

August 23, 2020

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 21)

**Ministry of the Word**

“YOU ARE THE  
MESSIAH,  
THE SON OF THE  
LIVING GOD.”  
MATTHEW 16:16, NRSV



## The Gathering of the Community

### Prelude

**Hymn #344** "From All That Dwell Below the Skies" Psalm 117; paraphrase by Isaac Watts

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| <p>1 From all that dwell below the skies<br/>let the Creator's praise arise:<br/>    alleluia, alleluia!<br/>Let the Redeemer's name be sung<br/>through every land, in every<br/>tongue:<br/>    alleluia, alleluia,<br/>    alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!</p> | <p>2 Eternal are thy mercies, Lord:<br/>eternal truth attends thy Word;<br/>    alleluia, alleluia!<br/>Thy praise shall sound from shore to<br/>shore<br/>till suns shall rise and set no more:<br/>    alleluia, alleluia,<br/>    alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!</p> |
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### Greeting and Collect for Purity

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*Celebrant* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Almighty God,

*People* **to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. 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 [Hymn #686]

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*Celebrant* Glory to God in the highest,

*People* **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 upon 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.**

**Collect of the Day***Celebrant* Let us pray.*People* **Almighty God, we are taught by your word that all our doings without love are worth nothing. Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtue; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.****The Proclamation of the Word**

Reading:

Exodus 1:8—2:10

*Reader* A reading from the Book of Exodus.

<sup>8</sup> Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. <sup>9</sup> He said to his people, “Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. <sup>10</sup> Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.” <sup>11</sup> Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labour. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. <sup>12</sup> But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. <sup>13</sup> The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, <sup>14</sup> and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labour. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

<sup>15</sup> The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, <sup>16</sup> “When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.” <sup>17</sup> But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. <sup>18</sup> So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?” <sup>19</sup> The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.” <sup>20</sup> So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. <sup>21</sup> And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. <sup>22</sup> Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, “Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.”

<sup>1</sup> Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. <sup>2</sup> The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. <sup>3</sup> When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and

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plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. <sup>4</sup> His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

<sup>5</sup> The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. <sup>6</sup> When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. <sup>7</sup> Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" <sup>8</sup> Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. <sup>9</sup> Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. <sup>10</sup> When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

*Reader*     The Word of the Lord.

*People*     **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 124

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| 1 | If the Lord had not been on our side,<br>let Israel now say;                   | 5 | Then would the raging waters<br>have gone right over us.   |
| 2 | If the Lord had not been on our side,<br>when enemies rose up against us;      | 6 | Blessed be the Lord!<br>he has not given us over to be a prey<br>for their teeth.                            |
| 3 | Then would they have swallowed us up alive<br>in their fierce anger toward us; | 7 | We have escaped like a bird from the<br>snare of the fowler;<br>the snare is broken, and we have<br>escaped. |
| 4 | Then would the waters have overwhelmed us<br>and the torrent gone over us;     | 8 | Our help is in the name of the Lord,<br>the maker of heaven and earth.                                       |

**Helper and Defender of Israel, rescue the peoples of the world from destructive anger,  
and set us free to love and serve each other in the peace of Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Reading:

Romans 12:1–8

*Reader* A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

<sup>1</sup> I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

<sup>3</sup> For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup> For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. <sup>6</sup> We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; <sup>7</sup> ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; <sup>8</sup> the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.*People* **Thanks be to God.****Gradual Hymn #715 “Alleluia”**

Holy Gospel:

Matthew 16:13–20

*Subdeacon* The Lord be with you.*People* **And also with you.***Subdeacon* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.*People* **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

<sup>13</sup> Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” <sup>14</sup> And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” <sup>15</sup> He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” <sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” <sup>20</sup> Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

*Subdeacon* The Gospel of Christ.*People* **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Reflection

*A time for silent reflection is kept.*

**The Nicene Creed**

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*Celebrant* Let us confess our faith, as we say,

*People* **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. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped 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**

*Leader* Lord, in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

**Confession and Absolution**

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*Celebrant* Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

*Silence is kept.*

*Celebrant* Most merciful God,

*People* **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 neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,**

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**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.**

*Celebrant* Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*Celebrant* And now, as our Saviour Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say:

*People* **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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **The Peace**

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*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

## **The Prayer over the Gifts**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*People* **God of glory, receive all we offer this day as a symbol of our love, and increase in us that true and perfect gift. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **Doxology**

*Celebrant* Glory to god,

*People* **whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **Blessing**

## **Dismissal**

*Subdeacon* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

**Hymn #444 "Your Hand, O God, Has Guided"**

Text by Edward Hayes Plumptre

1 Your hand, O God, has guided  
 your flock from age to age;  
 the wondrous tale is written,  
 full clear, on every page.  
 Our forebears owned your goodness  
 and we their deeds record,  
 and both of this bear witness:  
 one church, one faith, one Lord.

5 Your mercy will not fail us,  
 nor leave your work undone;  
 with your right hand to help us,  
 your people shall be won;  
 and then, by all creation,  
 your name shall be adored,  
 and this shall be our anthem:  
 one church, one faith, one Lord.

Celebrant	The Rev. Carol Friesen
Preacher	The Rev. Canon Sister Constance Joanna Gefvert, SSJD
Subdeacon	Margie Lyttle
Reader	Sandy Thomas
Organist	Michael Leach
Intercessor	Doug Heyes
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