

October 10, 2021  
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 23  
St. Mary's-in-the-Valley Episcopal Church  
Ramona, CA

Opening Hymn: # 304, I Come with Joy  
Sung and played by Joshua Charney, Ph.D

1. I come with joy to meet my Lord,  
forgiven, loved, and free,  
in awe and wonder to recall,  
his life laid down for me.
  
2. I come with Christians far and near  
to find, as all are fed,  
the new community of love  
in Christ's communion bread.
  
3. As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,  
each proud division ends.  
The love that made us, makes us one,  
and strangers now are friends.
  
4. And thus with joy we meet our Lord.  
His presence, always near,  
is in such friendship better known,  
we see and praise him here.
  
5. Together met, together bound,  
we'll go our different ways  
and as his people in the world,  
we'll live and speak his praise.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
People And Blessed be God's 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.*

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Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One.

Have Mercy on us.  
(three times)

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

Collect

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### **Amos 5:6-7,10-15**

Seek the LORD and live,  
    or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire,  
    and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it.

Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood,  
    and bring righteousness to the ground!

They hate the one who reproves in the gate,  
    and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.

Therefore, because you trample on the poor  
    and take from them levies of grain,

you have built houses of hewn stone,  
    but you shall not live in them;

you have planted pleasant vineyards,  
    but you shall not drink their wine.

For I know how many are your transgressions,  
    and how great are your sins—

you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe,  
    and push aside the needy in the gate.

Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time;  
    for it is an evil time.

Seek good and not evil,  
    that you may live;

and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you,  
    just as you have said.

Hate evil and love good,  
and establish justice in the gate;  
it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts,  
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people  
*Thanks be to God*

### **Psalm 90:12-17**

#### *Domine, refugium*

- 12 So teach us to number our days \*  
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.
- 13 Return, O LORD; how long will you tarry? \*  
be gracious to your servants.
- 14 Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning; \*  
so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.
- 15 Make us glad by the measure of the days that you afflicted us \*  
and the years in which we suffered adversity.
- 16 Show your servants your works \*  
and your splendor to their children.
- 17 May the graciousness of the LORD our God be upon us; \*  
prosper the work of our hands;  
prosper our handiwork.

The Epistle:

### **Hebrews 4:12-16**

The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as

we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

*Thanks be to God*

### **Mark 10:17-31**

The holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew:  
Glory to you Lord Christ

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.'" He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."

Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

The Gospel of the Lord  
Praise to you Lord Christ

Sermon:

20 Pentecost b P.23 October 10, 2021  
Amos 5:6-7,10-15 Psalm 90:12-17  
Hebrews 4:12-16 Mark 10:17-27

We have read the familiar encounter story of Jesus with the proud rich young man. And he seemed to have a worry?

Have I been disinherited by God? And if I have, what do I need to do to get my inheritance with God back? How can I get back into God's will and inherit an eternal place with God in my afterlife?

The dialogue with Jesus revealed some assumptions about people, about religious practice, and about God.

This dialogue reveals the state of alienation lived by many people. Why has God disinherited me? Why don't I have faith in my preservation after I die? And what can I do to achieve God's favor?

The rich young man probably came to Jesus less for advice and more for Jesus to pat him on the back and praise him for his outstanding worthiness before God. But Jesus did play along with his pretending of sincere questions. The rich young man also represented a "strain" of prosperity religion, that had its root in the Deuteronomy theology of history. Why and when do Israel and people prosper? When they keep the law? Why and when do Israel and people suffer exile, loss, and occupation? Because God's people did not keep the law and God has a built in system of reward and punishment based upon whether people obey the Ten Commandments.

There is both a truth and a falsity about this system of fate and karma. What is the truth? The truth is that living by the law is good actuarial probability theory. Illustrated simply it goes like this: If you never drink and drive keeping the law, then you will never be arrested and charged with a DUI. Do you see the immediate karmic relationship? Keeping the law about drinking and driving results in the blessing of not being arrested for the same.

This is a simplistic example. In the great realm of genuine freedom in the world, the probabilities of what might happen to any of us or any group or country are so complex that it cannot be reduced to a simple formula of "if this is done, a particular outcome is guaranteed."

Jesus as the wise teacher baited the proud rich young man, by testing his understanding of his own tradition. You know the commandments, and Jesus recites some of the Big Ten for him.

The young man essentially said, "Jesus you stop there, you are only reciting the resume of my deeds. I've not killed anyone, I am faithful in marriage, I don't lie, I don't steal, this is my resume and look how I am blessed by God with such prosperity. So, since I have such blessing in life, doesn't this mean also that I deserve the blessed inheritance in my afterlife?"

And then came the shocking reply of Jesus, "You lack one thing, sell all you have and give to poor. Then you will have treasured inheritance in heaven."

Oops. Sorry I asked Jesus. Can we appreciate how this vignette reveals the wrong relationship to the law and to our religious piety and practices? Do we see them as a resume to guarantee us that God will hire us for a heavenly afterlife? Or do we see the commandments and religious practices as only temporal moments in learning how to work at loving God and our neighbors? If we use our religious practice as reason to feel morally and spiritually superior, then we have forgotten the most important commandment for anyone at any time. What is the most important commandment for each of us? It what I call the next commandment. Jesus gave the rich young man a next commandment: Go sell what you have and give to the poor.

