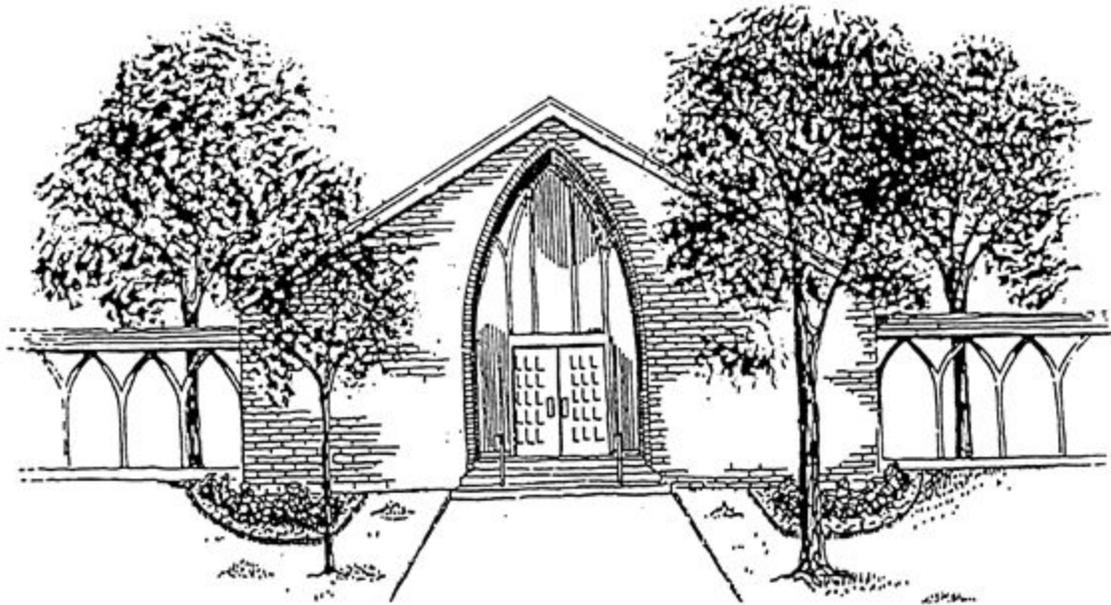


St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church
The Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost



Sunday, September 13, 2020

8:00 A.M. Rite I

Thank YOU for worshipping with us today.

We welcome the participation of children in our worship.

Please sign our guest registry.

Child Care area is in the back of the Nave

The Right Reverend Larry Benfield, Bishop of Arkansas

The Reverend Michael Briggs, Rector

Organist, Susan Mason

Office Administrator: Becky Ibison

Church Office: (479) 783-2101

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Facebook: St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church and Facebook Live

Twitter: St. Bart's Church@stbartschurch1

Please enter the Nave quietly and respectfully as there are those who are in prayer and meditation, preparing for the service.

Proclaiming the Word of God

Priest: Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Prayer for Purity:

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Great Commandment:

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Collect: (kneeling or standing as you feel called and are able)

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.** Let us pray.

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.

The First Reading:

(please sit)

Genesis 50:15-21

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said,

“We are here as your slaves.” But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Let Us Pray Together

Psalm 103:8-13

**8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.**

**9 He will not always accuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for ever.**

**10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.**

**11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.**

**12 As far as the east is from the west, *
so far has he removed our sins from us.**

**13 As a father cares for his children, *
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.**

The Second Reading:

Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

(Standing as you are able)

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Matthew 18:21-35

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.

Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Homily: Fr. Michael Briggs

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: (please kneel, sit or stand as you feel called or able)

Rejoice in the waters of life, those who honor God in all things, and raise your voices in prayer, responding, "Lord, hear our prayer."

