

## 15th Sunday after Pentecost

St. Nicholas' Episcopal Church, Midland, TX  
September 12, 2020 in the Meadow &  
September 13, 2020 in the Nave.

BCP 355

### The Word of God

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*People* And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

*The Celebrant says*

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.

*This hymn of praise is said by all*

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.

### The Collect of the Day

*The Celebrant says to the people*  
The Lord be with you.  
*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant*     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.

## **The Lessons**

### **The First Lesson**

A reading from the Book of 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.

The Word of the Lord.

*People*            Thanks be to God.

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.

**The Epistle**

*A reading from Paul's letter to the church in Rome*

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 Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

## **The Gospel**

*The Deacon says*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord 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."

*The Deacon says*

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## **The Sermon**

The Rev. Nancy Springer

## **The Nicene Creed**

**BCP 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.

### **The Prayers of the People Form IV**

**BCP 388**

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

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.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
*People* Hear our prayer.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask: Help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **The Confession of Sins**

**BCP 360**

*The Deacon or Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People*

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.

*The Priest says*

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

## **The Peace**

**BCP 360**

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

### **Eucharistic Prayer A**

**BCP 361**

*The Celebrant says*

The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

*The Celebrant proceeds*

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:

*Celebrant and People*

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 Celebrant 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 celebrant 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 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 for ever.  
AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*People and Celebrant*

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 Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread and says:*

Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:

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

*The Celebrant continues*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

### **Post Communion Prayer.**

**365**

*Celebrant*       Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People together*

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..

*The Celebrant gives the blessing*

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of God's Jesus Christ, our Lord. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

### **The Dismissal**

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People*           Thanks be to God.

## Parish Prayer List:

Jonathan, Noel, Karen, Sue, Ross, Jimmy, Derrill, Jenny, Becke, Elisabeth, Victorio, Kim, Glenda, Troy, Fred, Joan (Jo-ann), David, Jo, Dylan, Peggy, Jane, Rebekah, Isabelle, Bp. Hulse, Leslie, Andrea, Vonda, Rita, Lloyd, Jim, Nelda, Wells Family, Kenneth, Janie, Harold, Terry, Sandra, Clyde, Nikki & Family, Jeanne, Betsy, Meghan, Pat, Sue, Steve, Robin, Lou, Robert, Terri, Jill, Skyles Family, Donna, Chas, Lindsey, Bp. Ohl, Hazel, Rachel, Daniel, Shirley, Molly, Sherry, Kate, Joshua, Austin, Missy, Steve, Cookie, Mack, Anne, Donna, Susanne, Penalosa, Madeline, Robert, Jane, Kaitlyn, Rose, Gary, Linda, Corby, Dean, Mrs. Pittman, Sue, Dana, Jeanette and her mother, Kati, Robert, Cece, Sydney, Samuel, Jim, Christopher, Jim & Elizabeth

**For those in the Armed Forces** Jordan, Stephen, Karen, Gabriel, Isaac, David, Daulton, Charlie, Luke, James, Mika, Tres, Josh, Jacob, Christine, Jackson, Aaron, Nicholas, Margarito, Kenton, Alex, Noah, Gary

**For the Departed** For all who have died of the COVID19 virus

To have names added, please email your request to [mercedes@stnicksmt.org](mailto:mercedes@stnicksmt.org)

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Please continue to support the mission and ministry of St. Nicholas' Episcopal Church. You may give online using the [tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly) app, or the giving button on our website ([www.stnicksmt.org](http://www.stnicksmt.org)), or mail your gift to the church (4000 W. Loop 250, N., Midland, TX 79707). Thank you for your generosity and support!

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## St. Nicholas' In-Person Worship

While resuming in-person worship with COVID19 still a serious concern for all of us, we will be offering these in-person worship services each week as we continue to work together to keep each other safe.

Please maintain proper physical distancing and wear face coverings.

Saturdays @ 7:30pm in the Meadow

Holy Eucharist Outside & with appropriate safety precautions

Sundays @ 9:30am in the Nave

Holy Eucharist Inside with appropriate safety precautions

Sundays will also be live-streamed through our Facebook page.

## St. Nicholas' Online

Please join us for prayer and scripture using the Daily Office on our Facebook page:

Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday: Morning Prayer @ 8:00am

Tuesday & Thursday: Compline @ 8:00pm

Wednesday: Evening Prayer @ 5:30pm

The Sunday Book Study will resume on September 20 at 11am both in person and on zoom. We will read Austin Channing Brown's book [I'm Still Here](#).