



St John the Evangelist

Scottish Episcopal Church, Jedburgh
A community of welcome in the Borders

1ST September 2024

Pentecost 15

10.00 EUCHARIST

*Celebrant: **Revd. Andi Hofbauer***

Hymn 263

All creatures of our God and King (omit *)

PREPARATION

(page 1, blue service book)

Collect

Almighty and merciful God, by whose grace alone your faithful people offer you service and praise: grant that we may hasten without stumbling towards the things that you promise; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

Amen

LITURGY OF THE WORD

(page 4, blue service book)

Reading:

Deuteronomy 4:1 – 2, 6 – 9 (*p. 173, pew Bible*)

Psalm 15

Those who do what is right will dwell in the presence of the Lord

Hymn

God has spoken

1

God has spoken by his prophets,
spoken his unchanging Word;
Each from age to age proclaiming
God the one, the righteous Lord! ...

In the world's despair and turmoil
One firm anchor still holds fast,
God is on his throne eternal,
God alone the first and last.

2 God has spoken by Christ Jesus,
Christ the everlasting Son,
Brightness of the Father's glory,
With the Father, ever one:
Spoken by the Word incarnate,
Life, before all time began,
Light of light, to Earth descending,
God, revealed as Son of man.

3 God is speaking by his Spirit
Speaking to the hearts again;
In the age-long Word declaring
God's own message, now as then.
Through the rise and fall of nations
One sure faith is standing fast:
God abides, his word unchanging,
God the first and God the last.

G W Briggs (1875-1959)

Gospel: Mark 7:1 – 8, 14 – 15, 21 – 23

Sermon, Creed, Intercessions, Peace

Hymn 271 Alleluia, sing to Jesus

LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

(page 4, blue service book, then pink leaflet)

At Communion: *there is hand gel on the way to the altar rail for those who wish to handle the chalice themselves. Please do not intinct (dip your wafer in the wine).*

Prayer after *We use prayer (b) on page 30:*
Communion ***“Father of all, we give you thanks ...***

Hymn 443 Rejoice, the Lord is King

Blessing and Dismissal

We pray especially today for

Syd Farquharson, Grace Lancaster and Linda Grant

Dear Friends and people of God,

‘Clean hands save lives.’

Before today’s passage in Mark's Gospel Jesus uses his hands to take, give thanks for, bless and break five loaves and two fishes and feed five thousand. He uses them to still a storm and soothe his anguished disciples. He uses them to heal the sick, to touch the untouchables with God’s love and compassion.

And now, he is faced with the Pharisees’ criticism: why do your disciples not live according to the traditions of the elders, but eat with defiled hands? And his reply? ‘You have got your purity laws all wrong’, Jesus says, ‘The condition of the heart is more important than the outward and visible sign of piety of washing hands before eating.’

So, clean hands don’t save lives after all? - But, oh yes, they can.

Clean hands save lives, if we see them as an expression of a heart set on doing God’s will. Clean hands save lives if we see them as an expression of our grieving over the ills of our world. Clean hands save lives if we see them as an expression of our confession of what is life-denying in our lives, in our society and amongst and within the nations. Clean hands save lives if

we see them as an expression of our receiving God's forgiveness and commission 'to go in peace' and 'try again'. Clean hands save lives if we see them as an expression of our desire to fashion our lives on our God who loves and who serves ... by being loving and bending our hearts and minds on being of service, too... Then, oh, yes then they do! Clean hands then, indeed, save lives!

Every day sets before us the choice of life or death, of doing good or evil, of reaching out or rejecting. Every day sets before us the choice of affirming life or denying it, of building up or destroying, of challenging unjust structures or ignoring what these structures do to real flesh and blood people with whom we share a common humanity.

Clean hands save lives. So let us bend our hearts and minds, our hands and wills on loving and serving as our God has loved and has served us.

With all my love and prayers: Andi

Priest-in-Charge

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*Toilets are available next door in St. John's Old School
at the end of the downstairs corridor.*

Our welcomers have the key to the front door.

*** Vestry meeting: Wednesday 4th September, 7.00pm ***