

The Holy Communion

Offertory Hymn: “Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee” Music: Peter Mathews, Text: Bernard of Clairvaux (trans. Edward Caswall)

The Great Thanksgiving—Eucharistic Prayer A

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.  
People: And also with you.  
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.  
People: We lift them to the Lord.  
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People  
Sanctus: Holy, Holy, Holy LEVAS 255  
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel.  
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:  
Celebrant and People

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.

The Breaking of the Bread  
Fraction Anthem: Christ our Passover LEVAS 268

Communion Music: “Will You Come and Follow Me?” Music: MARY ALEXANDRA; John Hooker, Text: Iona Community

The Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant and People  
Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn: “I have decided to follow Jesus” LEVAS 136

The Dismissal  
Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.  
People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Postlude: “Voluntary in D minor” William Croft

Thank you for joining us today!

if you would like to receive our weekly e-bulletin, please contact the church office ([aschurch@allsaintschelmsford.org](mailto:aschurch@allsaintschelmsford.org)) To learn more about us, visit <https://www.allsaintschelmsford.org> or call us at 978 256 5673.

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 AM + September 15, 2024

Welcome! You are invited to participate fully in our worship. Whoever you are, wherever you are on your journey of faith, welcome!

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two  
The Word of God

Prelude: "Adagio" John Bennett  
Hymn: “The Church’s one foundation” Blue Hymnal 525 (vv. 1, 3, 5)

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
People: And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.  
Celebrant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gloria: Glory to God LEVAS 243

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.  
People: And also with you.  
Celebrant: Let us pray.

The Collect Said in unison

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 Prophet Isaiah 50:4-9a  
The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens--wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward.

I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?  
*People’s response after the reading* **Thanks be to God.**

- Psalm 116:1-8
- 1 I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, \*  
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

2 The cords of death entangled me;  
the grip of the grave took hold of me; \*  
I came to grief and sorrow.

3 Then I called upon the Name of the LORD: \*  
"O LORD, I pray you, save my life."

4 Gracious is the LORD and righteous; \*  
our God is full of compassion.

5 The LORD watches over the innocent; \*  
I was brought very low, and he helped me.

6 Turn again to your rest, O my soul, \*  
for the LORD has treated you well.

7 For you have rescued my life from death, \*  
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.

8 I will walk in the presence of the LORD \*  
in the land of the living.

A reading from the letter of St. 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.

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

**Hymn:** “Before thy throne, O God, we kneel” *Blue Hymnal 574*  
*(vv. 1-2 before Gospel, vv. 3-4 after Gospel)*

The Holy Gospel according to Mark 8:27-38

*People’s response before the Gospel*

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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.”

*People’s response after the Gospel*

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Sean Maloney

The Nicene Creed

*Spoken by all, standing.*

**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.**

**Prayers of the People**— from Hear Our Prayer: Prayers of the People for the Revised Common Lectionary

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

Let us cry out to our Lord with our prayers and petitions saying, Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The Lord has given us the beauty of worship and the gift of fellowship with one another. We thank you Lord, for the church. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The Lord has given us life in a nation of opportunities and liberty; with public services such as fire and police protection, ambulances, food pantries, schools, libraries, and hospitals. We thank you Lord, for our national life. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The Lord has given us neighbors, friends, families, and coworkers to share the joys and burdens of this life. We thank you Lord, for the privilege of loving others. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The Lord has given us a world full of creatures that crawl, fly, swim, and climb. We enjoy a bounty of flowers and shrubs, grasses and trees, plants and moss, and rocks and hills. We thank you Lord, for your creation. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We especially pray for ... [Names from prayer list in insert]. The Lord has given us one another and we thank God for grace, and we offer for God’s mercy the sick and the suffering. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The Lord has given us a promise that where He goes, He will prepare a place for us. We thank you Lord for the gift of life and for giving us to one another for safekeeping. Bring us home when it is time. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The Lord has given us permission to pray with the audacity of heirs and the openness of children. Thank you, Lord, for listening to us today. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

*Silence*  
*The People may add their own petitions.*  
*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

**Confession of Sin**  
*Celebrant:*  
Let us confess our sins to God. *(Silence may be kept.)*

**God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

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

**The Peace**

*All stand*

*Celebrant:*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People:*

**And also with you.**

**Announcements:**