



Holy Nativity



The Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 13, 2020

The Prelude

The Collect of the Day

Presider: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

The Presider says.

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.**

A Reading from the Hebrew Scripture 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.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**



Psalm 114

- 1 Hallelujah!
When Israel came out of Egypt, *
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,
- 2 Judah became God's sanctuary *
and Israel his 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 the Lord, *
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.

A Reading from the New Testament 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.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel

Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ,
according to Matthew 18:21-35.

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

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."

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord

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

The Sermon

The Reverend Judy Baldwin



The Prayers of the People

Let us pray for this world God so loves, saying, Hear us, Lord. Hear us.

O God, your unfailing love has been the source of our strength. It has led us through troubled waters and away from our enemies. In your infinite love, you have had pity on us and heard our cries. Because of your faithful love and mercy, we bring our concerns to you, O God.

For the universal church — that it would be an instrument of your love, forgiveness, and grace. Help us to respect one another's beliefs so we will learn more about who you are from one another.

Let us pray to the Lord.
Hear us, Lord. Hear us.

For the global community – that we would learn to live for each other in peace and cooperation and share collective responsibility. Let the health of our planet and our need for good food, shelter and water be ever more conscious as we learn to care for one another.

Let us pray to the Lord.
Hear us, Lord. Hear us.

For those in the wider community --- we pray for today's Interfaith Solidarity March that we will support one another in our differences. Give us grace to appreciate what each religion brings to answer our longing for peace and justice.

Let us pray to the Lord.
Hear us, Lord. Hear us.

For our local community – we pray for our Peace and Justice Task Force and their leadership in our effort through the “8 Can't Wait” campaign to affect illegal violence at the hands of the Police. We pray for those calling and sending cards through “Reclaim the Vote” to help people claim their right to vote. Help us to be diligent in our work.

Let us pray to the Lord.
Hear us, Lord. Hear us.

For those who suffer in their minds, bodies, or souls – hold them in your love and help us, the Church, be what they need. Help us to visit, to call, to stay connected to those who need the most help in our midst. Give grace to our Daughters of the King who pray for our needs, and to our Pastoral Care Team that watches over our people.

Let us pray to the Lord.
Hear us, Lord. Hear us.

For those who have the Covid virus, give them comfort in their isolation and sustain them in their fear. Encourage us to wear our masks, to social distance, to stay connected and to do what we can to uphold and protect one another.

Let us pray to the Lord.
Hear us, Lord. Hear us.

We pray in gratitude for our Bishop, John Taylor, with whom we will worship next Sunday. Let us remember to pray now for Rev. Michael as he makes his journey to join us at Holy Nativity. Help our community to prepare a smooth and welcoming transition for Rev. Michael.

Let us pray to the Lord.
Hear us, Lord. Hear us.

Officiant: Closing Prayer



The Confession of Sin

Presider: Let us confess our sins to God.

People: **God of all mercy,**
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.

The Presider says

May God love you and have mercy upon you;
Through the cross of Christ, pardon you and set you free.
God forgives you. Forgive others. Forgive yourself.
In the name of the Source, the Word, and the Spirit. **Amen.**

The Peace

Presider: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Welcome to Holy Nativity

*We welcome everyone to Holy Nativity
and announce upcoming events.*



THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Presentation Hymn

Pie Jesu
Lyrics by: Andrew Lloyd Webber
Performed by: Christie Gaynor

The Great Thanksgiving

*The Sursum Corda is a form of introduction to prayer.
Here begins 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 our thanks and praise.**

The Presider continues.

Creative God, source of all life and ground of our being, you are the vibrant energy dancing at the center of the universe. Through us, you move; and through us, you are made known to the world. Co-creators with you, we are emboldened to move beyond ourselves to find courage to let go of old ways and welcome new life.

For by water and the Holy Spirit, you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world.

And so in concert with those of every generation who have been touched by your redeeming love, we lift our praise to you.

Sanctus

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

The Presider continues.

Holy God, known and beyond all knowing, in your image you created us, male and female, giving the earth into our care. In our arrogance, we lost touch with the breath of God within us and the divinity of the creation, growing blind to its beauty and deaf to its harmonies. But through Christ, born of a woman, your deep abiding love reclaimed us and re-aligned us with the flow of the universe.

On the evening in an upper room, with his friends around him, our brother Jesus blessed the bread, broke it, and shared it with all who were gathered, saying, "This bread is my body, an offering of God's love for all. When you eat it, remember me."

Taking the cup of wine, he blessed it and shared it with all who were gathered, saying, "Take this wine. It is my blood. God's promise of new life for all. When you drink it, remember me."

God, in memory of Jesus, who healed people and washed disciples' feet, who loved children and honored outcasts, who fed people and turned water into wine, who died and rose to new and unending life - we ask that you breathe on this bread and this wine, filling them with the transforming power of the Christ.

All:

Breathe through us, God, that our bodies, minds, souls, and spirits may be filled with your life-giving presence. Make us again a holy people, strongly bound to you, firmly rooted in the earth, with eyes to see all life as sacred. Empower us to spread the light of Christ in our troubled and confusing world. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Presider: And now, as our savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

All:

**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

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Presider: Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: **Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The Invitation

Presider: Bread and wine; the gifts of God for the people of God.

People: **May we who share these gifts be found in Christ and Christ in us.**

Communion



The Post-Communion Prayer

**God of abundance,
you have fed us with the bread of life
and the cup of salvation;
you have united us with Christ and one another,
and you have made us one with all your people
in heaven and on earth.
Now, send us forth in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever in the risen life
of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

The Closing Hymn

Down by the Riverside
Lift Every Voice and Sing II, No. 210

The Blessing and Dismissal

Presider: Go forward, knowing that you do not go this way alone. Nor do we have to be afraid, for the Word of God strengthens us and the Holy Spirit guides our path.

And may the peace that passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of God's son, Jesus Christ. May the blessing of God, our mother and father, and of Jesus, who redeemed us, and the Holy Spirit, who sustains us, be with us this day and forevermore. **Amen.**

Presider: Alleluia! Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

The Postlude



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY NATIVITY

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Altar Guild Director
Choir Accompanist and Leader
FEAST Director (Faith Enrichment and Spiritual Training)
Garden Manager
Lay Associate for Pastoral Care
Office Administrator
Treasurer

Carol Garvey
Rose Chen
Dr. Brad Elliott Stone
Anita Banu
Roxanne Hill
Barbara Kaye
Benjamin Davis

DIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES

Bishop Diocesan
Bishop Suffragan

The Right Reverend John H. Taylor
The Right Reverend Diane Jardine-Bruce

MISSION STATEMENT

**We are a community of people who share our joy
in the peace and love of God with our children and neighbors.
We support each other as we celebrate God's blessings in our
lives through worship, prayer, music, and service to others.**