In thanksgiving for this holy day where we gather as a household of faith to hear the word of God with open minds and grateful hearts; *Silence*
let us pray. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

In thanksgiving for the arms of forgiveness that embrace us in the midst of our sin, leading us to repentance, and filling us with the waters of mercy through which we will forgive others; *Silence*
let us pray. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For honesty in government, and integrity in our dealings with one another, that trust may be restored between people and throughout the institutions of our society;
Silence

let us pray. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That we may commit ourselves to a life of simplicity, so that we may provide for the needs of the poor and hungry, as Jesus provided nourishment and hope to his followers; *Silence*

let us pray. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That we may share our spiritual doubts with one another, convinced that in our mutual self-disclosure we will be strengthened in faith and grow in the conviction that God's love can forgive all things and transforms all life; *Silence*

let us pray. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

In thanksgiving for those who are teachers and catechists in our Church; may they be given the blessing of knowledge and wisdom, as they bear the Christian message to those in their charge; *Silence*

let us pray. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Healing God, empower our reconciling work to share your blessing with all for whom we intercede, especially Tim, Reid, Susan, Fred, Paula, John, Doug, Dee, Anne, Daniel, the Harper Family and Oberle Family, Leigh, the Brown Family, all teachers, students and parents, all sick with COVID-19 and their families, all First Responders, Healthcare Workers and those serving the public; *Silence*

let us pray. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That the dead may be redeemed from the grave, and wear the crown of eternal life, especially Tom Harper, Jr., Helen Harper's husband and brother-in-law of Becky Ibison, Elaine Averetts, family member of Will Leeper, and The Rev. Dr. Linda Brown; *Silence*

let us pray. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who do not yet believe, and for those who have lost their faith, that they may receive the light of the Gospel, we pray to you, O Lord; *Silence*

let us pray. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

O God, our heavenly Father, whose glory fills the whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go: Preserve those who travel, especially, Mark, surround them with your loving care; protect them from every danger; and bring them in safety to their journey's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord; *Silence*

let us pray. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Miriam sang to the Lord for all the glorious gifts her people had received, and so we join with her in continuing our prayers.

Concluding Collect (together)

Lord, you have called us to serve you. Grant that we may walk in your presence: your love in our hearts, your truth in our minds, your strength in our wills; until, at the end of our journey, we know the joy of our homecoming and the welcome of your embrace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Those things, good Lord, that your servants have prayed for, give us grace to work for; and in the purpose of your love answer our prayers and fulfil our hopes for Jesus' sake. **Amen.**

The Confession:

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God. (silence)

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

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

Blessing for Birthdays: Blaire Newell (September 18)

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants ____, as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Peace (please stand as you are able)

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And with thy spirit.**

Announcements

Celebrating the Holy Communion

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

It is meet and right so to do.

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:

Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and

glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer:

And now, as our Savior Christ hath 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:

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world: have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world: grant us thy peace.

The Prayer of Humble Access

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Eucharist

We will continue to share in the Eucharist in the form of Bread only. When I come down to the bottom of the steps, please come up in Family Groups, keeping three pews between you and the group in front of you. Cup your hands in a way that I can drop the bread in your hand so that it does not bounce out. Then move to either the Choir room door or the door going into the hallway, lift up your mask and consume the Bread. After that, return to your pew.

Your place was set at this table before the world began!

We welcome YOU to Christ's table.

Gluten Free wafers are available by request.

Post-Communion Prayer: (please kneel, stand or sit as you feel called or are able)

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name. Amen.

The Blessing:

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Dismissal

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

Thanks be to God.

The Flowers on the Altar are given to the Glory of God

Announcements:**● Halloween Trick or Treating**

I would like to find some parishioners who would like to adopt a room for our Kindergarteners to Trick or Treat. I plan to host this on Thursday October 29 at noon. I think this will be fun for the kids and the kids at heart. It will also help the families meet some of our parishioners.

- **Sacred Ground** is a film-and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. Small groups are invited to walk through chapters of America's history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity. The 10-part series is built around a powerful online curriculum of documentary films and readings that focus on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian/Pacific American histories as they intersect with European American histories. **Please let me know if you are interested and what evening might work for you to join a discussion group.**

- We are going to create bags of Thanksgiving groceries to hand out to families in need. We are asking you to donate green beans, cranberry sauce, stove top stuffing and instant potatoes to put into the sacks.

