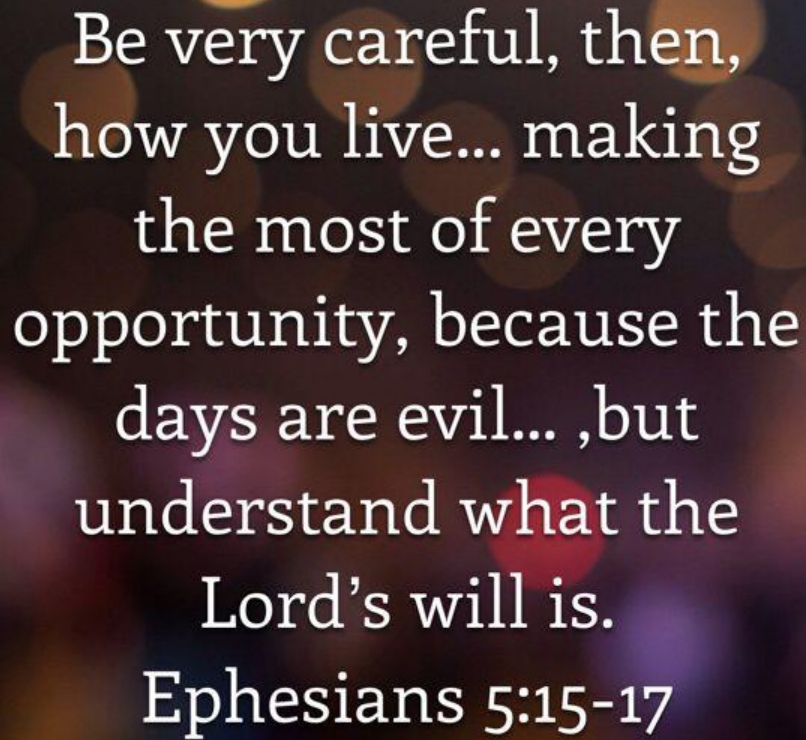


Pentecost XIII



Be very careful, then,
how you live... making
the most of every
opportunity, because the
days are evil... ,but
understand what the
Lord's will is.
Ephesians 5:15-17

**August 18, 2024
10 am**

**Church of the Holy Nativity
4238 Pimlico Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21215
www.holynativitybaltimore.org**

A WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE CHURCH

Officiant: The Rev. Karen Mercer

Musician: Dr. Lior Leigh

OPENING HYMN

1 Come, we that love the Lord,
And let our joys be known;
Join in a song with sweet accord,
Join in a song with sweet accord,
And thus surround the throne,
And thus surround the throne.

*We're marching to Zion,
Beautiful, beautiful Zion;
We're marching upward to Zion,
The beautiful city of God.*

2 Let those refuse to sing
Who never knew our God;
But children of the heav'nly King,
But children of the heav'nly King,
May speak their joys abroad,
May speak their joys abroad.

Refrain

LEVAS 12 – *We're Marching to Zion*
3 The hill of Zion yields
A thousand sacred sweets
Before we reach the heav'nly fields,
Before we reach the heav'nly fields,
Or walk the golden streets,
Or walk the golden streets.

Refrain

4 Then let our songs abound,
And ev'ry tear be dry;
We're marching through Immanuel's
ground,
We're marching thro' Immanuel's
ground,
To fairer worlds on high,
To fairer worlds on high.

Refrain

We're Marching to Zion, #12 from *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* — Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748). Music: Robert S. Lowry (1826-1899).

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

COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.

GLORIA

LEVAS 243

**Glory, Glory, hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name,
Glory, Glory hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name.
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, Glory, Glory, hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name,
Glory, Glory hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name.
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.**

**Glory, Glory, hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name,
Glory, Glory hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name. Amen.**

THE COLLECT

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT

Proverbs 9:1-6

Wisdom has built her house, she has hewn her seven pillars. She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine, she has also set her table. She has sent out her servant girls, she calls from the highest places in the town, "You that are simple, turn in here!" To those without sense she says, "Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. Lay aside immaturity, and live, and walk in the way of insight."

