



St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Wilson, NC  
An Online Expression of the Holy Eucharist  
The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

(Proper 20)

September 20, 2020

The Rev. James G. Reed – Celebrant and Preacher  
Dexter Ruffin, Organist

**Opening Hymn**

*Come, labor on*

**H 541**

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*People* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

**COLLECT FOR PURITY**

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 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.

**Grant 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 whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

Then the Lord said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?” And Moses said, “When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord.”

Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.’” And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, “I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’”

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

PSALM 105:1-6, 37-45 (read by Jennifer Long)

- <sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the LORD and call upon his Name; \*  
make known his deeds among the peoples.
- <sup>2</sup> Sing to him, sing praises to him, \*  
and speak of all his marvelous works.
- <sup>3</sup> Glory in his holy Name; \*  
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
- <sup>4</sup> Search for the LORD and his strength; \*  
continually seek his face.
- <sup>5</sup> Remember the marvels he has done, \*  
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,
- <sup>6</sup> O offspring of Abraham his servant, \*  
O children of Jacob his chosen.

<sup>37</sup> He led out his people with silver and gold; \*  
in all their tribes there was not one that stumbled.  
<sup>38</sup> Egypt was glad of their going, \*  
because they were afraid of them.  
<sup>39</sup> He spread out a cloud for a covering \*  
and a fire to give light in the night season.  
<sup>40</sup> They asked, and quails appeared, \*  
and he satisfied them with bread from heaven.  
<sup>41</sup> He opened the rock, and water flowed, \*  
so the river ran in the dry places.  
<sup>42</sup> For God remembered his holy word \*  
and Abraham his servant.  
<sup>43</sup> So he led forth his people with gladness, \*  
his chosen with shouts of joy.  
<sup>44</sup> He gave his people the lands of the nations, \*  
and they took the fruit of others' toil,  
<sup>45</sup> That they might keep his statutes \*  
and observe his laws.  
Hallelujah!

**THE EPISTLE** (read by Jennifer Long)

**A Reading from Philippians 1:21-30**

To 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.

The Word of the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God.*

**SEQUENCE HYMN**

*Guide me, O thou great Jehovah*

**H 690**

**THE GOSPEL**

**Matthew 20:1-16**

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and

he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last.

*Celebrant*            The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*                Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## THE SERMON

The Rev. James G. Reed

## 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.**

**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.**

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE - FORM VI** (read by Jennifer Long)      **For St. Timothy's Wilson NC**

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence*

For all people in their daily life and work;

**For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

For Donald our President, Roy our Governor, Carlton our Mayor, for this community, the nation, and the world;

**For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

For the just and proper use of your creation;

**For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

**For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

**For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Sam and Anne, our Bishops; Jim, our priest; and for all bishops, priests, deacons, and those in religious orders;

**For all who serve God in his Church.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

*Silence*

**Buster Dawson, Bonnie Campbell, Eva Morriss, Bill Wrenn, Dallas Clark, Pat Grainger, April Lamm, Melanie Womble, Dick Cozart, Betty Jean Gauss, those affected by Covid-19, those affected by the lack of respect for the dignity of every person;** and, those who have ongoing needs as listed in our website and those who suffer from any grief or trouble.

*Silence*

O gracious God, you know our unique needs as we continue this journey to recognize and select our new Rector.

**Help us to listen anew to You and each other so that we may discern the direction you would have us go. Be with us as we create a new, shared vision and guide our steps with your heavenly compass, that we may accomplish our task inspired by imagination and not memory.**

Finally, we ask Your blessing upon the St. Timothy's family, even as we continue to pray for the priest, known only to You, who is on the way to us. All this we ask in Jesus's name, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

We pray for the mission and ministries of our sister Episcopal Churches of St. Mark's and Guadalupana.

We pray for our military personnel serving throughout the world, particularly those in war zones. We pray for those affected by terrorism, both domestic and abroad, and for those who protect us from such acts of violence.

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace.

Hear us, Lord;

**For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

*Silence*

We pray for those who are celebrating birthdays this week, especially; **Bob Plesha, Lee Homes, Sydney Eatmon, Brandon McLean, Ed Fischer, and Jody Webb.**

We will exalt you, O God our King;

**And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence - The People may add their own petitions*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

**Who put their trust in you.**

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Leader and People*

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown,**

**things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit**

**that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **THE BLESSING**

## **THE DISMISSAL**

Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **CLOSING VOLUNTARY**