- As you know, for the three (3) services, we have to limit the number of people attending to ten (10) people. In that regard, **if you want to attend in person you need to let Becky know by either calling the office or sending an email by no later than Thursday of each week.** If we have more than ten (10) people for each service that want to attend in person, we will begin doing an additional service at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays.

- All Confirmation classes are postponed until further notice.

- **Plate Offering**

As you know we have limited in person services, therefore our plate offerings are very low. If you would normally give through the plate, please consider mailing your offerings in or going to Tithe.ly on our webpage stbartsfs.org to give. Plate Offerings, or the lack thereof, affects our budget and our ability to continue all of our ministries in the community.

Thank you for your continued support and remember, you can come to church if you wish, we just need you to make a reservation.

- Every year in September we collect food and funds for local animal shelters before the Blessing of the Animals. This year we will be collecting dog food and cat food for Kitties and Kanines (Purina One please). **New this year**, we will be collecting for Jen's Kitty Rehab. She is a cat/kitten rescue operation here in Fort Smith. Pawficer Fuzz of the FSPD came from Jen. We are asking for Fancy Feast cat and kitten food and clumping kitty litter. Both of these facilities are 501(c) 3 or is it (3) c. Tax deductible! Both will take money if you aren't able to shop. This will allow them to purchase immediate needs. Please make checks payable directly to Kitties and Kanines, Jen's Kitty Rehab or St. Bartholomew's but make sure you put which place you are donating to in the memo line and leave them in the offertory plate in back of the church. We will be collecting all month.
- Lord's Prayer online Monday, September 14 through Thursday, September 17 at 9:00 a.m.
- **Remember to keep the Prayers of the People updated.** These are the people presently on our prayer list: Children and staff at the El Hogar Orphanage in Guatemala; Jeannie (McCabe); Ervin (Selbach); Julie (Speer); Chase (Negley); Liam (Joy); Earl (Terry); Peter and Suzanne (Jones); Linda (Lambertson); Jim and Barbara (Lambertson); Mike and Marie; Hazel, Jim; Dickie (Foster); Doug (Neely); Myra (Dyer); Sylvia (Burks); Claire (Person); Amber (Johnson); Morgan; Kay (Lyon); Halox (Hern); Jim (Cearley); Martha (Boyd); Teresa (Zolnik); Tim (Hess); Elvin (Frick); Debbie (Whittington); Sherry (Coleman); Katia (Higgins); William (Woodward); Denna (Bond); Reid (Maddox); Susan (Martin); Fred (Peters); Daniel (Brewer); Paula (McCormick); Anne (Divine); Doug (Carson); Leigh (Cole); the Brown Family; Dee (Newell); Helen (Harper) and the Harper Family and Oberle Family; all teachers, students and parents; all sick with COVID-19 and their families; all First Responders, Healthcare Workers.

- **Vestry Members:** Donna Goldstein-Senior Warden; Steven Hill-Junior Warden; Caroline Cross-Secretary; Chris Allen; Cindy Cunningham; Michael Morton; Silvia Balsara; Jo Carson; Rebecca Ward.
- To get notified of new videos and when we go live, subscribe to our YouTube Channel:
<https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCNGrepZQ-z3qw9Ha-eMrlMg>. If you have any questions, talk to Fr. Michael or Will Leeper.

The Week of September 13 through September 20

Sunday, September 13

8:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist - Bella
 10:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist - Scott

Monday, September 14

9:00 A.M. Prayer on Facebook Live

Tuesday, September 15

9:00 A.M. Prayer on Facebook Live

Wednesday, September 16

9:00 A.M. Prayer on Facebook Live
 10:30 A.M. Sack Lunch

Thursday, September 17

9:00 A.M. Prayer on Facebook Live

Friday, September 18

10:00 A.M. Next Step Meal
 7:00 P.M. AA/Al-Anon

Saturday, September 19

5:30 P.M. Holy Eucharist - Jo C

Sunday, September 20

8:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist - John
 10:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist - Lucy