**Christ Episcopal Church in Springfield, Ohio**

**Service of the Word**

**Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost: August 22nd, 2021 at 9 am**

PRELUDE

OPENING HYMN: OPENING HYMN: “The God of Abraham praise” Hymnal 401





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

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

**The Collect of the Day**

Celebrant:The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.***Amen.***

**THE LESSONS**

**THE FIRST READING Joshua 24:1-2a,14-18**

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel:

“Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

*Lector:* The Word of the Lord.

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

**PSALM 34:15-22 *Benedicam Dominum***

15 The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, \*
**and his ears are open to their cry.**

16 The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, \*
**to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.**

17 The righteous cry, and the Lord hears them \*
**and delivers them from all their troubles.**

18 The Lord is near to the brokenhearted \*
**and will save those whose spirits are crushed.**

19 Many are the troubles of the righteous, \*
**but the Lord will deliver him out of them all.**

20 He will keep safe all his bones; \*
**not one of them shall be broken.**

21 Evil shall slay the wicked, \*
**and those who hate the righteous will be punished.**

22 The Lord ransoms the life of his servants, \*
**and none will be punished who trust in him.**

**THE SECOND LESSON Ephesians 6:10-20**

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor 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 armor 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.

 *Lector:* The Word of the Lord.

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

**SQUENCE HYMN:** “Love divine, all loves excelling” Hymnal 657









**GOSPEL**

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (John 6:56-69).

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, “Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

***People:* Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*Sermon The Rev. Canon Dr. Lee Anne Reat*

**The Nicene Creed**

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.**

 **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.**

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

In peace, we pray to you Lord God. Congregational responses are in **bold.**

*Silence*

Let us pray. Founder of our faith, we ask your guidance for the Church, for its unity, and for the work it does in the world. Give grace to its leaders, especially Justin, archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; George, our Provisional Bishop; Lee Anne, our priest; and all the members of this parish.

**R: *Let your priests be clothed with righteousness; let your faithful people sing for joy.***

Ruler over the nations, we pray for this country and its leaders in an unsettling time. Grant wisdom to all who serve in positions of leadership throughout the world.

**R: *For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.***

Lord of the harvest, we offer thanks for the beauty and abundance of this season. May we consider how best to tend the Earth and to share what You have given us, so that all may eat and be satisfied by your goodness. We pray for the ministries this church supports, especially Children’s Rescue Center/The Ark, Christ Church Food Pantry, The Fuller Center for Housing, and Safe Harbor House.

**R: *He covers the heavens with clouds, and prepares rain for the earth;
 He makes grass grow upon the mountains, and green plants to serve humankind.***

Giver of every good gift, we pray for those celebrating birthdays this week, especially Ted

**R: *Let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; Let them also be merry and joyful****.*

Great Physician, we pray for healing and comfort for all those in need or pain, especially Leigh, Charlene, Faye, Chris, Bonnie, Alice, Diana, James, Joy, Jane, Joni, Kim, Bobby, Sarah, Traudie, Lexie, and Keith. May they remember that You are with them and those who care for them.

**R: *Surely you behold trouble and misery; you see it and take it into your own hand.***

 ***The helpless commit themselves to you; for you are the helper of orphans.***

Just Judge, we ask your aid for all those in trouble, bringing before You prisoners and captives, refugees and the oppressed. We pray for those most vulnerable throughout the world, especially women and children.

**R: *Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.***

Lord over life and death, we pray for all who have died, asking light and peace for them and those who mourn.

**R: *Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his servant.***

*\**THE COLLECT FOR PEACE

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen*.***

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Priest: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**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.**

Priest: 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.**

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**

CLOSING HYMN: “O Christ, the Word Incarnate” Hymnal 632





\*THE BLESSING

Christ who has nourished us with himself the living bread, make you one in praise and love, and raise you up at the last day; and the blessing God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. ***Amen.***

ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*THE DISMISSAL Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

 People:**Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE:  “Prelude in f minor” BWV 881 - J.S. Bach

*Thank you for your spiritual presence with us this morning!*

*Although we're physically apart, we are united in prayer, worship, and holy love!*

Priest-In-Charge: The Rev. Dr. Canon Lee Anne Reat

Music Director: Dr. Chris Durrenberger

Lector: Liz Wheeler

Singers: Liz Wheeler, Joy Carter, Basil Fett, Chris Oldstone-Moore, and Fred Bartenstein

Technology: Steve Ide

Slideshow: Ed Hasecke

Parish Administrator and Program Coordinator: Kelly Zeller