

**NINTH SUNDAY AFTER  
PENTECOST  
JULY 30, 2023, 11AM**



**"The Parable of the Mustard Seed" - James Patterson**

The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches. **Matthew 13:31-32**

**ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH**

## The Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

Rector: The Rev. Catherine D. Hicks  
The Rev. Tom Hughes, Rector Emeritus

**(BCP—Book of Common Prayer, H-Hymnal 1982; S Numbers are the service music found in the front of The Hymnal 1982; WLP-Wonder, Love and Praise)  
LEVAS-Lift Every Voice and Sing II)**

*In the name of Christ, we welcome you to this Church. May those who sorrow find comfort; the weary, rest; the unhappy, joy; the troubled, peace; the stranger, friends; and to all the sense of God's Presence in this holy place. We acknowledge that we gather on the traditional land of the first people of Port Royal, the Nandtaughtacund, and we honor with gratitude the land itself and the life of the Rappahannock Tribe.*

### Prelude

**Opening Hymn                      God of grace and God of glory                      H 594**

### Opening Sentence

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.  
Philippians 1:2

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. (*Silence is kept.*)

**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.**

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 Invitatory and Psalter

Lord, open our lips.

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

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**Venite To God with gladness sing (sung to Darwall's 148<sup>th</sup>)**

**To God with gladness sing, your Rock and Savior bless;**

**Into his temple bring your songs of thankfulness!**

**O God of might, to you we sing**

**Enthroned as King on heaven's height!**

**God cradles in his hand the heights and depths of earth;**

**God made the sea and land, God brought the world to birth!**

**O God most high, we are your sheep;**

**On us you keep your shepherd's eye!**

**Your heavenly Father praise, acclaim his only Son,**

**Your voice in homage raise to him who makes all one!**

**O Dove of peace, on us descend**

**That strife may end and joy increase!**

The earth is the Lord's for he made it: **Come let us adore him.**

**Psalm 119:129-136 *Mirabilia***

129 Your decrees are wonderful; \*

therefore I obey them with all my heart.

**130 When your word goes forth it gives light; \***

**it gives understanding to the simple.**

131 I open my mouth and pant; \*

I long for your commandments.

**132 Turn to me in mercy, \***

**as you always do to those who love your Name.**

133 Steady my footsteps in your word; \*

let no iniquity have dominion over me.

**134 Rescue me from those who oppress me, \***

**and I will keep your commandments.**

135 Let your countenance shine upon your servant \*

and teach me your statutes.

**136 My eyes shed streams of tears, \***

**because people do not keep your law.**

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

# The Lessons

## A Reading from First Kings, Chapter 3, verses 5-12.

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Canticle B: A Song of Pilgrimage (in unison)

Ecclesiasticus 51:13-16, 20b-22

**Before I ventured forth,  
Even while I was very young,\*  
I sought wisdom openly in my prayer.  
In the forecourts of the temple I asked for her,\*  
And I will seek her to the end.  
From the first blossom to early fruit,\***

She has been the delight of my heart.  
My foot has kept firmly to the true path,\*  
Diligently from my youth have I pursued her.  
I inclined my ear a little and received her;\*  
I found for myself much wisdom and became adept in her.  
To the one who gives me wisdom will I give glory,\*  
For I have resolved to live according to her way.  
From the beginning I gained courage from her,\*  
Therefore I will not be forsaken.  
In my inmost being I have been stirred to seek her,\*  
Therefore have I gained a good possession.  
As my reward the Almighty has given me the gift of language,\*  
And with it will I offer praise to God.

**A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans, Chapter 8, verses 26-39.**

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;  
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

**Canticle K A Song of Our Adoption (in unison)**

*Ephesians 1:3-10*

**Blessed are you, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,\*  
for you have blessed us in Christ  
with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.  
Before the world was made, you chose us to be yours in Christ,\*  
that we should be holy and blameless before you.  
You destined us for adoption as your children through Jesus Christ,\*  
according to the good pleasure of your will,  
To the praise of your glorious grace,\*  
that you have freely given us in the Beloved.  
In you, we have redemption through the blood of Christ,  
the forgiveness of our sins,  
According to the riches of your grace\*  
which you have lavished upon us.  
You have made known to us, in all wisdom and insight,\*  
The mystery of your will,  
According to your good pleasure which you set forth in Christ,\*  
as a plan for the fullness of time,  
To gather together all things in Christ,\*  
Things in heaven and things on earth.**

