gift you offer
There is joy no tongue can tell.***

*"Come to me, all trav'lers weary;
Come that I may give you rest.
Drink the cup of life I offer;
At this table be my guest."*

*Jesus, Ever flowing fountain,
Give us water from your well.
In the gracious gift you offer
There is joy no tongue can tell.*

*"Come to me, believers burdened;
Find refreshment in this place.
Come, receive the gift I offer,
Turn to me and seek my face."*

*Jesus, Ever flowing fountain,
Give us water from your well.
In the gracious gift you offer
There is joy no tongue can tell.*

*"Come to me, repentant sinners;
Leave behind your guilt and shame.
Come and know divine compassion,
Turn to me, I call your name."*

APOSTLES' Creed

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**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Offering is Presented

Offer tory Prayer

P: Let us Pray

C: In thanks for all the blessing of life, for work and rest, for food and shelter, for love and laughter, for beauty and harmony, we return these offerings to You, O God. We pray that our thanks is pleasing in Your sight, that what we offer is used again for sustenance and growth. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

The Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Dismissal

Grace's Congregation Council has affirmed that Grace will be following the new NYForward Phase requirements, maintaining the closure of the building other than for Sunday Worship and cancelling and postponing all Grace Events at least until the Mid-Hudson Region reaches Phase 4. Grace will continue to abide by the requirements for Mask-wearing and Social Distancing imposed by NY State.