The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Morning Worship
September 13, 2020
10:00 a.m.

Prelude Adagio F major Violin Sonata (HWV 370) by George Frideric Handel

Welcome

The Acclamation

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

The Collect for Purity *(said by all)*

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.

The Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
    and peace to God's 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

*Officiant:* The Lord be with you.
*People:* And also with you.
*Officiant:* 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.

First Lesson *Genesis 50:15-21 (Lector 1)*

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.

The Psalm *Psalm 103:1-13 (Lector 2)*

Bless the LORD, O my soul, *
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.

Bless the LORD, O my soul, *
and forget not all his benefits.

He forgives all your sins *
and heals all your infirmities;

He redeems your life from the grave *
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;

He satisfies you with good things, *
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

The LORD executes righteousness *
and judgment for all who are oppressed.

He made his ways known to Moses *
and his works to the children of Israel.

The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.

He will not always accuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *  
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

For as the heavens are high above the earth, *  
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

As far as the east is from the west, *  
so far has he removed our sins from us.

As a father cares for his children, *  
so does the LORD care for those who fear him.

Second Lesson Romans 14:1-12 *(Lector 2)*

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

*People:* Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn *Spirit of God, descend upon my heart* LEVAS II

The Gospel *Matthew 18:21-35 (Officiant)*

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

*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 his 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 forgive 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.”

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily

Offertory Hymn 593 Lord, make us servants of your peace

The Prayers of the People

Officiant: Let us pray to the Lord in whom we trust with all our hearts.

Intercessor: We pray for the Church: for our fellow members in the body of Christ throughout the world; for Michael, our Presiding Bishop, for Shannon our Bishop, our Interim Ministry Team, our lay ministers and all of us in our daily life and work.

Intercessor: Lord you are in the midst of us:
People: Help us in these days of need.

Intercessor: We pray for the world: for the leaders of the nations and their governments; for areas most besieged by this pandemic; for broken places where healthcare and resources are scarce and the pandemic brings further suffering. We pray especially for our President Donald, our Governor Phil, and for all those in government and civil authority.

Intercessor: Lord you are in the midst of us:
People: Help us in our time of trouble.
Intercessor: We pray for our communities: for the elderly, confined in their homes and separated from families and support; for children, those who cannot go to school, and those who are re-entering their schools; for those who have lost their source of income; for those who fear for their home or have no home; for all essential workers and healthcare workers; for those offering everyday kindness to others in extraordinary ways, and for those who celebrate birthdays and anniversaries this week.

Intercessor: Lord you are in the midst of us:
People: Help us in our time of trouble.

Intercessor: We pray for those who are sick and oppressed: for those afflicted with Coronavirus; for those with other illnesses and conditions which leave them vulnerable; for those with emotional health needs; for all who suffer. We remember those on our parish prayer list. [Debbie, Caroline, Irv, Dana, Keung, Dave, Beverly, Ryan, Carla, Don, Ella, Gary, Dick, John Jeffrey, Lisa, Joan Kinney, Merritt, Bill, Rita, Lorraine, Jeff, Sarah, Bonnie, Diana.]

Intercessor: Lord you are in the midst of us:
People: Help us in our time of trouble.

Intercessor: We pray for those who have died: for those taken suddenly; for those taken unexpectedly; for the families they leave behind; for their friends; for those who have died alone.

Intercessor: Lord you are in the midst of us:
People: Help us in our time of grief.

Intercessor: I invite you now to share your own intercessions, prayers, and thanksgivings either silently or aloud.

(Please remember to unmute yourself if you wish for your prayer to be heard, and mute again when you have completed your prayer.)

Intercessor: Lord you are in the midst of us:
People: Help us in our time of trouble, and bless us as we render thanks.

Intercessor: Please join me in this Collect for St. Stephen’s Ministry Discernment as we come to the final stages of the calling of a new priest:

Almighty God, giver of every good gift, we thank you for the dedicated work that the Ministry Discernment Team and Vestry have given to the choosing of our new priest. Open our hearts and minds to receive our new priest with joy and thanksgiving as we welcome a new era here in our beloved parish. We thank you also for the faithful service of our Interim Ministry Team who will soon be concluding their ministry among us. May this time of transition be one of gratitude for the past as well as celebration for the future; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Officiant: Almighty God; we pray that you will make perfect our imperfections. Prepare our hearts and minds to receive our new priest with generosity of mind, heart and spirit, that we may serve together in a mutual ministry of love and faith. Care for our parish family in all ways beneficial to our needs and mission, that we may grow in Christ, in whose name we pray. AMEN.
Confession of Sin

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

**Officiant 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.

**Officiant:**

Almighty God have mercy on you,
for give you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen you in all goodness,

In peace let us pray as our Savior Christ has taught us,

**Our Father in heaven,**
   hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
**Give us today our daily bread.**
**Forgive us our sins**
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
**Save us from the time of trial,**
and deliver us from evil.
**For the kingdom, the power,**
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

The Blessing and Dismissal

**Officiant:** May God’s blessing fill you,
   May Christ’s peace comfort you,
and May the Spirit’s outpouring inspire you,
now and always. Amen.
Closing Blessing Hymn  *The Lord Bless you and keep you*

**Officiant:** Our worship has ended. Our service begins. Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

**Announcements**

**Virtual Coffee Hour**
It’s great to see one another!

**Officiant & Preacher:** The Reverend Carole Wageman  
**Zoom Host/Moderator:** Joe McVeigh  
**Readers:** Holly Stabler, Chree Perkins  
**Intercessor:** Alice Van Tuyl

The service comes from The Book of Common Prayer 1979, Church Hymnal Corporation and Enriching our Worship 1, The Church Pension Fund. The Prayers of the People are adapted from *Intercessions for Use During the Pandemic* by The Scottish Episcopal Church.

**Prelude:** Adagio F major Violin Sonata (HWV 370) by George Frideric Handel  
Violin – Emily Sunderman  
Piano – George Matthew, Jr.

**Sequence Hymn:** LEVAS II *Spirit of God, descend upon my heart*  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ymKxTkrRNBA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ymKxTkrRNBA)  The Joslin Grove Choral Society

**Offertory Hymn:** *Lord, make us servants of your peace*  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dFePl5ioYQo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dFePl5ioYQo)  Compline Choir at St. Mark’s Cathedral

**Closing Blessing Hymn:** *The Lord Bless you and keep you*  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w4C9zVg5X_A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w4C9zVg5X_A)  Westminster College Choir