**A Reading from The Gospel according to Matthew, Chapter 13, Verses 31 through 33, 44-52.**

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn**

**Seek ye first**

**H 711**

**Sermon**

**The Rev. Tom Hughes**

**The Apostles' Creed**

**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.

## The Peace

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

## Announcements

Birthday and Anniversary Blessings

BCP 830 #51/431

## Offertory

## The Prayers

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
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.**

### Suffrages from Enriching our Worship

Help us, O God our Savior;

**Deliver us and forgive us our sins.**

Look upon your congregation;

**Give to your people the blessing of peace.**

Declare your glory among the nations;

**And your wonders among all peoples.**

Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;

**Never forget the lives of your poor.**

Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;

**And your favor to those who are true of heart.**



Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;  
**So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.**

### **Collect for Ninth Sunday in Pentecost**

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **A Prayer of Self-Dedication**

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you, and then use us, we pray, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people, through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

God, you have given us a dream of your world made whole, a heavenly realm that is near in heart and close at hand, and it is ours to choose each day. May our smallest acts of courtesy, when transformed by your love, grow abundantly into a realm of flourishing for all. **Amen.**

### **A Prayer for Mission**

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **For Joy in God's Creation**

O heavenly Father, who has filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works; that rejoicing in your whole creation, we may learn to serve you with gladness; for the sake of him through whom all things were made, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **For the Good Use of Leisure**

O God, in the course of this busy life, give us times of refreshment and peace; and grant that we may so use our leisure to rebuild our bodies and renew our minds, that our spirits may be opened to the goodness of your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **For Leaders**

Almighty God, ruler of the nations, we pray for all leaders, and for the leaders of the nations, that they may seek your guidance and discern the ways to overcome divisions and mistrust. May they reflect your unity in every aspect of common life. We pray for an end to the war in Ukraine. We pray for your comfort and sustenance for all who suffer because of this war. **Amen.**

### **For Social Justice**

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **For those in the Armed Forces of our Country**

Almighty God, until your reign of peace is realized on this earth, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad, especially those on our prayer list. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

### **For those on our prayer list**

Merciful Lord, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve all those on our prayer list. Give your power of healing to those who care for them, that they may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **For those who have died**

O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of all who have died and grant them an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of your saints; through Jesus Christ our

Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

O sovereign God, in Jesus Christ you set your holy reign upon this earth and within your people. So let its coming be like the mustard seed that grows into greatness, and like the leaven that mixes with the grain until the whole becomes greater, to the praise of the triune God, who lives forever more. **Amen.**

### **A General Thanksgiving** (*Read in Unison*)

**Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.**

**We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side. We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us. We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone. Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom. Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.**

**Closing Hymn**

**Be thou my vision**

**H 488**

Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **Postlude**

### **Resources**

Today's canticles are from [Enriching our Worship](#).

Today's prayers are from [The Book of Common Prayer](#)

[Revised Common Lectionary Prayers](#), and [Feasting on the Word](#)

[Worship Companion, Liturgies for Year A, Vol 2](#), Kimberly Bracken Long, ed.

## **Announcements**

**Welcome to St Peter's.** May you find God's love present with you in this place and return here often to worship. The communion bread is gluten free. All are welcome at the Lord's table.

**The offering plates are in the back next to the doors. Your gifts help support God's work through this church.** Mail - PO Box 399, Port Royal, VA 22535. online - <https://news.churchsp.org/onlinegiving>

**Catherine will be returning from vacation this week.**

**July 30, Worship, On YouTube,**

<https://www.youtube.com/@st.petersepiscopalchurchpo677/streams>

**Bible Study, Weds, Aug 2, 10am-12pm. Parish House. The Transfiguration**

<https://lectionarypage.net/YearABC/HolyDays/Transfig.html>

**Thank you to all who donated notebook paper to the Caroline's Promise school supply distribution, which was held yesterday at Caroline Middle School. 95 packs of paper!**

