



Christ Episcopal Church
Norwalk, Connecticut
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 23, 2026

Prelude: Meditation on “Brother James’ Air” arr. by L. Smith

Processional Hymn # 427 When Morning Gilds The Skies

The Book of Common Prayer, Page 355:

All standing, the Celebrant says:

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

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

The Celebrant says:

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.*

Gloria: S 280 Powell

Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lessons

First Reading

Old Testament: Isaiah 51:1-6

¹Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. ²Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. ³For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. ⁵I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. ⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 138

¹ I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; *
before the gods I will sing your praise.

² I will bow down toward your holy temple
and praise your Name, *
because of your love and faithfulness;

³ For you have glorified your Name *
and your word above all things.

⁴ When I called, you answered me; *
you increased my strength within me.

⁵ All the kings of the earth will praise you, O Lord, *
when they have heard the words of your mouth.

⁶ They will sing of the ways of the Lord, *
that great is the glory of the Lord.

⁷ Though the Lord be high, he cares for the lowly; *
he perceives the haughty from afar.

⁸ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; *
**you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
your right hand shall save me.**

⁹ The Lord will make good his purpose for me; *
**O Lord, your love endures for ever;
do not abandon the works of your hands.**

Second Reading

Epistle: Romans 12:1-8

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn: # 518

**Christ Is Made The Sure Foundation
V. 1 & 2 Before the Reading**

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew.

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

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sequence Hymn: # 518

**Christ Is Made The Sure Foundation
V. 3 & 4 After the Reading**

Sermon: Reverend Allison Brown

The Nicene Creed

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.

The Leader and People pray responsively

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For our Presiding Bishop, our Bishops and for all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation:

Especially for: Suzanne, Joan, Ron, Blaize, Shannon, Kelly, Albert, Bruce, Heath, Alan, Ruth, Mary, Linda, Tracy, Kyle, Barbara, Craig, Marilyn, Keith, Diane, Sandy, Michael, Faith, Charlie, Trisha, Barbara, Sue, Al, Rose, Kenny, Bob, Nico, Candace, Barbara, Jesse, Llyod, Cookie, Betty and Paul.

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

Rectory School, Pomfret; Salisbury School, Salisbury; South Kent School, South Kent

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

Church of the Province of West Africa

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and for students preparing to enter schools, colleges, universities and seminaries and for teachers and professors as they start the new school year.

VIGIL LIGHT: The vigil light burns this week for the victims and families affected by the earthquake in Indonesia.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence

The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence may be kept.

Leader and People

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Celebrant concludes with an absolution or a suitable Collect.

The leader of Prayers of the People remains at the podium during the collect

Celebrant:

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.

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Peace

Announcements

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Hymn: # 304

I Come With Joy To Meet My Lord

Doxology

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP 367

The people remain standing.

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.**

The Celebrant proceeds:

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Sanctus: S 129 Powell

The people remain standing

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.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

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 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
for ever. *AMEN.*



The Celebrant then continues:

And now, as our Savior Christ has 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

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

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Agnus Dei: S 163 ... Powell

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.

ALL THE BAPTIZED ARE WELCOME TO COMMUNION.

Communion Hymn: LEVAS Book P. 217

He's Got The Whole World In His Hands

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People:

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

Final Blessing

Closing Hymn: # 522 Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: Postlude in G Major Kilhken

WHAT'S NEW AT CCEN?

BOOK BUNCH:

Our September selection is No One Will Miss Her by Kat Rosenfield and we are meeting on September 16.

Please join us for one of our discussions!

ANGEL FOOD PANTRY UPDATE:

Please consider volunteering your time to help us staff the food pantry more regularly.

We appreciate all donations and helping hands too!

If you want to donate any items, we can use rice, boxes or cans of evaporated milk, canned meats (tuna, chicken, SPAM), canned vegetables or fruits, pasta sauce, pasta, peanut butter, bar soap, toothpaste, deodorant and shampoo at this time.

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 by email at secretaryccen@gmail.com

THE CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH FAMILY WELCOMES YOU!

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Vestry

George Helwig Senior Warden, Frank Ross Junior Warden

Debbie Ross Treasurer, Liz Conti Clerk of the Vestry

Kim Harris Vestry Member, Debbie Bloom 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*