



# ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2020**  
**MORNING PRAYER IN THE PARK**  
**9:00 A.M.**

### WORDS OF WELCOME

### OPENING SENTENCES

*Presider* We are called in the morning,  
*People* **To turn our hearts to you.**

### OPENING PRAYER

*Presider* God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time, accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; trusting, O God, that you will make all things right if I surrender to your will; that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with you forever in the next. **Amen.**

### SONG OF PRAISE

*Presider* Rejoice, people of God! Celebrate the life within you,

*People* **And Christ's presence in your midst.**

*Presider* Our eyes shall be opened! The presence will have new meaning,

*People* **And the future will be bright with hope.**

*Presider* Rejoice, people of God! Bow your heads before the One,

*People* **Who is our wisdom and our strength.**

*Presider* We place ourselves before our God, that we may be touched and cleansed,

*People* **By the power of God's Spirit. Amen.**

### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

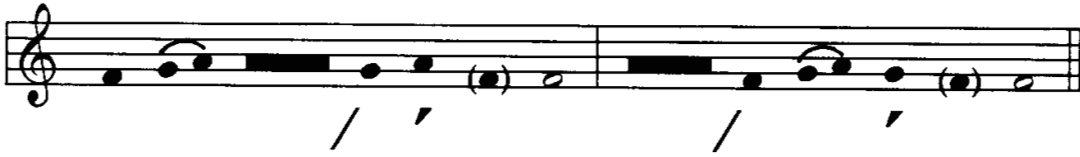
*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Let us pray.

**G**rant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## THE PSALM APPOINTED

Psalm 145: 1-8: *Exaltabo te, Deus;*  
music, Plainsong Psalter, James Litton, ed. (1988), tone VI



- <sup>1</sup> I will exalt you, / O God my King, \*  
and bless your Name for ev- / er änd ever.
- <sup>2</sup> Every day will / I bless you, \*  
and praise your Name for ev- / er änd ever.
- <sup>3</sup> Great is the Lord and great- / ly to be praised; \*  
there is no end / to his greatness.
- <sup>4</sup> One generation shall praise your works to / another \*  
and shall / decläre your power.
- <sup>5</sup> I will ponder the glorious splendor of / your majesty \*  
and all / your märvelous works.
- <sup>6</sup> They shall speak of the might of / your wondrous acts, \*  
and I will tell / of yöur greatness.
- <sup>7</sup> They shall publish the remembrance of your / great goodness; \*  
they shall sing / of yöur righteous deeds.
- <sup>8</sup> The Lord is gracious and full of / compassion, \*  
slow to anger and / of grät kindness.
- Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho- / ly Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for / evär. Amen.

## THE LESSON

Philippians 1: 21-30: *Paul's Present Circumstances*

A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians.

**T**o me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your

salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well-- since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**People** Thanks be to God.

## THE GOSPEL

Matthew 20: 1-16: *The Laborers in the Vineyard*

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

*At the conclusion of the Gospel:*

*Deacon* The Gospel of the Lord.

## REFLECTION

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We** believe in God, the source of love, who created humanity in God's own image and likeness, who blessed them and asked them to procreate, nurture and preserve God's creation for posterity.

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's incarnate, who was born of a woman and was a carpenter, who identified himself with women, men, and children, transforming them to have life abundantly.

We believe in the Holy Spirit active before creation, who through the ages has inspired all people without number, who continues to inspire us to usher in the reign of God, where no one is cast out, lonely or bereft. Amen.

### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Intercessor* As we begin our day,

**People** Give us your peace.

*Intercessor* As we pause this morning,

**People** Give us your peace.

*Intercessor* As we do the work you have given us to do,

**People** Give us your peace.

*Intercessor* For all places of need in this world,

**People** Give us your peace.

*Intercessor* In trusting you, O God, to care for your children,

**People** Give us your peace.

*Intercessor* As we seek wholeness,

**People** Give us your peace.

*Intercessor* We pray for the special needs of this congregation and those whom they love and care for. We pray especially for \_\_\_\_\_ and those we now name.

*The congregation is invited to add any intercessions.*

*Intercessor* We pray for all who have died and now rest in your eternal habitation. We pray especially for \_\_\_\_\_ and those we now name.

*The congregation is invited to add any intercessions.*

*Intercessor* As we reflect on your presence,  
**People** Let us be peace for others. Amen.

## CONFESSION

*Presider* Let us confess our sins to God.

*A moment of silence is kept.*

**People** Word of God, we confess that we need your wholeness. We have often looked to outward gifts and measures when what we need is your love in our hearts. We have often aimed toward what we can achieve or where we stand in relation to others, when what we desire is the integrity your love bestows. We confess our need for your illumination and forgiveness. We pray, be our light, O Christ.

*Presider* God forgives all our sins and heals all our infirmities, God lifts us from the low places and sets mercy and love upon us. God fills us with goodness and renews our lives.

**People** Thanks be to God.

## THE PEACE

*Presider* The peace of Christ be always with you.

**People** And also with you.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**O**ur 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 PRAYER

*Presider* Heavenly God, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Thank you for your participation in today's service. Your presence is a blessing to us.  
To learn more about St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, or to donate, please visit: [www.stbartschurch.org](http://www.stbartschurch.org)  
"All are welcome. No exceptions."*

## BLESSING OF BIRTHDAYS

**W**atch over your children, 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 understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## BLESSING OF ANNIVERSARIES

**G**racious God, we thank and praise you for the gift of marriage and committed relationships, and the love and joy they bring. Pour out, we pray, your love, joy, grace, and peace into the hearts of all who are celebrating their anniversaries this week. We pray you will continue to bless and to keep them, and be their source, supply, and ever-present help in times of need. May their home be a place of peace and comfort, and grant them many more years of joy and happiness together. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

## THE BLESSING

## THE DISMISSAL

*Presider*     Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People*        Thanks be to God.



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