

**The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 17**

St. John's Episcopal Church, Ithaca NY
September 1, 2024 Year B

10:30 AM

* indicates please stand

World Day of Prayer for Creation Care

Prelude Prelude & Fugue in E minor

Johann Krebs (1713–80)

***Processional Hymn** Praise to the Living God! (*Leoni*)

Hymnal #372

***Opening Acclamation**

Celebrant: Blessed be the One who creates all things.

People: *The Holy One's love is new every morning.*

***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**

Hymnal #S-278

Celebrant: The Creator be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

The Collect of the Day

Lord of all love and glory, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Creation; increase in all true unity; nourish the world with all goodness; and bring forth the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen.*

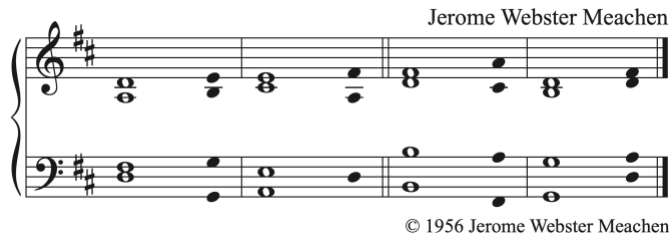
The First Lesson

Song of Solomon 2:8–13

The voice of my beloved! Look, he comes, leaping upon the mountains, bounding over the hills. My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Look, there he stands behind our wall, gazing in at the windows, looking through the lattice. My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to all God's Creation.

Thanks be to God.



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| <p>1 My heart is stirring with a noble song; let me recite what I have fashioned for the king; * my tongue shall be the pen of a skilled writer.</p> <p>2 You are the fairest of men; * grace flows from your lips, because God has blessed you for ever.</p> <p>7 Your throne, O God, endures for ever and ever, * a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom; you love righteousness and hate iniquity.</p> | <p>8 Therefore God, your God, has anointed you * with the oil of gladness above your fellows.</p> <p>9 All your garments are fragrant with myrrh, aloes, and cassia, * and the music of strings from ivory palaces makes you glad.</p> <p>10 Kings' daughters stand among the ladies of the court; * on your right hand is the queen, adorned with the gold of Ophir.</p> |
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The Epistle Reading

James 1:17–27

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to all God's Creation.
Thanks be to God.

***Gradual** Blest Are the Pure in Heart (*Franconia*)

Hymnal #656 vv. 1–2

***The Gospel Reading**

Mark 7:1–8, 14–15, 21–23

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
Glory be to you, Lord Christ.

When the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the

tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

"This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me;
in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines."

You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition." Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile." For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Glory be to you, O Lord.

***Sequence** Blest Are the Pure in Heart (*Franconia*)

Hymnal #656 vv. 3–4

The Sermon

The Rev. Kit Tobin

***The 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**

Let us pray for the revealing of the reign of God in the world, now and always.

In the beginning,
God was.

Here and now,
God is.

In the future,
God will be.

Creator of earth, sea, and sky, kindle the fire of your Spirit within us that we may be bold to heal and defend the earth, and pour your blessing upon all who work for the good of the planet.

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Breath of life, receive our thanks for the beauty of our local habitat and all who dwell in it, and grant us the wisdom and will to conserve it.

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Source of life, heal and redeem the wounds of your creation, and visit the places and people who suffer from our indifference, neglect, and greed.

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Lover of all you have made, we thank you for the wondrous diversity of your creatures, and we pray for their well-being.

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Author of the book of nature, receive our gratitude for places of restoration and healing, and continue to bless those places that feed our lives and spirits.

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Wise Creator, whose works are full of mystery, give us wonder and appreciation for your creatures with whom we find ourselves in conflict.

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Giver of all good gifts, awaken us daily to our dependence upon your bounty, and make us always thankful for the abundance of your blessings.

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Divine Physician, heal our communities, especially those where neglect, greed, or violence inflict suffering upon people and other creatures.

