



Fifteenth Sunday
After Pentecost
12 & 13 September 2020
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
2750 Cardinal Dr. Sierra Vista, AZ





1 We walk by faith, and not by sight; no
 2 We may not touch his hands and side, nor
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un-belief; and
 4 that, when our life of faith is done, in

gra-cious words we hear from him who spoke as
 fol-low where he trod; but in his prom-ise
 may our faith a-bound, to call on you when
 realms of clear-er light we may be-hold you

none e'er spoke; but we be-lieve him near.
 we re-joice; and cry, "My Lord and God!"
 you are near, and seek where you are found:
 as you are, with full and end-less sight.

Words: Henry Alford (1810-1871), alt.
 Music: *St. Botolph*, Gordon Slater (1896-1979)

CM

The Word of God

BCP p. 355

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his 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.**

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Gloria/Glory to God

BCP p. 356

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

Presider *Let us pray.*

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

(Please be seated for the lessons. Lessons are found on the Lectionary insert)

The Lessons

First Lesson: A reading from the book of **Genesis 50:15-21**

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Reader *The Word of the Lord*

People **Thanks be to God**

{Let us all recite in unison}

Psalm 103:(1-7),8-13

- 31 [Bless the Lord, O my soul, *
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.
- 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, *
and forget not all his benefits.
- 3 He forgives all your sins *
and heals all your infirmities;
- 4 He redeems your life from the grave *
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;

- 5 He satisfies you with good things, *
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- 6 The Lord executes righteousness *
and judgment for all who are oppressed.
- 7 He made his ways known to Moses *
and his works to the children of Israel.]
- 8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 9 He will not always accuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
- 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
- 12 As far as the east is from the west, *
so far has he removed our sins from us.
- 13 As a father cares for his children, *
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.

Second Lesson: A reading from the book of the **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.

Reader *The Word of the Lord*

People **Thanks be to God**

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

Gospel Lesson: 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."

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you Lord Christ.

HOMILY

Nicene Creed (Traditional)

BCP p. 358

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.

Prayers of the People:

Form IV

Leader: *Let us pray for the Church and for the world.*

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. We pray for our Bishops Michael and Jennifer; in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer for the Anglican Church of South America; in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer for St. Francis-in-the-Valley, in Green Valley and for our Native American neighbors, especially the Apache and Pascua Yaqui who call this part of Arizona their home.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: *Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.*

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: *Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.*

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: *Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.*

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: *Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.*

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: *We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.*

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

People: **Hear our prayer.**

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*

Leader: *Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.*

A Brief Silence may be kept.

All: **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.**

Presider *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.*

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

People: **And also with you.**

(People exchange a 6 ft distanced peace, offering peace signs, namaste (prayer hands with head bow), or virtual hug (arms crossed over chest)).

Offertory

Presider *Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself as a offering and sacrifice to God.*

Offertory Anthem

(Plates/baskets will not be passed and will not be brought forward during the service. Please drop your offering into the plate or basket without touching them on the way into or out of the church)



The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider *The Lord be with you.*

People **And also with you.**

Presider *Lift up your hearts.*

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Presider

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 for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

All:

***Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.***

Then the Presider continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith: *Celebrant and People*
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The Presider continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also (+) that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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 forever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
Lord's Prayer: (Traditional)

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 *(spoken)*

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Invitation to Communion:

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God.

(All are invited and welcome to come forward and receive communion in this church. Please follow the directions of the priest and maintain distancing. Receive the bread in your outstretched hand, move 6ft over and lift/lower mask to consume the bread. Replace mask and return to seat).

Communion Music

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Healing Prayer, Gratitude Sharing

(remain in your seat area, stand for recognition or sharing)

Post Communion Prayer *The people stand as they are able.*

Presider *Let us Pray*

All: **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.**

Benediction/Blessing:

Presider: May the peace which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. And the blessing of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you now and always. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn

1 Stand up, stand up, for Je - sus, ye sold - iers of the cross;
2 Stand up, stand up, for Je - sus; the trum - pet call o - bey;
3 Stand up, stand up, for Je - sus; stand in his strength a - lone;
4 Stand up, stand up, for Je - sus: the strife will not be long;

lift high his roy - al ban - ner, it must not suf - fer loss:
forth to the might - y con - flict in this his glo - rious day:
the arm of flesh will fail you, ye dare not trust your own:
this day, the noise of bat - tle; the next, the vic - tor's song.

from vic - tory un - to vic - tory his ar - my shall he lead,
ye that are his now serve him a - gainst un - num - bered foes;
put on the Gos - pel ar - mor, and watch - ing un - to prayer,
To val - iant hearts tri - um - phant, a crown of life shall be;

till ev - ery foe is van - quished and Christ is Lord in - deed.
 let cour - age rise with dan - ger, and strength to strength op - pose.
 when du - ty calls, or dan - ger, be nev - er want - ing there.
 they with the King of glo - ry shall reign e - ter - nal - ly.

Words: George Duffield, Jr. (1818-1888), alt.
 Music: *Morning Light*, George James Webb (1803-1887)

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Dismissal

Presider: *Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in God's Spirit.*

Alleluia! Alleluia!

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, (*Alleluia!*)**

Please, join us for a time of appropriately distanced fellowship after the service in the Parish Hall. Please keep your masks on during this time.

THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS

