

THE WORD OF GOD

TAKE-HOME INSERT

(9th Sunday after Pentecost IRCL – Proper 10)

Collect

Presider: The Lord is with you.

Assembly: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray together:

Beloved God,

Ground of all life:

In you our hearts are fertile and fruitful,

We break into “cries of joy”;

In you the veil of blindness lifts,

We clap our hands in praise;

In you our minds hear and understand your Word,

We enjoy the freedom of dwelling in you;

You are the Ground from which all life springs,

Call us forth in Christ this day. Amen.

A period of silence for reflection follows each lesson and the sermon. Allow your attention to drop in and down and rest upon your breath. When distractions arise – such as thoughts and sounds and smells – simply notice and return to the breath.

Hebrew Scriptures

Isaiah 55:10-13

Reader: A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

“For just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to the sower and bread for food, so will my word be that goes forth from my mouth: it will not return to me empty, but will carry out my will, achieving the end for which I sent it. And you will go out joyfully, and be led out in peace; the mountains and hills before you will break into cries of joy, and all the trees in the countryside will clap their hands. The cypress will grow in place of the thorn bush, the myrtle will replace the briars; and they will stand as a memorial to YHWH, an everlasting sign never to be destroyed.”

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**



Psalm 65: The Seed that Falls on Good Ground (Michel Guimont)

Christian Scriptures

The Epistle

Romans 8:1-11

Reader: A reading from Paul's letter to the Community at Rome.

There is no longer any condemnation, however, for those who are in Christ Jesus. The law of the Spirit – the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus – has freed you from the law of sin and death. What the Law was powerless to do because human nature made it so weak, God did – by sending the Only Begotten in the likeness of sinful flesh as a sin offering, thereby condemning sin in the flesh. In this way, the just demands of the Law could be fulfilled in us, who live not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. Those who live according to the flesh have their mind set on the things of the flesh; those who live by the Spirit, on things of the Spirit. The mind of the flesh is death, but that of the Spirit is life and peace. The mind of the flesh stands in opposition to God; it is not subject to God's law – indeed, it cannot be, since those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Those who do not have the Spirit of Christ do not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, then though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit lives because of righteousness. If the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, then the One who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life through the Spirit dwelling in you.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn (see hymn board)

We stand as able.

The Gospel

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Deacon: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

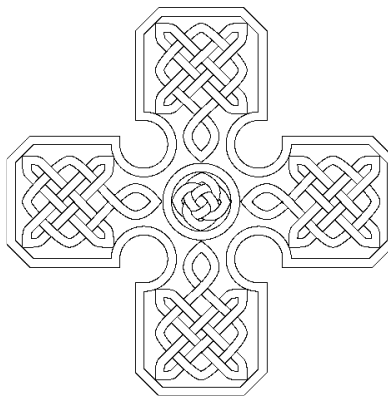
Assembly: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Later that day, Jesus left the house and sat down by the lake shore. Such great crowds gathered that he went and took a seat in a boat, while the crowd stood along the shore. He addressed them at length in parables: "One day, a farmer went out sowing seed. Some of the seed landed on a footpath, where birds came and ate it up. Some of the seed fell on rocky ground, where there was little soil. This seed sprouted at once since the soil had no depth, but when the sun rose and scorched it, it withered away for lack of roots. Again, some of the seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it. And some of it landed on good soil, and yielded a crop thirty, sixty, even a hundred times what was sown. Let those who have ears to hear, hear this! Now listen to the parable of the sower. When people hear the message about the kingdom of God without understanding it the Evil One comes along and snatches away what was sown in their hearts. This is the seed sown along the path. Those who received the seed that fell on rocky ground are the ones who hear the word and at first welcome it with joy. But they have no roots, so they last only for a while. When some setback or persecution comes because of the message, they quickly fall away. Those who receive the message that fell among the thorns are the ones who hear the word, but then worldly anxieties and the lure of wealth choke it off, and the message produces no fruit. But those who receive the seed that fell on rich soil are those who hear the message and understand it. They produce a crop that yields a hundred, or sixty or thirty times what was sown."

Deacon: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

The readings are taken from *The Inclusive Hebrew Scriptures Vol. I, II, and III* and *The Inclusive New Testament* with © permission from: Priests for Equality/Quixote Center, P.O. Box 5206 Hyattsville, MD 20782 301-699-0042. Collect is by Kevin G. Thew Forrester.



13 July 2008

WELCOME to all visitors and guests this morning! After the service, you are invited to the Great Room on the lower level (accessible by stairs or elevator) for coffee and conversation.

Presider:	Marcia Franz
Preacher:	Jim Sorenson
Deacon:	Coralie Hambleton
Organist:	Jan Brodersen
First Reader:	Steve Coleman
Second Reader:	Jo De Young
Prayers of the People:	Judd Spray
Chalice Bearers:	Kai Carrigan
Ushers:	Kay Payant and Paul Berg
Server:	Dan Platt
Altar Guild:	Jayne McQuaid and Jean Contois
Coffee Hour Hosts:	Al and Ellie Raymond and Vince Reed
Evening Prayer Officiant:	Kay Payant
Children's Ministry	Jim Edwards, Cathy Greer Cole, and Nancy Railey
Eucharistic Visitors:	MGH & Warren Glass: Marcia Franz

TODAY'S HOSPITALITY AND WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

July Food Bank Needs: Juice, any variety

Tuesday, 15 th	Morning Meditation	7:45 am
Wednesday, 16 th	Finance Committee	12:00 am
	Evening Prayer	5:30 pm
Thursday, 17 th	Morning Meditation	7:45 am
	Vestry	7:00 pm
Friday, 18 th	Ladies Luncheon	11:30 am
	"Coco's", formerly The Shores	
Saturday, 19 th	Epis. Ministry Discernment Team	10:00 am
Sunday, 20 th	Holy Eucharist: 10 Pentecost	10:30 am

ALTAR FLOWERS

Anyone wishing to have flowers on the altar in memory or celebration of a loved one can sign up on the list on the board in the atrium. If you have any questions or would like more information, contact Jayne McQuaid at 226-2355.

Forward Day by Day

Copies of the Aug-Oct issue of Forward Day by Day are now available in the kiosk in the atrium.

Semi-Annual Contribution Statements

The semi-annual contribution statements are now available in the church office. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 am and 1:00 pm.

LADIES LUNCHEON

The ladies of St. Paul's will gather on Friday, July 18th at 11:30 am to enjoy another new area restaurant - "Coco's" which was formerly The Shores. Please RSVP to Barb Carpenter by noon on Thursday at 226-7571.

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