

**Christ Episcopal Church  
Norwalk, Connecticut  
Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost  
November 19, 2023**

**Morning Prayer: Rite II**  
*Pentecost Season*

**(BCP 75-102)**

*BCP 77*

*Officiant: Holy, Holy Holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come!*  
*Revelations 4:8*

**Confession BCP 79**

*Officiant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor*

**Officiant and People:**  
**(All kneeling, if possible)**

**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.**

**Officiant and People:** Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

**Opening Versicle**  
**All stand**

**BCP 80**

**Officiant:** Lord open our lips.

**People:** And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

**Officiant and People:**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.

**Officiant :** Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God: Come let us adore him.

**Response:** Come let us adore him. Alleluia.

**Jubilate**    *Psalm 100*

**BCP 82**

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; \*

**serve the Lord with gladness**

**and come before his presence with a song**

Know this: The Lord himself is God; \*

**he himself has made us, and we are his;**

**we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;

go into his courts with praise; \*

**give thanks to him and call upon his Name.**

For the Lord is good;

his mercy is everlasting; \*

**and his faithfulness endures from age to age.**

**The Lessons**

**A Reading From Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18**

Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm." Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor

their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

**Psalm 90: 1-8, (9-11), 12**

**Read By Half Verse**

- <sup>1</sup> Lord, you have been our refuge \*  
**from one generation to another.**
- <sup>2</sup> Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or the land and the earth were born, \*  
**from age to age you are God.**
- <sup>3</sup> You turn us back to the dust and say, \*  
**“Go back, O child of earth.”**
- <sup>4</sup> For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past \*  
**and like a watch in the night.**
- <sup>5</sup> You sweep us away like a dream; \*  
**we fade away suddenly like the grass.**
- <sup>6</sup> In the morning it is green and flourishes; \*  
**in the evening it is dried up and withered.**
- <sup>7</sup> For we consume away in your displeasure; \*  
**we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.**
- <sup>8</sup> Our iniquities you have set before you, \*  
**and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**
- <sup>9</sup> [When you are angry, all our days are gone; \*  
**we bring our years to an end like a sigh.**
- <sup>10</sup> The span of our life is seventy years,  
perhaps in strength even eighty; \*  
**yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow,  
for they pass away quickly and we are gone.**
- <sup>11</sup> Who regards the power of your wrath? \*  
**who rightly fears your indignation?]**
- <sup>12</sup> So teach us to number our days \*  
**that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

**Epistle**

**A Reading from 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Canticle 13 A Song of Praise** *Benedictus es, Domine*  
**Read By Half Verse**

Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers; \*

**you are worthy of praise; glory to you.**

Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name; \*

**we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.**

Glory to you in the splendor of your temple; \*

**on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.**

Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim; \*

**we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.**

Glory to you, beholding the depths; \*

**in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.**

Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; \*

**we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.**

Officiant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30

"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground

and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Officiant: The Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## **THE SERMON**

### **The Apostles Creed**

**Officiant & People Together, Standing**

**BCP 96**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
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.  
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. Amen.

## **OFFERTORY**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **The Prayers of the People Form III** **Standing or kneeling**

**BCP 387**

Officiant: Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

**Response: *That we all may be one.***

Officiant: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

**Response: *That your Name may be glorified by all people.***

Officiant: We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

**Response: *That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.***

Officiant: We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world:

**Response: *That there may be justice and peace on the earth.***

Officiant: Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

**Response: *That our works may find favor in your sight.***

Officiant: Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

**Response: *That they may be delivered from their distress.***

Officiant: Give to the departed eternal rest; especially Elizabeth

**Response: *Let light perpetual shine upon them.***

Officiant: We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy:

**Response: *May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.***

**Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. (silence)**

**Especially for:** Sandy, Ann Marie, Suzanne, Jim, Judy, Clyde, Sheri, Joan, Ron, Blaize, Shannon, James, Paul, Ethan, Kevin, Charlie, Alison, Karen, JP, Meg, Daniel, the Wiehe Family and the Burr Family.

**ECCT CYCLE OF PRAYER:** With the Episcopal Church of Connecticut, today we pray for:

**St. James', Winsted; All Saints', Wolcott**

**ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER:** Together with the Anglican Communion throughout the world, today we pray for:

**The Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma)**

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Elizabeth Burr Wiehe.

**VIGIL LIGHT:** The vigil light burns this week in loving memory of Mary Lovallo by her son, Louis and daughter-in-law Ruthie.

**Suffrages**

**Officiant says V, People say R**

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;

**R. And grant us your salvation.**

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

**R. Let your people sing with joy.**

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

**R. For only in you can we live in safety.**

V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;

**R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

V. Let your way be known upon earth;

**R. Your saving health among all nations.**

V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

**R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;

**R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Officiant: Let us pray

*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 Collect of the Day**

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### **The General Thanksgiving Officiant and People (Read in Unison)**

**BCP 101**

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

### **A Prayer of St. Chrysostom**

**BCP 102**

Officiant: Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

### **Dismissal**

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**



## WHAT'S NEW AT CCEN?

### **SAVE THE DATE- CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING at Roger Ludlow Park**

**Sunday, December 3 at 5 pm**

Reverend Daniel Simons from St. Paul's Episcopal Church will be giving the Moment of Silence and Invocation at the tree lighting.

### **From the Women's Group:**

We still need donations for our Angel Food Pantry. Looking in particular for hygiene products such as soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste and still need the typical non perishable food items, such as cereal, rice, soup, peanut butter, jelly, evaporated milk, pasta, sauce and tuna, etc. We have been supplying people in need that have contacted us and appreciate all your donations which allows us to help the community. If you know of someone in need, please contact Lisa Helwig in the church office at 203-866-7442 or at [secretaryccen@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryccen@gmail.com)

### **Christmas Giving for Autumn Lake:**

The Vestry of Christ Episcopal Church has agreed to take on a mission to provide the Autumn Lake residents with some items they have prayed to Saint Nicholas to provide.

As Angels on a mission and as the mission of the Episcopal Church requires, we do in order to "restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ."

**Items are needed by December 10 and they do not need to be wrapped. However, if you wish to wrap your items (helpful to Autumn Lake), you need to mark items either for a male or a female.**

*The following items are needed:*

- **Lap Blankets**
- **Toiletries**
- **Winter Scarves and Hats**
- **Playing Cards and Word Search Puzzles**

We have always stepped up and donated to so many missions and ministries in our Christian Fellowship. During the upcoming season of Advent, as we await the celebration of the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, let us seek to be generous as our own situation allows and be Christlike in the sharing of ourselves in the service to others in need.

**BOOK BUNCH:** We are meeting on December 13 at 7:30 pm in the small parish hall and our book selection is *The Letter* (The Christmas Box # 3) by Richard Paul Evans. We will also have our holiday party with refreshments on this date. Please join us!

**THE CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH FAMILY WELCOMES YOU!**

2 Emerson Street, East Norwalk, Connecticut 06855

203.866.7442

[www.christepiscopalnorwalkct.org](http://www.christepiscopalnorwalkct.org)

**Vestry**

**Liz Conti Senior Warden, Ruth Lovallo Junior Warden**

**Debbie Ross Treasurer. Bridget Prichard Clerk of the Vestry**

**Barbara Judson Vestry Member, Julie Chelminski Vestry Member**

**Organist: Betty Belcher**

**What is the mission of the Church?**

The mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. *Book of Common Prayer, Page 855*