

The Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

9:00 + July 23, 2023

Welcome! You are invited to participate fully in our worship.
Whoever you are, wherever you are on your journey of faith,
welcome! Please contact the church office (aschurch@allsaintschelmsford.org)
if you would like to receive our weekly e-bulletin.

Morning Prayer: Rite Two

(Hymns at the end of the bulletin)

Prelude: *Sicilienne from Pelleas et Melisande, op. 78*

Gabriel Faure (1845 – 1924)

Hymn 623: *O what their joy and their glory*

Tune: *O quanta qualia*

Opening Sentences

Officiant Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. *Philippians 1:2*

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth his praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Confession

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.

Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. *Amen.*

The Invitatory and Psalter

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Officiant and People:

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.
Amen. Alleluia.

Venite (Spoken)

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *

and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, *

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *

and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, *

and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

Psalm 139: 1-11, 22-23

(Spoken by Congregation)

1 LORD, you have searched me out and known me; *

**you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.**

2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places *

and are acquainted with all my ways.

3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, *

but you, O LORD, know it altogether.

4 You press upon me behind and before *

and lay your hand upon me.

5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; *

it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

6 Where can I go then from your Spirit? *

where can I flee from your presence?

7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; *

if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

8 If I take the wings of the morning *

and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

9 Even there your hand will lead me *

and your right hand hold me fast.

10 If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, *

and the light around me turn to night,"

11 Darkness is not dark to you;

the night is as bright as the day; *

darkness and light to you are both alike.

22 Search me out, O God, and know my heart; *

try me and know my restless thoughts.

23 Look well whether there be any wickedness in me *

and lead me in the way that is everlasting.

The Lessons

A Reading from the Book of Genesis 28:10-19a

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!" And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.

People's response after the reading

Thanks be to God.

Canticle: The Song of the Redeemed (Revelation 15:3-4)

**O ruler of the universe, Lord God,
great deeds are they that you have done, *
surpassing human understanding.**

**Your ways are ways of righteousness and truth, *
O King of all the ages.**

**Who can fail to do you homage, Lord,
and sing the praises of your Name? *
for you only are the Holy One.**

**All nations will draw near and fall down before you, *
because your just and holy works have been revealed.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

A Reading from the Letter to the Romans 8:12-25

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ-- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

People's response after the reading

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 13:24-30,36-43

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest

time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

People's response after the reading **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Amy Hunter

The Apostles Creed

Spoken by all, standing.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He 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,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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.

Announcements

The Prayers

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 Litanist and People pray responsively, kneeling as able

Litanist Show us your mercy, O Lord;

People **And grant us your salvation.**

Litanist Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

People **Let your people sing with joy.**

Litanist	Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
People	For only in you can we live in safety.
Litanist	Lord, keep this nation under your care;
People	And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
Litanist	Let your way be known upon earth;
People	Your saving health among all nations.
Litanist	Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
People	Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
Litanist	Create in us clean hearts, O God;
People	And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

Litanist Intercessions and Thanksgivings

The Collects

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

The General Thanksgiving

Officiant and People

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. *Amen.*

Hymn344: *Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing*

Tune: *Sicilian Mariners*

The Dismissal

Officiant: Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever (*Ephesians 3:20, 21*).

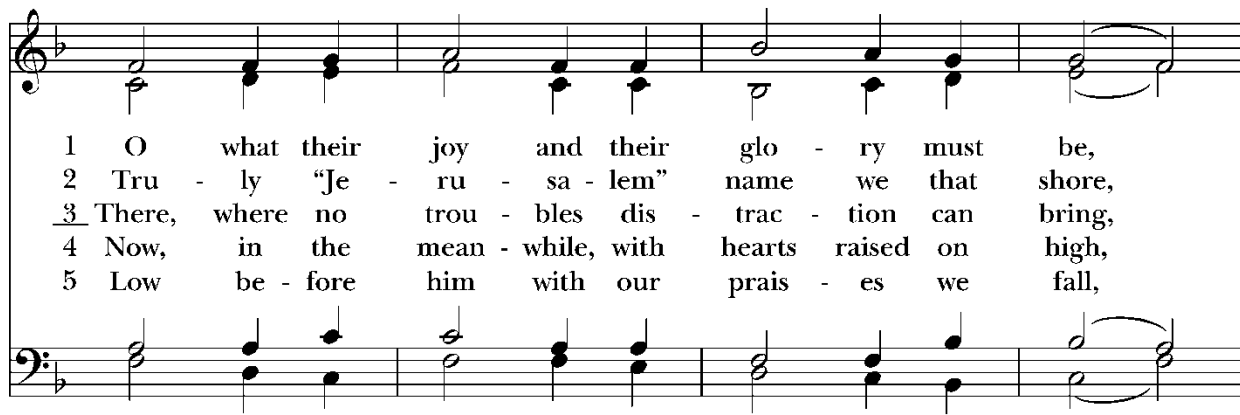
People: Amen.