Listen for The Word of The Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSE

Psalms 34:9-14

9 Fear the Lord, you that are his saints, *

for those who fear him lack nothing.

10 The young lions lack and suffer hunger, *

but those who seek the Lord lack nothing that is good.

11 Come, children, and listen to me; *

I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

12 Who among you loves life *

and desires long life to enjoy prosperity?

13 Keep your tongue from evil-speaking *

and your lips from lying words.

14 Turn from evil and do good; *
seek peace and pursue it.

THE EPISTLE

Ephesians 5:15-20

Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Listen for The Word of The Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN

1 God is so good,
God is so good,
God is so good,
He's so good to me.

LEVAS 214 – *God is So Good* (v. 1 & 2)

2 He cares for me,
He cares for me,
He cares for me,
He's so good to me.

THE GOSPEL

John 6:51-58

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever."

SEQUENCE HYMN

3 He's all I need,
He's all I need,
He's all I need,
He's so good to me.

LEVAS 214 – *God is So Good* (v. 3)

SERMON

The Rev. Karen Mercer

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 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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessor: As a mother setting food before her hungry children, God satisfies our most basic needs and our deepest longings. Confident that we have a solicitous God, we now pray for our church and our world, saying: Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: Because we need to be nourished by your word and sacrament, we pray for our church that we might be both willing to eat of your food and drink of your wine and in turn be food and drink for one another. In faith we pray to you, O God.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: Because we live in evil days and often act like fools, we pray that our world may not continue in ignorance but discern what is truly good and just. In faith we pray to you, O God.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: Because we are prone to be competitive and unconcerned about one another, we pray for all political leaders that we might find in them examples of generous service and self-forgetfulness. In faith we pray to you, O God.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: Because there are so many poor and hungry people in our world, we pray that we may be generous in giving, compassionate and serving, and sensitive and understanding the needs of others. Especially we pray for Eileen, Gloria, Mildred, Karen, Tammy, Emanuel, Karen R., Dorris, Gouri, Katrina, Elaine, Justina, Eva, Silma, Rebecca, Lisa, Faye, Fr. Bill, Sharon, Vestina, Ruth, James, Diamond, Jamie, King, Katrina, Angel, Hope, Arlene, Dorian, and Norman. In faith we pray to you, O God.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: Because our world is pervaded by a spirit of skepticism and mistrust, we pray for unbelievers that they may find us to be confident people who know that God does indeed have a plan for our world. In faith we pray to you, O God.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: Because we have often been nourished and supported by many relatives and friends who have preceded us in death, we pray that they may live in peace and be mindful of us who still struggle to live the Christian life. In faith we pray to you, O God.

Lord, hear our prayer.

A period of silence follows after which the Celebrant concludes with the following prayers

Celebrant: All loving God, the source of all good gifts, we praise and thank you for your provident care. Here are the prayers we have made in faith. As a gracious mother, feed us with the bread of life so we might abide with you forever. We make this prayer as always through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

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.

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

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

WELCOME

Senior Warden

THE HOLY COMMUNION

What follows is the Holy Communion, the sacred meal of the Christian faith. The Episcopal Church, as do all other denominations rooted in the historic Christian faith, affirms that the sacrament of Baptism is the ancient and normative entry point for receiving the sacrament of Eucharist, yet no one who comes forward to receive the bread and wine at communion is ever turned away from God's table. Wherever you are in your spiritual journey, the Episcopal Church welcomes you, and we invite you to explore with us what baptism may mean for you. Want to know more? Please see Rev. Mercer following the service.

OFFERTORY HYMN

1 Sing the wondrous love of Jesus,
Sing His mercy and His grace;
In the mansion bright and blessed,
He'll prepare for us a place.

