

Holy Trinity Church
446 Hamilton St. Southbridge, Massachusetts 01550
A parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts

The Twentieth Sunday of Pentecost

October 25, 2020

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

The Rev. Richard Signore, Celebrant & Preacher

Anne Bouvier-Monroe, Organist

Josh Spooner, Reader

FLOWERS

*The flowers on the altar are given to the **Glory of God** and in loving memory of **Diane Nichols**,
from her parish family.*

The Liturgy of the Word

Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

People **And Blessed be God's Kingdom now and forever. AMEN**

Collect for Purity

Gloria *(said by all)*

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 *(said by all)*

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

First Reading

Reader A reading from the book of Leviticus

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying:

Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy. You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the Lord. You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord. *Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18*

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

Psalm 1 *Said by all in unison* BCP p. 585

**Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, *
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!
Their delight is in the law of the Lord, *
and they meditate on his law day and night.**

They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; *
everything they do shall prosper.
It is not so with the wicked; *
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.
Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, *
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.
For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, *
but the way of the wicked is doomed.

Holy Gospel Matthew 22:34-46

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

'The Lord said to my Lord,

"Sit at my right hand,

until I put your enemies under your feet"?"

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord **People** **Praise to you Lord Christ**

Sermon *Fr. Richard Signore*

Prayers of the People IV, BCP, p. 388 **RESPONSE:** Hear our prayer.

Prayer for the Parish - O everlasting source of love, in whom our faith resides, guide us surely ever forward on our lifelong journey. Not so fast that we miss the beauty that surrounds us on the way, nor miss your grace so freely given that teaches us how to grow. But with a steady presence felt and a sense of gratitude may we find our place amidst the jungle of life within the kingdom of heaven on earth. Amen

Confession & Absolution **BCP, p. 360**

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.

The Peace *(no handshaking or hugging please – solemn bow or wave only)*

The Liturgy of the Table

Offertory

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer A **Prayer Book, p. 361**

Sanctus *(said by all)*

**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.**

The Lord's Prayer

Prayer Book, p. 364

Fraction Anthem *(said by all)*

**Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Communion

Prayer *(said by those at home)* *My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen. (St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)*

The Post Communion Prayer *(Said by all worshiping in person)*

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son and 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.

Blessing

Dismissal Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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October 25, 2020

Freely giving our all to God

*“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” Jesus said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind’
And ... ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ” – MATTHEW 22:36-39*

BY ROB TOWNES



There’s a saying that the chicken who lays an egg makes a contribution, but the chicken who makes a sandwich offers a sacrifice. One could say that Jesus was alluding to the latter when he responded to the question as to which was the greatest commandment, “*You shall love the Lord your God with all of who you are.*” He was asking for more than a contribution; he was asking for the sacrifice of our all.

As the Latin root of the word suggests, a sacrifice — a *sacrum facere* — makes one holy. Giving generously of that of which you are a steward — your heart, soul, mind and all your possessions — is life giving. And it is countercultural. As the bumper sticker declares, “S/He who dies with the most toys wins.” That’s a powerfully seductive statement. Only with God’s help can we avoid being allured into thinking that it is in acquiring possessions that our life gains meaning. May we grow in the wisdom that a rich life results in trusting that it is in God we live and move and have our being.

This reflection is written while visiting Green Bough House of Prayer in Scott, Georgia. Here the three residents, with the company of 77 associates, have dedicated their lives, their all, to God and have taken on a Rule of Life to embrace silence, prayer, simplicity and living in the present moment, and accept all as coming from God. Do all for God. Offer all to God. This to me is a beautiful example of Faith-Filled Generosity.

Very few members of the Church dedicate themselves to full-time contemplative living, but all of us are invited to learn to live Jesus’ greatest commandment, trusting that in so doing, Faith-Filled Generosity will flourish in our lives.

As we move back into our church buildings, remembering only too well the COVID-19-caused absence of normalcy, may we re-enter with a renewed commitment to freely giving our all to God and faithfully loving our neighbors as ourselves.

Rob Townes received his Master of Divinity degree from Emory University’s Candler School of Theology and has spent his professional career as a nonprofit and church fundraising consultant.

A vertical graphic with a green background and a vine with leaves. The text "FAITH-FILLED" is at the top in white, and "GENEROSITY" is at the bottom in white. Below the title, there is a section for reflection with two bullet points.

FAITH-FILLED

GENEROSITY

For reflection

- When you have a sense of living within Faith-Filled Generosity, what actions do you see emerging in your life?
- What helps you to live, and interferes with your living, a more fruitful life?