



St. James Episcopal Church

*204 Lee Street, Leesburg, FL 34748
(352)787-1981 / www.stjames-leesburg.org*

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Order of Worship

September 27th, 2026 ~ 10:15 a.m.

Preludes: *“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”* (Mason, arr. Edstrom)
 “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms” (Showalter, arr. Lasky)
 “This Little Light of Mine” (arr. Raney) with Jan Tindall, flute and Nancy
 Moran, Piano (10:15 a.m.)

Processional Hymn 544: *Jesus Shall Reign*

1 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
doth his successive journeys run;
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

2 To him shall endless prayer be made,
and praises throng to crown his head;
his Name like sweet perfume shall rise
with every morning sacrifice.

3 People and realms of every tongue
dwell on his love with sweetest song;
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his Name.

4 Blessings abound where'er he reigns:
the prisoners leap to lose their chains,
the weary find eternal rest,
and all who suffer want are blest.

5 Let every creature rise and bring
peculiar honors to our King;
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud amen.

Celebrant Bless be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
People And blessed be his kingdom now and forever. Amen

Celebrant There is one Body and one Spirit;
People There is one hope in God's call to us;
Celebrant One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
People One God and Father of all.

The Collect of the Day (18th Sunday After Pentacost)

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

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson ~ Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

The Word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

Antiphon:
God gave them drink as from the great deep.

1 Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

2 I will open my mouth in a parable; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times. [Ant.]

3 That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.

4 We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord, *
and the wonderful works he has done. [Ant.]

12 He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, *
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

13 He split open the sea and let them pass through; *
he made the waters stand up like walls. [Ant.]

14 He led them with a cloud by day, *
and all the night through with a glow of fire.

15 He split the hard rocks in the wilderness *
and gave them drink as from the great deep.

16 He brought streams out of the cliff, *
and the waters gushed out like rivers. [Ant.]

The Epistle: Philippians 2:1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn 435: *At the Name of Jesus* (vv. 1-3 before; vv. 4-6 after)

1 At the Name of Jesus
every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess him
King of glory now;
'tis the Father's pleasure
we should call him Lord,
who from the beginning
was the mighty Word.

2 Humbled for a season,
to receive a Name
from the lips of sinners,
unto whom he came,
faithfully he bore it
spotless to the last,
brought it back victorious,
when from death he passed;

3 bore it up triumphant,
with its human light,
through all ranks of creatures,
to the central height,
to the throne of Godhead,
to the Father's breast;
filled it with the glory
of that perfect rest.

4 Name him, Christians, name him,
with love strong as death,
name with awe and wonder
and with bated breath;
he is God the Savior,
he is Christ the Lord,
ever to be worshiped,
trusted, and adored.

5 In your hearts enthrone him;
there let him subdue
all that is not holy,
all that is not true;
crown him as your Captain
in temptation's hour;

let his will enfold you
in its light and power.

6 Christians, this Lord Jesus
shall return again,
with his Father's glory,
o'er the earth to reign;
for all wreaths of empire
meet upon his brow,
and our hearts confess him
King of glory now.

The Gospel Matthew 21:23-32

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

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

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

The Sermon *The Rev'd Thomas Trees*

Celebrant The Candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

Presentation and Examination of the Candidate (BCP 301)

Sponsor I present **Allison Michelle Brault South** to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.
Celebrant Do you desire to be baptized?

Candidate I do.

Celebrant Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Candidate I renounce them.

Celebrant Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Candidate I renounce them.

Celebrant Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Candidate I renounce them.

Celebrant Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Candidate I do.

Celebrant Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Candidate I do.

Celebrant Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Candidate I do.

Addressing the congregation

Celebrant Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support **Allison** in her life in Christ?

People We will.

Celebrant Let us join with Allison who is committing herself to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant (BCP 304)

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

People I believe one God, the Father, the Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth,

Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy spirit
And born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
And is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
People I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?
People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?
People I will, with God's help.

Prayers for the Candidates (BCP 305)

Celebrant Let us now pray for Allison, who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

Leader Deliver Allison, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.
People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Open Allison's heart to your grace and truth.
People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Fill Allison with your holy and life-giving Spirit.
People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Keep Allison in the faith and communion of your holy Church.
People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Teach Allison to love others in the power of the Spirit.
People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Send Allison into the world in witness to your love.
People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Bring Allison to the fullness of your peace and glory.
People Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who live and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving over the Water (BCP 306)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant
We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water.
Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation.
Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise.
In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.
Therefore in joyful obedience to you Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Baptism (BCP 307)

Celebrant
Allison, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Allison, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever.
Amen.

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon Allison your servant the forgiveness of sin, and have raised Allison to the new life of grace. Sustain her, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give her an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

People We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

Offertory: “*At the Name*” (Mary McDonald)

Doxology Hymn 380, vs. 3

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him all creatures here below;
praise him above ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

The Great Thanksgiving *Eucharistic Prayer A*

Celebrant The Lord be with you
People And also with you
Celebrant Lift up your hearts
People We lift them to the Lord
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
People It is right to give him thanks and praise

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For by water and the Holy spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy Lord (*Mass of Creation*)

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full,
full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again. *(Mass of Creation)*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints

into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

AMEN, AMEN, AMEN.

AMEN, AMEN, AMEN. *(Mass of Creation)*

And now, as our Savior Christ hath 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,
 for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

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

The Gifts of God for the people of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for
you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace. *(Mass of Creation)*

Communion Hymn 711: *Seek Ye First*

1. Seek ye first the kingdom of God

And its righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you:
Allelu, alleluia!

Refrain

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Allelu, alleluia!

2. Ask, and it shall be given unto you,
Seek, and ye shall find,
Knock, and the door shall be opened unto you;
Allelu, alleluia! [*Refrain*]

After Communion, the Celebrant says
Let us pray.

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
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
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.

The Celebrant says the Blessing:

Now may the peace of God, which passes all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in in the love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you, now and always. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn 561: *Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus*

1 Stand up, stand up, for Jesus,
ye soldiers of the cross;
lift high his royal banner,
it must not suffer loss:
from victory unto victory
his army shall he lead,
till every foe is vanquished
and Christ is Lord indeed.

2 Stand up, stand up, for Jesus;
the trumpet call obey;
forth to the mighty conflict

in this his glorious day:
ye that are his now serve him
against unnumbered foes;
let courage rise with danger,
and strength to strength oppose.

3 Stand up, stand up, for Jesus;
stand in his strength alone;
the arm of flesh will fail you,
ye dare not trust your own:
put on the Gospel armor,
and watching unto prayer,
when duty calls, or danger,
be never wanting there.

4 Stand up, stand up, for Jesus:
the strife will not be long:
this day, the noise of battle;
the next, the victor's song.
To valiant hearts triumphant,
a crown of life shall be;
they with the King of glory
shall reign eternally.

Deacon Let us bless the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *“Variations on ‘Duke Street’” (arr. Hopson)*

Sanctuary Candle

Burns in honor of Dianne Ditmar by Charlotte Boudreau.

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