

Emmanuel Episcopal Church, West Roxbury

Online Service of Thanksgiving During the Pandemic

October 17, 2020

**The Word of God**

Celebrant says

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

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever.  
Amen.

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.

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant says the Collect.

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations:  
Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere  
with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who  
lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lector says a reading from

**Isaiah 45:1-7**

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,  
whose right hand I have grasped  
to subdue nations before him  
and strip kings of their robes,  
to open doors before him--  
and the gates shall not be closed:  
I will go before you and level the mountains,

I will break in pieces the doors of bronze  
and cut through the bars of iron,  
I will give you the treasures of darkness  
and riches hidden in secret places,  
so that you may know that it is I, the Lord,  
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.  
For the sake of my servant Jacob,  
and Israel my chosen,  
I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me.  
I am the Lord, and there is no other;  
besides me there is no god.  
I arm you, though you do not know me,  
so that they may know, from the rising of the sun  
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;  
I am the Lord, and there is no other.  
I form light and create darkness,  
I make weal and create woe;  
I the Lord do all these things.

The Lector says: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Psalm is to be led by the Lector, responsively, the people reading the alternate verses

**Psalm 96:1-9, (10-13)**

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song; \*  
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; \*  
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations \*  
and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; \*  
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; \*  
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! \*  
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; \*  
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; \*  
bring offerings and come into his courts.

9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; \*  
let the whole earth tremble before him.

The Epistle

Lector says, a reading from

**1 Thessalonians 1:1-10**

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead-- Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

After the Reading, the Lector says

The word of the Lord

People Thanks be to God.

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to **Matthew 22:15-22**

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ

The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the

test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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

**The Dialogue Sermon: Everyone is invited and welcome to join the conversation. The Priest will offer some thoughts and listeners may respond with comments or questions.**

### **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**

*Lector reads the prayers, the people respond – Lord, have mercy.*

*Pondering the relationship between our duties to God and our duties as citizens, let us pray for ourselves and for the whole world, saying: Lord, have mercy.*

That all in our community may know what is God's and what is Caesar's, and may have the courage so to live, let us pray to the one who alone is Lord:

*Lord, have mercy.*

That as the Lord guided Cyrus for the sake of Israel, God will guide our country, its leaders, and its citizens, that justice and peace will be the signs of our trust in God, let us pray to the one who alone is Lord:

*Lord, have mercy.*

That the leaders of the church in the spirit of Paul may preach the gospel not merely in words but in the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the one who alone is Lord:

*Lord, have mercy.*

That each of us, following Jesus, may be truthful, courting no one's favor, but living with simplicity and candor, let us pray to the one who alone is Lord:

*Lord, have mercy.*

That through the faith, love, and constancy of Christian's God's name may be made known from the rising to the setting of the sun, let us pray to the one who alone is Lord:

*Lord, have mercy.*

That like the apostles all the people in the church may live their faith and labor in love for the poor, the homeless, the imprisoned, the persecuted, and the sick, and that by God's power the suffering of all may be relieved, let us pray to the one who *alone is Lord*:

*Lord, have mercy.*

In our parish cycle of prayer let us pray this week for Michael Delia, Theresa Folan, and Amy and Jim Fredericks and their families. Let us also give thanks for the arrival of Liam Castiglione Melo-Minter, born October 3, 2020 to Gus and Desere Minter.

*Lord, have mercy.*

*(Here other intercessions may be offered.)*

*O God, ruler of all, grant that our nation and its citizens may respond to your call, and that we may live out all civic virtues in honesty and integrity. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son and our Lord.*

### **Confession of Sin**

*Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People*

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.*

*The Priest says*

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.*

### **The Peace**

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* And also with you.

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.*

### **Prayer of Communion in the time of Pandemic**

*People:* Gracious God, we believe that you are present in the sacrament of Holy Communion. We love and remember all that you have done for us and for all of humanity. We cannot now receive you physically but ask that you come into our hearts spiritually. As though you have already come. Let us unite ourselves and one another to you in heart and spirit that we may never be separated from you. *Amen.*

### **Closing Prayer**

Let us pray.

*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 as yet unseen.  
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.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blessing: May the peace of the Lord which passes all understanding, keeps your hearts and minds in the knowledge of God and of his son, Jesus Christ our Lord. And may the Blessing of God Almighty, The Father and the son be with us all and ever more. Amen

Dismissal

*Celebrant:* Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia Alleluia.

*People:* Thanks be to God. Alleluia Alleluia.