



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A Protestant church in the worldwide
Anglican Communion.

A LITURGY FOR HOME

When life's circumstances prevent us from attending Church

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 2020 — 10:30 am Service

Before the Service — Speak quietly to God

During the Service — Let God speak to you

After the Service — Speak to one another

TO JOIN THIS SERVICE LIVE VIA ZOOM

To join this service online, visit our website at gracechurchmtclemens.org and follow the link.

To join this service by phone, call 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 899 8049 9374

Password: 382635

Officiant: The Rev. Steven Steinberger-Domienik
Cell: 203-641-2068

Clergy Emerita: The Rev. Deacon Betty Brogan
Ms. Amy Saari, Minister of Music

115 South Main Street, Mt Clemens, MI 48043

Office 586-465-4573 Fax 586-463-9162

Email: gracemtclemens@yahoo.com

Visit us on the web at

www.gracechurchmtclemens.org

Opening Hymn: Bless the Lord O My Soul by *Andrae Crouch* (Listen to this hymn on our website)

Bless the Lord, O my soul:
And all that is within me,
Bless His holy name.

He has done great things,
He has done great things,
He has done great things,
Bless His holy name.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: May God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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

Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32

The word of the LORD came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

The Response

Psalm 25:1-8

Ad te, Domine, levavi

1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
 let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O LORD, *
 and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
 for you are the God of my salvation;
 in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5 Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, *
 for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
 remember me according to your love
 and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the LORD; *
 therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right *
 and teaches his way to the lowly.

The Second Reading

Philippians 2:1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
 who, though he was in the form of God,
 did not regard equality with God
 as something to be exploited,
 but emptied himself,
 taking the form of a slave,
 being born in human likeness.
 And being found in human form,
 he humbled himself
 and became obedient to the point of death--
 even death on a cross.
 Therefore God also highly exalted him
 and gave him the name
 that is above every name,
 so that at the name of Jesus
 every knee should bend,
 in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
 and every tongue should confess
 that Jesus Christ is Lord,
 to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church .

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Hymn: The Church of Christ Cannot Be Sold *by David Bjorlin*
(Listen to the hymn on our website)

The Church of Christ cannot be sold
For profit, power, or fame,
With views controlled by highest bid
Disguised in Jesus' name.
When wealth is used to gain control,
The prophet's call is clear:
If money muzzles true dissent,
The victor will be fear.

When Christ came to the Temple Mount
And sought a sacred space,
Instead of shelter fit for prayer
He found a marketplace.
He flipped the tables of their greed,
Reversed the well-worn plot:
Christ's reign cannot be monetized,
His love cannot be bought.

Forgive us, Jesus of the poor,
For courage quickly lost,
When we choose might instead of right
And shirk redemption's cost.
And as you cleansed the temple floor,
Come cleanse our motives too,
Our conscience neither bought nor sold
But only formed by you.

O Spirit, come and strengthen us
To follow Christ's own way,
To speak and act the truth in love
Now freed from money's sway.
Then we will praise the Source of all
Whom none but love control,
No longer bound to lose our voice,
But freed to gain our soul.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, from Matthew 21:23-32

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you Lord Christ

The Homily: The Rev. Steven Steinberger-Domienik (Listen to this sermon on our website)

We observe a brief silence for reflection.

The Affirmation of our Faith

The Apostles' Creed

**I give my heart to God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I give my heart to 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,**

And 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 give my heart to the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic and apostolic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In peace we pray to you, O God.

We pray today for all people who struggle for survival: may you bless, comfort and strengthen them. **We pray to you, O God.**

For our faith community at Grace during this time of separation due to the pandemic and for all those who come to our building to be nourished by the food we provide. **We pray to you, O God.**

For the spirit of peace in our world: that all people, groups and nations in conflict may live in harmony. **We pray to you, O God.**

For the world's poor, destitute and homeless: Let not the needy be forgotten, or the hope of the poor be taken away. **We pray to you, O God.**

For the spirit of unity, forgiveness and reconciliation in our country: guide our elected officials to put aside political rivalry and work for the good of all our citizens. **We pray to you, O God.**

For all people of minority cultures and ethnic groups in the United States who continue to be trivialized and endangered by the pervasiveness of racism: may this national sin be acknowledged and cleansed from our hearts, institutions and nation. **We pray to you, O God.**

For all those who are sick or infirmed or who have asked for our prayers: **Ena, Cynthia, Michelle, Jeff, Samantha, Odin, Thor, Rosy, Cindy, Deborah, Jeanne, Michelle,, Pam, Liz, Janice, PamZ, Sue, Frank, Carol, Candy, Joan, Mark, Emily, Nathan, Jennifer, Sherie, Nina, Susan, Ellen, Frank, Barbara, Dan, Donna, Jim, Herman, David, Keta, Brianna, Helen.**

Are there others?