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Comforter of all the earth, sustain the people of this *congregation* who desire or need your presence and help especially:

Joan	Virginia	Jim	Theodore	Kathryn	Nathan
Charles	Shirley	Gerald	Lorraine	Sarah	Jane
Wes	Linda	Cece	Edith	Avery	Chris

Carole	Mary Beth	Lisa	Penny	Isabella	Joanne
Amelia	Jack	Ira	Ann	Shawn	Olivia
Susan	Julianne	Jan	David	Rebekah	Nancy
Jeff	Jack	Nick	Cheryl	Libby	Roger

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

Rock and refuge of all your creatures, receive into everlasting mercy all those who have died.

God, Giver of life,
Hear our prayer.

For those celebrating the anniversary of their birth this week:
 Charlene Baker, Ruby Sanaker, Dylan McKibbin

The Celebrant concludes the prayers

Eternal God, the light of all who know you, come and fill our hearts with your love. Help us speak when many keep silent, help us stand for what is right when many sit in indifference. Increase our faith and charity, until your kingdom comes and heaven and earth rejoice in everlasting glory; through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Confession Of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and God’s creation.

Holy and merciful God, we confess that we have failed to honor you by rightly claiming our kinship with all your creatures. We have walked heavily on your earth, overused and wasted its resources, taken for granted its beauty and abundance, and treated its inhabitants unjustly, holding future generations hostage to our greed. Have mercy on us and forgive us our sin. Renew in us the resolve to keep and conserve your earth as you desire and intend, with grateful and compassionate hearts, through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

***The Peace**

Please remain in your pew. Wave!

The God of heaven has made a home on earth. Christ dwells among us
 and is one with us. The peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

Announcements & Welcome

Offertory Sentence

Anthem Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

Richard Dirksen (1921–2003)

***Presentation Hymn** Take My Life, and Let It Be (*Hollingside*)

Hymnal #707

***The Great Thanksgiving**

Eucharistic Prayer C

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

Celebrant: Because in the mystery of Christ's incarnation you have gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, calling your people to be ministers of reconciliation and to proclaim the Good News to all creation. God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy (*Sanctus*)

Hymnal #S-128

The Celebrant continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

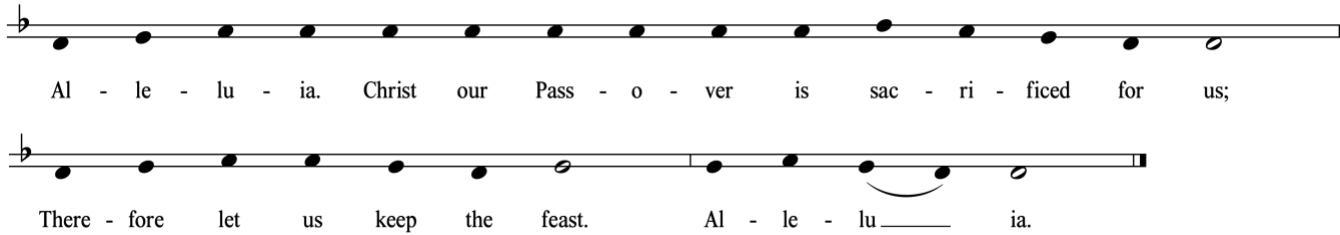
We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. *Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer



Celebrant: This is Living Bread, given for all Creation. All who eat this bread share in Our Lord’s Body.

The Communion of the People

*All people are invited to the Lord’s Table.
Eucharist will be distributed in the center aisle. Please come forward in a single line to receive.
You may either intinct your wafer or you may drink from the common chalice after consuming the wafer.
Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.*

Communion Music O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee (*Maryton*) **Hymnal #660**

Post Communion Prayer

Holy One, you feed us with bread from heaven and the gifts of mother earth. In this communion, you have drawn us into your embrace, and you call us to friendship with one another. You have given us the gift of reconciliation. May we who have tasted that gift from you, offer ourselves in peace and humility to one another. And may you always walk among us as friend. Amen.

