



# Holy Nativity



**The Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost  
September 6, 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.*

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; 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 Ezekiel 33:7-11

You, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

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

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

### Psalm 119:33-40

- 33 Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, \*  
and I shall keep it to the end.
- 34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; \*  
I shall keep it with all my heart.
- 35 Make me go in the path of your commandments, \*  
for that is my desire.
- 36 Incline my heart to your decrees \*  
and not to unjust gain.
- 37 Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; \*  
give me life in your ways.
- 38 Fulfill your promise to your servant, \*  
which you make to those who fear you.
- 39 Turn away the reproach which I dread, \*  
because your judgments are good.
- 40 Behold, I long for your commandments; \*  
in your righteousness preserve my life.

## A Reading from the New Testament Romans 13:8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

*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 18:15-20.

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

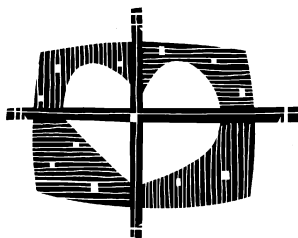
Jesus said, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

*Presider:* The Gospel of the Lord

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

## The Sermon

Dr. Brad Elliott Stone



## The Prayers of the People

God of grace and steadfast love, we thank you for your commandments, which order our life together. We thank you for calling us to live honorably with one another and pray for your grace as we try to do all that you require of us. Increase in us, we pray, the capacity to love you and our neighbors without reserve and to love even those who harm us. Not halfheartedly, but with our whole hearts, we bring before you the cares, the concerns, and the joys that occupy us as we say, Hear us, Lord. Hear us.

We remember before you those who are at odds with one another in families, in neighborhoods or offices, and even in the church. We pray for nations in the midst of internal or external struggles and conflict. Teach us, O God, to seek nonviolent ways toward resolution. Help us to speak the truth and to listen with understanding when perspectives are far apart. We pray for love to bring peace into every troubled heart and place.

Let us pray to the Lord.

**Hear us, Lord. Hear us.**

We remember before you those who have physical needs today. People who are hungry and thirsty; people who are exhausted by the demands of work or caregiving; people who are sick or undergoing surgery; and people who live with chronic pain. Bring relief and rest, we pray.

Let us pray to the Lord.

**Hear us, Lord. Hear us.**

We remember those weighed down with needs of heart and soul. A worry that keeps us awake at night, grief that accompanies us everywhere we go, depression that clouds us, or an addiction that grips us. Lift all of these heavy burdens with the light and peace of your presence, we pray. Sustain us over the long journey toward health and give us trust in you, ourselves, and those who love us.

Let us pray to the Lord.

**Hear us, Lord. Hear us.**

We remember before you not only our cares, but also our joys — a birthday celebrated, an anniversary enjoyed; new beginnings — a baby born, a new school year begun, a new job, a new relationship.

Let us pray to the Lord.

**Hear us, Lord. Hear us.**

We thank you, O God, for the gift of laughter, for enduring friendships, and for cherished memories. We give thanks that with you there is always a new beginning, a way where this is no way, hope beyond hope, and life beyond death. Through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

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

I Don't Feel No Ways Tired  
Written by: Curtis Burrell

## 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

Now Thank We All Our God  
The Hymnal 1982, No. 397

## 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 Manager  
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.**