

Emmanuel Episcopal Church, West Roxbury

Online Liturgy for November 22, 2020

The Word of God

Prelude

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, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Old Testament

Lector A reading from the prophet **Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24**

Thus, says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will

seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

Lector. 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 100

- 1 Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; *
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.
- 2 Know this: The Lord himself is God; *
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
- 3 Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise; *
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.
- 4 For the Lord is good;
his mercy is everlasting; *
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

The Epistle

Lector. A reading from **Ephesians 1:15-23**

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Lector The word of the Lord

People Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to **Matthew 25:31-46**

People Glory to you, Lord Christ

Jesus said, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Celebrant. The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

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

The Creed or Affirmation of Faith

We believe in the God of life, who creates and loves people, who acts in history and who promises to never leave us alone. We believe in Jesus of Nazareth, who is our brother, who wants not to be idolized but to be followed. We believe that we dwell in the presence of the Holy Spirit, without her we are nothing, filled with her we are able to become creative, loving and free. We believe in the Church of Jesus Christ, a community where we find companions and courage for the struggles of life, where we grow in our understanding of faith, through worship, prayer, nurture, and service. We believe that God has a use for us in this

time and place, that though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we are called to be instruments of God's peace. We believe in living, hoping, laughing, and enjoying the good of the earth; We believe that people can change, and that God keeps pulling us to life and to a new world of joy and peace. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Lector reads the prayers, the people respond – Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray to God, King of Kings Lord of Lords, for the whole church and for all the world, saying: Direct our hearts to care for all your people saying, Lord, have mercy.

Make your church faithful to your word, not seeking to satisfy human expectations but clinging solely to your will and command. Direct our hearts to care for all people,
Lord, have mercy.

Make your people open their ears to hear the prophets you send, that we may acknowledge your love and have compassion on those who need our help. Direct our hearts to care for all people.
Lord, have mercy.

Make our country a blessing to all the nations of the earth by seeking justice above all things and lead us in the paths of peace. Direct our hearts to care for all people,
Lord, have mercy.

Teach us to pray earnestly night and day that the distressed and afflicted may find comfort. May we endure in faith unto the end. Direct our hearts to care for all people,
Lord, have mercy.

We beg you by your great might to transform the hunger, hatred and violence which surrounds us into birth pangs of the new age. Direct our hearts to care for all people,
Lord, have mercy.

Let us pray in our parish cycle of prayer for, Helen Lacouture, Susan Healy, Nina Leek and their families. Direct our hearts to care for those who live and work among us,
Lord, have mercy.

[Here other intercessions may be offered.]

Holy and righteous God, we offer you our thanks and praise on behalf of all your people, and we join with all creation in looking with joyful hope to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, who shall rule the world with justice and mercy, through the merits of Christ the King.

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.

Celebrant. And now as let us pray as our Lord has taught us:

People

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.*

Communion Prayer in this time of Pandemic

Celebrant

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 mind and spirit that we may never to be separated from you.
Amen.

Closing Prayer

Celebrant 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

Celebrant 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.

Thank you for joining us in prayer and witness today! Join us for virtual coffee hour and hymn singing following the Zoom recording on Saturdays at 5 p.m.