July 26, 2020
Proper 12
Year A

Prelude
There's A Wideness In God's Mercy

The Word of God

*The people standing the Celebrant says*
   Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

*Celebrant*
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.

*Celebrant and People*
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.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Silence

The Lessons

First Lesson

_Genesis 29:15-28_

Laban said to Jacob, “Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?” Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah’s eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, “I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.” Laban said, “It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.” So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

Then Jacob said to Laban, “Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.” So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?” Laban said, “This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years.” Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

_Psalm 105:1-11, 45b_

_Confitemini Domino_

1 Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name; *
make known his deeds among the peoples.
2 Sing to him, sing praises to him, *
   and speak of all his marvelous works.
3 Glory in his holy Name; *
   let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
4 Search for the Lord and his strength; *
   continually seek his face.
5 Remember the marvels he has done, *
   his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,
6 O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
   O children of Jacob his chosen.
7 He is the Lord our God; *
   his judgments prevail in all the world.
8 He has always been mindful of his covenant, *
   the promise he made for a thousand generations:
9 The covenant he made with Abraham, *
   the oath that he swore to Isaac,
10 Which he established as a statute for Jacob, *
   an everlasting covenant for Israel,
11 Saying, "To you will I give the land of Canaan *
   to be your allotted inheritance."

45b Hallelujah!

Second Lesson
Romans 8:26-39

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

   “For your sake we are being killed all day long;
   we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,
nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reader
The Word of the Lord.
People
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn
Fairest Lord Jesus
Hymn 383

The Gospel
*Matthew 13:31-33, 44-54*

Deacon
The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

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

The Sermon

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 bring before the Lord the prayers that dwell in the heart of our community, responding, “Hear us, good Lord.”

Spirit of Wisdom, guide our tongues, that we may speak of your marvelous works and rejoice in your bountiful gifts of forgiveness and new life; let us pray.  
Hear us, good Lord.

Righteous Governor, assist our leaders in discerning truth from deception, and good from evil, so that they may exercise their office with integrity and be signs of hope to the people of our country and world; let us pray.  
Hear us, good Lord.

Source of Strength, be with us in our weakness, and help those who live in the dark corners of hopelessness, so that your love may reveal a greater light and dispel the fears that visit every heart; let us pray.
Hear us, good Lord.

Bearer of our sins, remove the dust that blinds us to our shortcomings, so that in admitting our wayward thoughts and actions we may turn toward your mercy and receive your forgiveness; let us pray.

Hear us, good Lord.

Creator of the universe, who brings joy in the diversity of all that the eye can behold, make us ever grateful for the splendor of your making, and ever protective of its fruits; let us pray.

Hear us, good Lord.

We pray that your presence is strong in our congregation as we prepare our hearts for our new rector. Unite us in love and bind our spirits together as we move forward. We especially seek your blessings and guidance for our vestry, for the search committee, and for the person you are preparing to be the new rector of Christ Church; let us pray.

Hear us, good Lord.

Son of Righteousness, bring the dead into the brilliance of your light, and make us thankful for the intercession of your saints; let us pray.

Hear us, good Lord.

Bound together in the love of Christ, let us continue our prayers. (Please offer your prayers either silently or aloud.)

Celebrant: O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

Prayer 27

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; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Offertory

Offertory Hymn
(Yahweh, I Know) You Are Near

The Lord’s Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

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,
forever and ever. Amen.

The Dismissal

*The Deacon, or the Celebrant, dismisses them with these words*

Deacon       Let us go forth in the name of God.
People       Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn

Redeemed