Blessing

***Recessional** Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise (*St. Denio*) **Hymnal #423**

Dismissal

Postlude St. Denio Toccata O. H. Lane

Crucifer: Amber Massa

Acolyte: Amber Massa

Liturgical Ministers: Muriel Everhart, Amber Massa, Stephanie Nevels

Virtual Vergers Michael Roman, Sara VanLooy, Jack Wright

The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of Eleanore Mikus by Gabrielle Burns

This morning we welcome The Rev. Kit Tobin as our celebrant and guest preacher.

St. John’s extends a warm welcome to visitors!

May you experience the Lord’s presence during worship. Please fill out a visitor card and place it in the offering plate and stay for coffee in the parish hall after the service.

LARGE PRINT EDITIONS OF THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from
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Office Hours Monday thru Thursday 10–3

Rector

Beverly Way, Sr. Warden
Ilze Lemesis, Parish Administrator
Timothy E. Smith, Director of Music/Organist

Pamela Talbott, Jr. Warden
Chuck Merrill, Weekday Sexton

If you need pastoral assistance, please call or text the Senior Warden at 607-232-4465.

If you would like to contribute to our ministries, you may make a secure donation at <https://stjohnsithaca.org/donate/>. Thank you!

Sign up for our weekly newsletter The Fledgling by contacting the church office.

Forward Day by Day for **August, September, and October** is available on the table in the rear of the church.

Please Join Us for Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall following the service. Masks are optional when you are not actively eating or drinking.

Candles and Flowers: If you wish to give candles or Sunday flowers in memory of a loved one, or to celebrate a special occasion, please call the church office (607-273-6532).

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Explore our resources to equip you for advocacy including “Action Alerts” and a weekly network call to learn about the issues we are tracking on Thursdays at 1 pm ET.

episcopalchurch.org/ministries/office-government-relations/

“It is our Christian obligation to vote, and more than that, it is the Church’s responsibility to get souls to the polls.”—Bishop Michael Curry

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 17

September 1, 2024 Year B

Hymns

Praise to the Living God! (*Leoni*)

Hymnal #372

1 Praise to the living God! All praised be his Name who was, and is, and is to be, for ay the same. The one eternal God ere aught that now appears: the first, the last, beyond all thought his timeless years!

2 Formless, all lovely forms declare his loveliness; holy, no holiness of earth can his express. Lo, he is Lord of all. Creation speaks his praise, and everywhere above, below, his will obeys.

3 His Spirit floweth free, high surging where it will: in prophet's word he spake of old: he speaketh still. Established is his law, and changeless it shall stand, deep writ upon the human heart, on sea, on land.

4 Eternal life hath he implanted in the soul; his love shall be our strength and stay while ages roll. Praise to the living God! All praised be his Name who was, and is, and is to be, for ay the same.

Blest Are the Pure in Heart (*Franconia*)

Hymnal #656

1 Blest are the pure in heart, for they shall see our God; the secret of the Lord is theirs, their soul is Christ's abode.

2 The Lord, who left the heavens our life and peace to bring, to dwell in lowliness with us, our pattern and our King;

3 he to the lowly soul will still himself impart and for his dwelling and his throne will choose the pure in heart.

4 Lord, we thy presence seek; may ours this blessing be; give us a pure and lowly heart, a temple fit for thee.

Take My Life, and Let It Be (*Hollingside*)

Hymnal #707

1 Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee; take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise. Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love; take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.

2 Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King; take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose. Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine. Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

(*Maryton*)

Hymnal #660

1 O Master, let me walk with thee in lowly paths of service free; tell me thy secret; help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.

2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, winning word of love; teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way.

3 Teach me thy patience; still with thee in closer, dearer company, in work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over wrong,

4 In hope that sends a shining ray far down the future's broadening way, in peace that only thou canst give, with thee, O Master, let me live.

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

(St. Denio)

Hymnal #423

1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of
Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great Name we praise.

2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and
love.

3 To all life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish, like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish; but nought changeth
thee.

4 Thou reignest in glory, thou rulest in light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render: O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.