*When we all get to heaven,
What a day of rejoicing that will be!
When we all see Jesus,
We'll sing and shout the victory.*

2 While we walk the pilgrim pathway,
Clouds will overspread the sky;
But when trav'ling days are over,

LEVAS 20 – *When We All Get to Heaven*
Not a shadow, not a sigh.

Refrain

3 Let us then be true and faithful,
Trusting, serving ev'ry day;
Just one glimpse of Him in glory
Will the toils of life repay;

Refrain

4 Onward to the prize before us!
Soon His beauty we'll behold;
Soon the pearly gates will open;
We shall tread the streets of gold.

Refrain

When We All Get to Heaven, #20 from *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* — Words: Eliza Edmunds Hewitt (1852-1920). Music: Emily Diviner Wilson (1865-1942).

DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost**

H 380

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

+ *The Celebrant adds a Proper Preface, then continues,*

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:

SANCTUS

S130

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 Hosanna in the

highest

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life. On the night before he died for us, our Savior 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 Jesus 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, according to his command, O Father,

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Joseph and Mary and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

Amen.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to [sing],

LORD'S PRAYER

LEVAS 264

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

FRACTION ANTHEM

S164

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy upon us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy upon us.
Jesus redeemer, redeemer of the world,
Give us your peace, give us your peace.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

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.

COMMUNION HYMN

LEVAS 70 – *I Want Jesus to Walk With Me*

1 I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk with me;
All along my pilgrim journey, Lord,
I want Jesus to walk with me.

2 In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
When the shades of life are falling, Lord,
I want Jesus to walk with me.

3 In my sorrows, Lord, walk with me;

In my sorrows, Lord, walk with me;
When my heart within is aching, Lord,
I want Jesus to walk with me.

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me, #70 from *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* — Words: Traditional. Music: Negro Spiritual; arr. Carl Haywood (b. 1949), from *The Haywood Collection of Negro Spirituals*. Copyright © 1992 Carl Haywood.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 365

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.

CLOSING HYMN

1 I love to tell the story
Of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and His glory,
Of Jesus and His love.
I love to tell the story,
Because I know it's true;
It satisfies my longings
As nothing else would do.

*I love to tell the story;
Twill be my theme in glory.
To tell the old, old story
Of Jesus and His love.*

LEVAS 64 – *I Love to Tell the Story*

2 I love to tell the story,
For those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting
To hear it, like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory,
I sing the new, new song,
'Twill be the old, old story
That I have loved so long.

Refrain

I Love To Tell the Story, #64 from *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* — Words: A. Katherine Hankey (1831-1911). Music: William G. Fisher (1835-1912).

THE DISMISSAL

The Rev. Karen Mercer

As we go forth into the world, refreshed and renewed, we reaffirm our commitment to our mission as a congregation:

We are committed to sharing God's love with all through our worship and ministries.

Let us go forth to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

POSTLUDE

Our Prayer List

Your prayers are requested for members and friends of The Church of the Holy Nativity: Eileen, Gloria, Mildred, Karen, Tammy, Emanuel, Karen R., Dorris, Gouri, Katrina, Elaine, Justina, Eva, Silma, Rebecca, Lisa, Faye, Fr. Bill, Sharon, Vestina, Ruth, James, Diamond, Jamie, King, Katrina, Angel, Hope, Arlene, Dorian, and Norman.

We continue to ask for prayers for all those impacted by the coronavirus, those impacted by war and gun violence, those in our midst who are struggling with anxiety, depression, and addiction, those who are unemployed or underemployed, and the unhoused.

Announcements

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| August 18, 2024 | Advisory Board Meeting immediately after service |
| August 25, 2024 | Bishop Carrie's Visit |
| | Confirmation of Donna Riley |
| September 1, 2024 | First Sunday Meal |

Notes

Today is: _____ Sermon Title: _____

Key Verses:

Worship Songs:

Prayers:
