

# **THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

## **September 20, 2020**

### **In Preparation for Sunday Worship**

Today we will do something both new and ancient; new to us and ancient in the Christian tradition. We will share in an Agape meal.

The Dictionary of the Episcopal Church defines Agape as

“Selfless Christian love. Agape reflects the love of God, and it is the kind of love that Christians are called to share with one another. The term is also used for a common meal or "Love Feast" of the early church, from which the eucharist developed as a separate rite.”

The Agape Meal recalls our memory to the love Jesus shared with those with whom he ate during his ministry. Although its origins in the early church are closely connected to the Lord's Supper, and the signs of the agape are fruit of the vine and grain (wine/juice and bread), the Agape Meal is quite distinct from the Eucharist.

Taking our cue from the diasporate Jewish tradition, in which many holy days are celebrated in the home, The Agape Meal is ideally suited for celebration within the home. All you need is koinonia (Love, communion with God, and Christian fellowship). If you are socially distanced and alone, we will find our fellowship with others through Zoom.

### **The Setting and Ingredients:**

- This meal and liturgy are intended to take place around the dinner table, or on pillows on your floor – wherever you and your loved ones feel most comfortable.
- If possible, have a candle to light.
- The traditional Agape meal is a simple fare of grapes, cheeses, nuts, dried figs and other fruits, olives, pita, and hummus, bread and wine, and maybe a pot of soup or a leg of lamb.
- In these days of being socially distanced, we can be creative. Use what you have. If possible, try to have something made from grain, be it bread, a cracker, or a short stack of pancakes.
- If possible, try to have something that you connect with as being “fruit of the vine”, be it wine, juice, grapes, etc.
- The important things are that you share a meal of some sort, share in the memory of Jesus, and pray together.

**Our service will begin at 10:00 on Sunday and will be on ZOOM.**

**The Bulletin and Zoom Link can be found under the Online Worship tab at [www.StPaulsSparks.org](http://www.StPaulsSparks.org).**

The first part with of the liturgy will reflect the Liturgy of the Word from a Sunday service. The second part of our service will be the Agape Meal. If you choose not to participate in the Agape meal, please join us for the first half.

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost, September 20, 2020 10:00 a.m.

Liturgy of the Word: Rite Two page 355 in the Book of Common Prayer.

On ZOOM <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82412364013?pwd=bkgwK0QwOXNYcGQzTHI4SFNmSWgvUT09>

Meeting ID: 824 1236 4013 Password: 308693 Dial by your location +1 669 900 6833

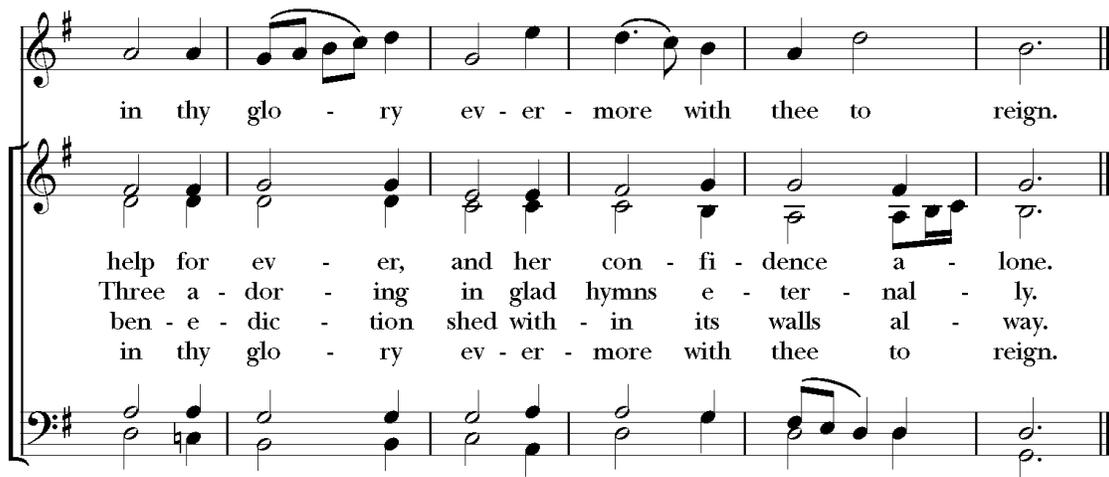
Opening Hymn: "Christ is made the sure foundation" Hymnal #518

*Descant*

4 Here vouch - safe to all thy serv - ants what they ask of

1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ the head and  
2 All that ded - i - cat - ed ci - ty, dear - ly loved of  
3 To this tem - ple, where we call thee, come, O Lord of  
4 Here vouch - safe to all thy serv - ants what they ask of

thee to gain; what they gain from thee, for ev - er  
cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord, and pre - cious,  
God on high, in ex - ult - ant ju - bi - la - tion  
Hosts, to - day; with thy wont - ed lov - ing - kind - ness  
thee to gain; what they gain from thee, for ev - er  
with the bless - ed to re - tain, and here - af - ter  
bind - ing all the Church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's  
pours per - pet - ual mel - o - dy; God the One in  
hear thy serv - ants as they pray, and thy full - est  
with the bless - ed to re - tain, and here - af - ter



in thy glo - ry ev - er - more with thee to reign.

help for ev - er, and her con - fi - dence a - lone.  
 Three a - dor - ing in glad hymns e - ter - nal - ly.  
 ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in its walls al - way.  
 in thy glo - ry ev - er - more with thee to reign.

## OPENING ACCLAMATION

*Presider:* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People:* **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

*Presider:* 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.**

## THE GLORIA (*Hymnal 1982 S-280*)

*(Next Page)*

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
 peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly  
 King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we  
 give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus  
 Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
 take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy  
 on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -  
 ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,  
 you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most  
 High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the  
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Presider:* The Lord be with you.

***People:* And also with you.**

*Presider:* Let us pray.

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

## THE FIRST LESSON *Exodus 16:2-15*

*Reader:* A Reading from the Book of Exodus, chapter 16, verses 2-15.

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

Then the Lord said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?” And Moses said, “When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord.”

Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.’” And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, “I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’”

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

***People:* Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 105: 1-6, 37-45** (starts on page 738, & then the bottom of 740, top of 741)  
*To be read in responsively by whole verse.*

*Leader:* Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name; \*  
make known his deeds among the peoples.

***People:* Sing to him, sing praises to him, \*  
and speak of all his marvelous works.**

Glory in his holy Name; \*  
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

**Search for the Lord and his strength; \*  
continually seek his face.**

Remember the marvels he has done, \*  
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,

**O offspring of Abraham his servant, \*  
O children of Jacob his chosen.**

He led out his people with silver and gold; \*  
in all their tribes there was not one that stumbled.

**Egypt was glad of their going, \*  
because they were afraid of them.**

He spread out a cloud for a covering \*  
and a fire to give light in the night season.

**They asked, and quails appeared, \*  
and he satisfied them with bread from heaven.**

He opened the rock, and water flowed, \*  
so the river ran in the dry places.

**For God remembered his holy word \*  
and Abraham his servant.**

So he led forth his people with gladness, \*  
his chosen with shouts of joy.

**He gave his people the lands of the nations, \*  
and they took the fruit of others' toil,**

That they might keep his statutes \*  
and observe his laws. Hallelujah!

**THE SECOND LESSON** *Philippians 1:21-30*

*Reader:* A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians, chapter 1, verses 21-30.

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am

convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well--since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

***People:* Thanks be to God.**

### **THE GOSPEL** *Matthew 20:1-16*

*Deacon:* The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

*Deacon:* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

### **THE SERMON:**

*(Page 358)*

### **THE NICENE CREED** *(All in unison)*

**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.**

#### **SPECIAL PRAYERS AND BLESSINGS (Page 830)**

**51. For a Birthday:** *Sherre Engdahl, Shirley Reed, Sonya Truelove, Vern Watts.*

**Watch over thy *children*, O Lord, as *their* days increase; bless and guide *them* wherever they may be. Strengthen *them* when *they* stand; comfort *them* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *them* up if *they* fall; and in *their* heart may thy peace which passes understanding abide all the days of *their life*; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.***

**50. For a Birthday (But we are using it for a Wedding Anniversary)**

**O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants \_\_\_\_\_  
as they begin another year together. Grant that *they* may grow in wisdom and grace,  
and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.***

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: FORM III (Page 387)

*The Deacon (or other Leader) and People pray responsively.*

*Leader:* Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;

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

*Silence*

*Leader:* We pray for all members of the Body of Christ especially

For the Church of the Province of Myanmar, Burma,

For the Grace in the Desert Episcopal Church, Las Vegas,

For the New Jerusalem Baptist Church, Sparks.

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

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

We pray for: Michael, our Presiding Bishop;

Jim, our assisting Bishop;

and for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

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

We pray for:

Donald, our President;

Steve, our Governor;

Hillary and Ed, our Mayors;

and for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

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

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

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

We pray for the special needs and concerns of this congregation

especially for [Seven](#), [Ashton](#), [Steve](#), [Ellen](#), [Carolyn](#) and [Lynn](#).

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

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

We pray for all those who have died, especially those we now name...

*(Pause)*

Give to the departed eternal rest.

**Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

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

We pray for the safety of Mark, Bradley, Alex, Suzanne and all the men and women, both in our neighborhoods and worldwide, who with courage wake each day to keep the peace and protect humanity.

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

*The Presider adds a concluding Collect.*

*Presider:* Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **THE OFFERING**

*During this time we make an offering to the church for its mission and it is also a time in which we fully offer ourselves to be Christ in the world around us.*

If mailing in an offering, please remit to:  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church PO BOX 737 Sparks, NV 89432

Or online at: [https://tithely.com/give\\_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/37265](https://tithely.com/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/37265)

## **Hymn: "I am the bread of life"**

*(\*Special thanks for Dottie Stufflebeam, James Stufflebeam, Tricia Woodliff, and Tim Miller)*

I am the Bread of Life,  
they who come to me shall not hunger  
They who believe in Me shall not thirst  
Now one can come to Me,  
unless the Father draw them

**Chorus:**  
**And I will raise them up**  
**and I will raise them up**  
**And I will raise them up on the last day!**

The bread that I will give,  
is My flesh for the life of the world  
And they who eat of this bread,  
they shall live forever  
They shall live forever!

**Chorus:**  
**And I will raise them up**  
**and I will raise them up**  
**And I will raise them up on the last day!**

Unless you eat of the flesh of the Son of Man  
And Drink of his blood,

You shall not have life within you  
You shall not have life within you.

**Chorus:**  
**And I will raise them up**  
**and I will raise them up**  
**And I will raise them up on the last day!**  
I am the Resurrection, I am the life  
They who believe in Me, even if they die  
They shall live forever!

**Chorus:**  
**And I will raise them up**  
**and I will raise them up**  
**And I will raise them up on the last day!**  
Yes, Lord I believe, that you are the Christ  
The Son of God, Who has come into the world!

**Chorus:**  
**And I will raise them up**  
**and I will raise them up**  
**And I will raise them up on the last day!**

Words: Suzanne Toolan (b. 1927), adapt. of John 6  
Music: *I Am the Bread of Life*, Suzanne Toolan (b. 1927); arr. Betty Pulkingham (b. 1928)  
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## THE PEACE

*Presider:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

## Agapé Meal

*The meal is set before those gathered.*

*A candle, if available, is present, but not yet lit.*

*The leader is either a member of the clergy or a lay member of the household.*

### Gather

*Leader:* We gather today in the name of Jesus, our friend, leader, and crucified and risen Lord.

*People:* **We gather today, thankful that no trial or trouble can separate us from God's love.**

### A New Commandment

*Leader:* Jesus said, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." *John 13: 34-35*

### The Light

*Someone in the gathering is appointed to light a candle saying,*

**Jesus, you are the light of the world, who forever shines upon us.**

### The Cleansing Water

*Leader or other reader:* "Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him." *John 13:3-5*

*Leader:* As a sign of his love and servanthood to all people, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples. As a sign of our love and care for all people, we wash our hands, cleansing them from the harms of the past, known and unknown, and sanctifying them for loving kindness.

*The people gathered wash their hands in a manner appropriate for the setting.*

*Once people have regathered, the meal continues.*

*Leader: As we gather as one body to feast on God's love,  
let us remember what Jesus taught us through a meal.*

Jesus fed those who were hungry and in need of food.

Jesus ate with the sick and the outcast.

Jesus ate with sinners and supported picking grain on the sabbath.

Jesus ate with the faithful and the righteous.

Jesus ate with those who disagreed with his teaching of God's love for all.

Jesus ate with his enemies and with his friends.

Jesus ate traditional religious meals celebrating God's work in ages past and created a new understanding for us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation.

The resurrected Jesus broke bread with disciples who were running away and shared fish on a beach with disciples who had given up and returned their boats and nets.

For Jesus, the giving and receiving of food is more than just the act of sharing, it is an act of unifying and healing love; Agape, and Love Feast for the wholeness of creation.

### **The Blessings**

*The leader offers these blessings over the food.*

#### **Over Wine/Fruit of the Vine**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Creator of the universe.

You create the fruit of the vine; and you refresh us with the cup of salvation in the Blood of Jesus Christ, crucified yet risen. May the time come quickly when we can share that cup again, even as you are with us now in our very thirst for you.

Glory to you for ever and ever. **Amen.**

#### **Over Bread/Grain**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Creator of the universe.

You bring forth bread from the earth; you have fed us with the bread of life in the Body of your Son. Feed us now with your presence among us and your presence in your Word. As grain scattered upon the earth is gathered into one loaf, so gather your Church in every place into the kingdom of your Son. To you be glory and power for ever and ever. **Amen.**

#### **Over the Other Foods**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Creator of the universe.

You have blessed the earth to bring forth food to satisfy our hunger. Let this food strengthen us, even as we long to gather around one table and one Lord, as we await our risen Lord's return.

For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **The Meal**

*Dine together, enjoy, be open to gratitude.*

## **Reflections**

*Near the end of the meal, ask yourselves these or similar questions.*

“In the week past, what has been difficult, what have you mourned?”

“What grace or gifts have you known or received this week?”

“What are you most thankful/grateful for this week?”

*A family with younger children might ask instead:*

“When have you felt sad this week?”

“When have you felt loved?”

“What are you most thankful/grateful for this week?”

## **At the Close of the Meal**

*Those gathered say together the prayer attributed to St. Francis.*

**Lord, make us instruments of your peace.**

**Where there is hatred, let us sow love;**

**where there is injury, pardon;**

**where there is discord, union;**

**where there is doubt, faith;**

**where there is despair, hope;**

**where there is darkness, light;**

**where there is sadness, joy.**

**Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;**

**to be understood as to understand;**

**to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive;**

**it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;**

**and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.**

*Leader:* I'm going to come to the welcoming table one of these days.  
I'm going to eat at the welcoming table one of these days.  
I'm going to drink milk and honey at the welcoming table one of these days.  
I'm going to cross the River Jordan one of these days.  
I'm going to eat.  
We're going to eat at the welcoming table one of these days.

***People:* Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**