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

Postlude: *Come Sunday from Black, Brown and Beige*

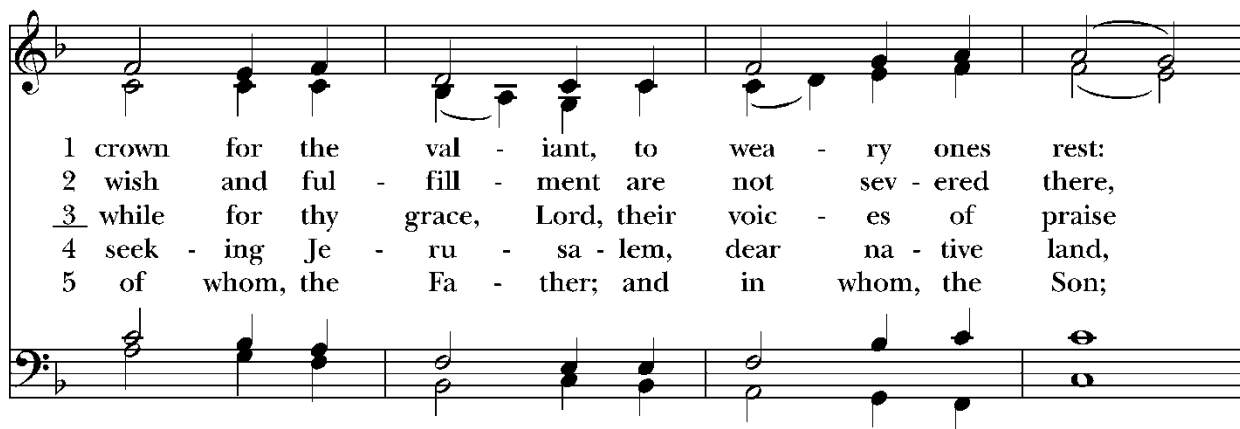
Duke Ellington (1899 – 1974)



1 O what their joy and their glo - ry must be,
2 Tru - ly "Je - ru - sa - lem" name we that shore,
3 There, where no trou - bles dis - trac - tion can bring,
4 Now, in the mean - while, with hearts raised on high,
5 Low be - fore him with our prais - es we fall,



1 those end - less Sab - baths the bless - ed ones see;
2 ci - ty of peace that brings joy ev - er - more;
3 we the sweet an - thems of Zi - on shall sing;
4 we for that coun - try must yearn and must sigh,
5 of whom, and in whom, and through whom are all;



1 crown for the val - iant, to wea - ry ones rest:
2 wish and ful - fill - ment are not sev - ered there,
3 while for thy grace, Lord, their voic - es of praise
4 seek - ing Je - ru - sa - lem, dear na - tive land,
5 of whom, the Fa - ther; and in whom, the Son;



1 God shall be all, and in all ev - er blest.
2 nor do things prayed for come short of the prayer.
3 thy bless - ed peo - ple e - ter - nal - ly raise.
4 through our long ex - ile on Bab - y - lon's strand.
5 through whom, the Spi - rit, with them ev - er One.

Hymn 589: *Almighty God, your word is cast*

Tune: *Walden*



- 1 Al - mighty God, your word is cast like seed up - on the ground,
- 2 Let not our self - ish - ness and hate this ho - ly seed re - move,
- 3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares the ris - ing plant des - troy,



now let the dew of heaven de - scend and right - eous fruits a - bound.
but give it root in ev - ery heart to bring forth fruits of love.
but let it yield a hun - dred - fold the fruits of peace and joy.

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Hymn344: Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing

Tune: *Sicilian Mariners*



1 Lord, dis - miss us with thy bless - ing; fill our hearts with
 2 Thanks we give and a - dor - a - tion for thy Gos - pel's
 3 so that when thy love shall call us, Sa - vior, from the

joy and peace; let us each, thy love pos - sess - ing,
 joy - ful sound: may the fruits of thy sal - va - tion
 world a - way, fear of death shall not ap - pall us,

tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace: O re - fresh us,
 in our hearts and lives a - bound: ev - er faith - ful,
 glad thy sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,

O re - fresh us trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.
 ev - er faith - ful to thy truth may we be found;
 may we ev - er reign with thee in end - less day.