Each person has a next commandment from God and Christ, and it is tailored to each person's spiritual path based upon progressing in the continual life of repentance, of being better today than yesterday. The next commandment is the two-edged sword of God's word, which is more than the written words of the law of the Bible. God's word as a two-edged sword is the convicting words which comes to us about the next commandment we need to follow.

Since Jesus said that we have to be perfect as the Father in heaven is perfect, we, like the rich young man can never rest on our laurels as having done enough.

What is the next commandment that God is asking of us and individuals, as a parish and as a country? God may be asking us to invite people who are different from us to be a part of our life experience. The next commandment for our country involves fully implementing the practice of life, liberty, justice, and civil rights for all our people in a reparative and equal way. And many in our country are finding this very hard to do.

And we often find that we are so stuck in bad habits that the hard and next commandment is impossible. And this is why Jesus says that all things are possible with God. Why? Because God has never disinherited us as God's children; we have the image of God on our lives. We don't have to earn an eternal inheritance; it was given by our birthright in creation.

But we do have to accept our inheritance and accept the early payments of it so that we will match our eventual treasure in heaven.

The grace of Jesus Christ is the early inheritance payments something like God's trust fund for each of us. And we can accept that trust fund of God's grace to complete the mission we have on this earth to progress in loving God and our neighbors as ourselves.

Let us accept our divine heritage today. We don't have to earn it; but we have to actively take the early and often payments of grace of God's trust fund for each of us. Why? So that we will

leave this life more godly because we have learned to accept grace to do the seeming impossible next commandment. Amen.

The Nicene Creed (page 357)

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.

Prayers of the People:

We are invited to the wedding banquet which the Father is preparing for the Son's marriage to the church. Let us pray to the host of the eternal feast, that we may be drawn to the banquet, saying: Lord hear our prayer.

That all in our community may joyously and fully accept God's invitation, and that our heartfelt response be undeterred by distraction and excuses, let us pray to the king of the feast: Lord, hear our prayer

That all who hunger and thirst for the bread and wine of life may be drawn to the meal of fellowship in Christ, let us pray to the Lord of heaven: Lord, hear our prayer

That all leaders of the church may recognize that God bids the banquet be filled with the rich and the poor, the prominent and the unknown, the healthy and the sick, let us pray to the Host of the wedding feast: Lord, hear our prayer.

That all leaders of the nations may address the global problem of hunger, and that the hungry may be fed, let us pray to the Giver of good food: Lord, hear our prayer.

That Christians everywhere, abandoning anxiety, may nourish themselves on the marriage celebration with God and on the eternal feast prepared for all peoples, let us pray to the God of lavish and insistent love: Lord, hear our prayers.

Intercessions: For Debbie, Aaron, Michelle, for Donald, and all Covid-19 sufferers. For those afflicted by hurricanes and wildfires. For racial justice and an orderly election.

O Lord, supply our needs fully out of your magnificent riches in Christ Jesus. May all one day appear clothed with amazing grace at your Son's wedding banquet, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Let us confess our sins against God and our Neighbor

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you

in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done,

and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,

have mercy on us and forgive us;

that we may delight in your will,

and walk in your ways,

to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Absolution



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 of the Lord be always with you.  
People: And also with you

Hymn: On Eagles Wings, by Michael Joncas  
Played and sung by Rob and Deb Lewallen

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord  
Who abide in His shadow for life  
Say to the Lord, "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"

And He will raise you up on eagles' wings  
Bear you on the breath of dawn  
Make you to shine like the sun  
And hold you in the palm of His hand

The snare of the fowler will never capture you  
And famine will bring you no fear  
Under His wings your refuge, His faithfulness your shield

And He will raise you up on eagles' wings  
Bear you on the breath of dawn  
Make you to shine like the sun  
And hold you in the palm of His hand

You need not fear the terror of the night  
Nor the arrow that flies by day  
Though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not come

And He will raise you up on eagles' wings  
Bear you on the breath of dawn  
Make you to shine like the sun  
And hold you in the palm of His hand

For to His angels He's given a command  
To guard you in all of your ways  
Upon their hands they will bear you up  
Lest you dash your foot against a stone

And He will raise you up on eagles' wings  
Bear you on the breath of dawn

Make you to shine like the sun  
And hold you in the palm of His hand  
And hold you, hold you in the palm of His hand

Doxology: Sung by Rob and Deb Lewallen  
Eucharistic Prayer B

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. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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*

Sung and played by Joshua Charney

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;

*The Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the ever blessed Virgin Mary, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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 forever. *Amen.*

Sung and played by Rob and Deborah Lewallen

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

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia

Celebrant: 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.

Communion Hymn: # 712, Dona Nobis Pacem  
Played and sung by Joshua Charney

Dona nobis, pacem, pacem. Dona, nobis, pacem.

Post Communion Prayer (BCP, page 365)

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Benediction:

Dismissal:  
Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
People: Thanks be to God!

Closing Hymn: How Great Thou Art,  
Played by Stanley V. Smith, Jr. on the Hammer Dulcimer

1 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the \*worlds Thy hand have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the \*rolling thunder,  
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed!

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee;  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee;  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

2 When thru the woods and forest glades I wander  
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze, [Refrain]

3 And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,  
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in-  
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,  
He bled and died to take away my sin! [Refrain]

4 When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration  
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art! [Refrain]