That they may receive your healing touch. **We pray to you, O God.**

For those whose lives are approaching death, and for those who have died, especially from COVID-19 that they and their loved ones may receive the comfort of your loving embrace. **We pray to you, O God.**

CONCLUDING COLLECT

Good and gracious God, send forth your Holy Spirit upon your people throughout our country and the world. Tear down the walls that divide us, and make us one through Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Friends in Christ, during this time of social distancing, we are not able to celebrate the Eucharist together. Many of us are feeling what St. Thomas Aquinas describes as an “ardent desire to receive Jesus in the most holy sacrament and lovingly embrace him.” We are aware of this absence and our yearning for the real presence of Christ in that same experience we share with followers of Christ throughout the ages. Until we meet again in community we can practice a different Christian tradition in the practice of spiritual communion. We will now pray the prayer for spiritual communion from the Prayer Book for the Armed Services.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

Priest The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**

Priest Let us pray: In union, O God, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, we desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. We remember your death, Lord Christ; We proclaim your resurrection; We await your coming in glory. Since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come.

People **Amen.**

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us we are bold to pray:
Listen to the pre-recorded Lord’s Prayer on our website.

Our Father
Which 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 debts
As we forgive our debtors

And lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil

For thine is the kingdom,
And the power
And the glory
Forever
Amen

The Blessing

People Amen.

Closing Hymn: **Goodness is Stronger than Evil** (Listen to this song on our website)

Good-ness is strong-er than e - vil; love is strong-er than
hate; light is strong-er than dark - ness;
life is strong-er than death. Vic-'try is ours, vic-t'ry is
ours through him who loved us. Vic-'try is
ours, vic-t'ry is ours through him who loved us.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Goodness is Stronger than Evil". It consists of five staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 6/8 time signature. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics: "Good-ness is strong-er than e - vil; love is strong-er than". The second staff continues: "hate; light is strong-er than dark - ness;". The third staff: "life is strong-er than death. Vic-'try is ours, vic-t'ry is". The fourth staff: "ours through him who loved us. Vic-'try is". The fifth staff: "ours, vic-t'ry is ours through him who loved us." The score ends with a double bar line.

The Dismissal

Priest: Our worship has ended, let our service begin, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

People: **Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

The Prayers of this Congregation

For all refugees, especially those at our southern border; for the farmers across our country who are struggling; for Bonnie Perry, our Bishop, for Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael Curry, our Presiding Bishop; Wendell N. Gibbs, Jr., our retired bishop; Moises Quezada Mota, Bishop of the Diocese of the Dominican Republic; Elizabeth Eaton, ELCA Presiding Bishop; Donald P. Kreiss, ELCA Bishop, SE Michigan Synod; Craig Satterlee, ELCA Bishop, NW Lower Michigan Synod; Stewart Wood, our retired bishop; and our whole diocesan household, including St. Katherine's in Williamston, Holy Name in Carreton DR, St. Matthew's in Nizao DR; for Donald, our President, and all members of Congress.

For Ena Pederson, Cynthis Burdie, Michelle, Jeff, Samantha, Odin, Thor, Rosy, Cindy, Deborah Pinto, Jeanne Nowak, Michelle Wisneski, Pam Sherry, Liz Moorehouse, Janice Kibler, Pam Zawierucha, Sue Schlanbusch, Frank Laura, Carol Bales, Candy Dixon, Joan Walsh, Mark, Emily, Nathan, Jennifer Holland, Sherie Borsa, Nina DiGaetano, Susan Fox, Ellen Laudicina, Frank & Barbara Davenport, Dan Davenport, Donna Hanes, Jim Smith, Herman Houser, David Sonntag, Keta, Brianna, Helen Stein.

***Please note: Names will remain on the prayer list for one month.
In order to add someone or keep someone on the prayer list, please fill out a new prayer card
(from the back of the pews) and place it in the offering tray.***

Do you know someone who is ill? Please contact the office and we will add them to the prayer list.

The MINISTRIES of GRACE CHURCH *Currently*

WORSHIP SERVICES

Morning Prayer: On our website each Sunday

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Community Suppers:

Wednesdays at 4:00, take-out meals only

Food Pantry:

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 10 am -12 noon, curbside pickup
Serving from 250 - 350 people every month

**All outreach ministries welcome volunteers,
financial donations, or food and clothing donations.**

Call the office to learn about helping or giving: 586-465-4573

JOIN US FOR BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays at 10:00 am on Zoom *(Meeting info will remain as follows each week)*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89732417015?pwd=Z0NkeFQ4L2FFSEYelB3WXoyUmFvZz09>

Meeting ID: 897 3241 7015 Password: 683930 Or call: 312-626-6799

FORWARD MOVEMENT DAY BY DAY

We still have several of these daily devotionals for Aug-Oct in both regular and large print.
Please call the office to have one mailed to you. While supplies last!

Grace's Income and Expenses

Aug. total expenses: \$29,627.34

Aug. total income: \$18,665.29

Sept. pledge income: \$14,606.83

Sept. outreach income: \$1,194.00

Sept. rental income: \$1,590.00

Capital Campaign

Goal for 2020-22: \$150,000.00

Pledged to date: \$84,350.00

Received to date: \$28,750.00