

Pentecost 15, September 13, 2020

Prelude

Opening Acclamation

Blessed be the one holy and living God

Glory to God, forever and ever

A Song of Praise (together) I will take you from among all nations and gather you from all lands to bring you home. I will sprinkle clean water upon you; and purify you from false gods and uncleanness. A new heart I will give you and a new spirit within you. I will take the stone heart from your chest and give you a heart of flesh. I will help you walk in my laws and cherish my commandments and do them. You shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Collect of the Day (together)

Loving Jesus: Protect and sustain us with your hand. Open the door of your love that, sealed with your wisdom, we may be free to serve you with joy. *Amen.*

First Lesson: Exodus 14:19-31

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea.

The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt." Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Psalm 114

- 1 Alleluia! When Israel came out of Egypt, *
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,
- 2 Judah became God's sanctuary *
and Israel God's dominion.
- 3 The sea beheld it and fled; *
Jordan turned and went back.
- 4 The mountains skipped like rams, *
and the little hills like young sheep.

- 5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled; *
O Jordan, that you turned back?
- 6 You mountains, that you skipped like rams; *
you little hills, like young sheep?
- 7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of God, *
at the presence of the God of Jacob,
- 8 Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water *
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

Second Lesson: Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The Sermon

The Rev. Beth Sherman

The Nicene Creed (*The people stand as they are able.*)

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 became human. 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 giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, and 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 Prayers of the People (*The people stand as they are able.*)

Reader: Let us be filled with the Holy Spirit and pray for the common good of the whole human family. *In the pause after each bidding, add your own prayers either silently or aloud.*

We pray for the Church, the Body of Christ, especially Michael, our Presiding Bishop and Nicholas, our Bishop; for the people of God, gathered from every nation under heaven; may we proclaim in every language, the dawning of a new age. In the **Anglican Cycle of Prayer**, we pray for the Anglican Church of South America. In the **Diocesan Cycle of Prayer**, we pray for the people and clergy of The Church of the Holy Cross, Middletown and The Church of the Redeemer, Providence.

Reader: For this we pray.

People: **Holy Spirit, guide our prayer.**

For the world: For the United Nations and for all dedicated to world peace; may the Spirit's call put an end to division and gather us as one. In this time of COVID, and in a world where racial inequality abounds, bring healing and give us courage to seek justice for all people. We remember especially.....

Reader: For this we pray.

People: **Holy Spirit, guide our prayer.**

For creation: that each person may have a reverence for the earth, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and share the abundance of this earth with generosity and integrity. We remember especially _____

Reader: For this we pray.

People: **Holy Spirit, guide our prayer.**

For those oppressed, afflicted or in need: that we may seek out those who feel unloved or neglected, the prisoner and the stranger, with welcome and care. We remember also those in need of prayer and healing, especially _____

Reader: For this we pray.

People: **Holy Spirit, guide our prayer.**

For the needs of the local community: for those whose labor is difficult, for those whose hearts are hurting, for those who are bereaved and for those who have lost their way. For those who serve this community in a wide variety of ministries especially..... May the spirit inspire all of us to place the gifts we have received at the service of the common good.

Reader: For this we pray.

People: **Holy Spirit, guide our prayer.**

For those who have died: that they continue to rest in your love, and discover the joys of eternal life, remembering today _

Reader: For this we pray.
People: **Holy Spirit, guide our prayer.**

We give thanks for all the blessings of this life, including those celebrating birthdays: Joseph Masse, Rob Kelly, Bruce Dunham, Jr. and the anniversaries of Donna & Stephen Antaya and Peter & Nancy Horgan.

Reader: For this we pray.
People: **Holy Spirit, guide our prayer.**

All: O God, who created all people in your image, we thank you for the wonderful diversity of races and cultures in this world. Enrich our lives by ever widening circles of fellowship and show us your presence in those who differ most from us, until our knowledge of your love is made perfect in our love for all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace *The people stand as they are able.*

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

The Eucharist

At the fraction: *Celebrant:* We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
Response: We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Post Communion Prayer

Gracious God, we give you thanks and praise that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; in Jesus' name we ask it. Amen.

The Blessing

Dismissal response: Thanks be to God.

Announcements: Please put offertory in the basket on the table upon entering or exiting.