**Thank you to all who have supported the Jamaica Project this year. In addition to donating enough school supplies for each student at the Victoria School in Linstead, Jamaica, St Peter's was able to donate seven used computers to the school, along with keyboards and monitors to use with each computer. We collected \$2,355 at the end of June 28 for the computers and remaining school supplies. Thank you everyone.**

**Check out these summer movies online:**

**1. The Letter – Pope Francis on the Environment -**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rps9bs85BII&t=7s>

**2. The Sabbath – Learn about the ways the Sabbath is observed around the world. <https://youtu.be/WTfzePC5It0>**

**3. The Way – (Trailer). A trip on the Pilgrim's path or Camino in Spain.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o5VZKWcgw6c>

**4. Philadelphia 11 (Trailer) about the first women admitted to the priesthood in the 1970's <https://vimeo.com/797111253->**

**St. Peter's Episcopal Church**  
**823 Water Street PO Box 399, Port Royal, VA 22535**  
**Website: www.news.churchsp.org Parish Office: (804) 742-5908**  
**The Vestry**

**Cookie Davis, Larry Saylor (2024)**  
**Elizabeth Heimbach, Helmut Linne von Berg (2025)**  
**Linda Upshaw (2026)**  
**Jim Heimbach, Treasurer, Elizabeth Heimbach Registrar**  
**Senior Warden, Elizabeth Heimbach**  
**Junior Warden, Cookie Davis**  
**Brad Volland – Music Director & Organist**  
**The Rev. Catherine D. Hicks, Rector**  
**The Rev. Tom Hughes, Rector Emeritus**  
**(540) 809-7489, (540) 898-1586, stpetersrev@gmail.com**  
**Christ Centered, Biblically Based, Spirit Filled, Caring**

### **Prayer List**

**Cookie Davis, Laura Carey, Fred and Crystal Pannell, Ken Pogue, Susan and Helmut Linne von Berg, Brad Volland, Rob Dobson, Lydia O' Neil, John Hess, Charles McGuire, Barbara and Tommy Segar, John and Toni Faibisy, Linneth Feliciano, Thom Guthrie, Vivian McDonald, Bill Wick, Barbara and Boyd Wisdom, Jim Heimbach**

**Sherie Franssen (Matt Hood's aunt), Max and Rita Jensen (Duke friends), Ralph Powell (Hicks friend), Lola Delbridge, Barbara Deal, Roberta Rutledge (friend of the Pogues), Patterson family, Valerie Leitch, Liz Ruthven, Charlene Schnakenberg, (Becky Fisher's mother), T. C. Collins, Wayne Cohen (cousin of Andrea Pogue), Jimmy and Nancy Davis (Johnny Davi's brother and sister in law), Herb Collins, Mrs. Watson, Hyacinth Wallace, Bethune Andrews, Orville Watson (Linneth Feliciano's mother, sisters and brother), Sylvia and Jonathan Coleman (Cleo's daughter and son), Ed and Doris Hooker, Milijana Grayson, Nika Corwin (friend of Marcia Kole), Nathaniel Schnakenberg, Otis Felts (friend of Johnny Davis), The Glasgows (friends of the Felicianos), Ann Pyle (Carolyn Duke's mother), Harvey Yarus (friend of Tom Kramer), Joanne Wilkerson and Julie Davis (sister and daughter of Johnny Davis), Lois Christie, Rosie Dowdy, Bill Lauck, Anthony Bowman, Dylan Puryear (BJ's grandson), Ruth Smith, Joyce Smith (Laura Carey's sisters-in-law), Gloria Jewell, The Hill family (Lydia O'Neil's family), Lorena McElwain, (friend of the Pogues), G. Lee Baldwin, Linda Oliver, Pat Crenshaw (Brad's cousin), Joan Pemberton (Brad's aunt), Albert Barnett (Andrea's uncle), Scott Crabtree (Eunice Key's brother), Louise Chapman (Barbara Segar's cousin)**

### **Serving in the Armed Forces**

<b>PJ Koons</b>	<b>Scott Estes</b>	<b>Cliff Lance</b>
<b>Steven Lee</b>	<b>Greg Merkl</b>	<b>Grace Grimaldi</b>
<b>Alexis Rye</b>	<b>Michael Hobbs</b>	<b>Alex Long V</b>