

Pentecost XV



September 1, 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 Praise to the living God!
All praised be his Name
who was, and is, and is to be
for ay the same.
The one eternal God
ere aught that now appears:
the first, the last, beyond all thought
his timeless years!

2 Formless, all lovely forms
declare his loveliness;
holy, no holiness of earth
can his express.
Lo, he is Lord of all.
Creation speaks his praise,
and everywhere above, below,
his will obeys.

H372 – *Praise to the Living God*

3 His Spirit floweth free,
high surging where it will:
in prophet's word he spoke of old;
he speaketh still.
Established is his law,
and changeless it shall stand,
deep writ upon the human heart,
on sea, on land.

4 Eternal life hath he
implanted in the soul;
his love shall be our strength and stay
while ages roll.
Praise to the living God!
All praised be his Name
who was, and is, and is to be,
for ay the same.

Praise to the living God, #372 from The Hymnal 1982 — Words: Medieval Jewish liturgy; tr. Max Landsberg (1845-1928) and Newton M. Mann (1836-1926). Music: Leoni, Hebrew melody; harm. Hymns Ancient and Modern, 1985, alt.

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.

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

Moses said: So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you. You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today? But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

Listen for The Word of The Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSE

Psalm 15

1 Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? *

who may abide upon your holy hill?

2 Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, *

who speaks the truth from his heart.

3 There is no guile upon his tongue;

he does no evil to his friend; *

he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.

4 In his sight the wicked is rejected, *
but he honors those who fear the Lord.

5 He has sworn to do no wrong *
and does not take back his word.

6 He does not give his money in hope of gain, *
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.

7 Whoever does these things *
shall never be overthrown.

THE EPISTLE

James 1:17-27

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act-they will be blessed in their doing. If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Listen for The Word of The Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN

LEVAS 117 – *Give Me Jesus* (v. 1 & 2)

1 In the morning when I rise,
in the morning when I rise,
In the morning when I rise,
Give me Jesus.

Give me Jesus,
Give me Jesus,
You may have all this world,

Give me Jesus.

2 Dark Midnight was my cry,
Dark midnight was my cry,
Dark midnight was my cry,
Give me Jesus

Give me Jesus,
Give me Jesus,
You may have all this world,
Give me Jesus.

THE GOSPEL

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition. "Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile." For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

SEQUENCE HYMN

LEVAS 117 - *Give Me Jesus* (v. 3)

3 O when I come to die,
O when I come to die,
O when I come to die,
Give me Jesus.

Give me Jesus,
Give me Jesus,
You may have all this world,
Give me Jesus.

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: Knowing that God hears our prayers when they are made in sincerity and humility, we pray for our church and our world in our time of need, saying: hear us, good Lord.

Intercessor: Those who live justly will live in the presence of God. We pray for our church that its structures promote justice, its laws foster integrity of heart, and its ministry model compassion. To you we pray, O gracious God:

Hear us, good Lord.

Intercessor: Those who live justly will live in the presence of God. We pray for our world that we will be freed from that hypocrisy which lurks in our hearts, when we seek the assurance of external observance without the commitment of faith. To you we pray, O gracious God:

Hear us, good Lord.

Intercessor: Those who live justly will live in the presence of God. We pray for those who make and enforce laws that they may challenge us in our waywardness and be compassionate toward our weaknesses. To you we pray, O gracious God:

Hear us, good Lord.

Intercessor: Those who live justly will live in the presence of God. We pray for those who teach the word of God that they may embrace the justice of God in their own hearts as they call us into the life of God. To you we pray, O gracious God:

Hear us, good Lord.

Intercessor: Those who live justly will live in the presence of God, we pray that we may be delivered from all the wicked designs in the deep recesses of our hearts and so live justly with God and one another. To you we pray, O gracious God:

Hear us, good Lord.

Intercessor: Those who live justly will live in the presence of God. We especially pray for those on our parish prayer list: 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, Norman, and Dorian. To you we pray, O gracious God:

Hear us, good Lord.

Intercessor: Those who live justly will live in the presence of God. We pray for those who have died that they may dwell with the Saints and remember us who struggle to live in justice and peace. To you we pray, O gracious God:

Hear us, good Lord.

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

Celebrant: All just and merciful God, you know our wants, and you know our true needs. May you attend to our prayers, direct our hearts in the way of justice and mercy, and enlighten our minds that we may know your holy will. We ask this through the just one, Jesus Christ, your servant and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the power of the Holy Spirit, our God, forever and ever. **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 There is a name I love to hear,
I love to sing its worth;
It sounds like music in mine ear,
The sweetest name on earth.

*O how I love Jesus,
Because He first loved me!*

2 It tells me of a Savior's love,
Who died to set me free;
It tells me of His precious blood,
The sinner's perfect plea.

Refrain

LEVAS 95 – *O How I Love Jesus*

3 It tells me what my Father hath
In store for ev'ry day,
And though I tread a darksome path,
Yields sunshine all the way.

Refrain

4 It tells of one whose loving heart
Can feel my deepest woe,
Who in each sorrow bears a part,
That none can bear below.

Refrain

O How I Love Jesus, #95 from *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* — Words: Frederick Whitfield (1829-1904). Music: American Melody.

**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**

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 173 – *Keep Me Every Day*

1 Lord, I want to live for thee,

Ev'ry day and hour;

Let thy spirit be with me,

In its saving pow'r!

Keep my heart, and keep my hand,

Keep my soul, I pray!

Keep my tongue to speak thy praise,

Keep me all the way!

2 In my weakness be my strength;

In my trials all,

Be thou near me all the day,

Hear my ev'ry call!

Refrain

3 Leave me not to walk alone,
Lest I droop and die;
Let thy spirit go with me,
And attend my cry!

Refrain

Keep Me Every Day, #173 from *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* — Words: F. L. Eiland. Music: Emmet S. Dean.

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

LEVAS 165 – *Higher Ground*

1 I'm pressing on the upward way,
New heights I'm gaining every day;
Still praying as I onward bound,
"Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."

*Lord, lift me up, and let me stand
By faith, on heaven's table land;
A higher plane than I have found,
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.*

2 My heart has no desire to stay
Where doubts arise and fears dismay;
Though some may dwell where these abound,
My prayer, my aim is higher ground.

Refrain

3 I want to live above the world,
Though satan's darts at me are hurled;
For faith has caught a joyful sound,
The song of saints on higher ground.

Refrain

4 I want to scale the utmost height,
And catch a gleam of glory bright;
But still I'll pray till heav'n I've found,
"Lord, lead me on the higher ground."

Refrain

Higher Ground, #165 from *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* — Words: Johnson Oatman, Jr. (1860-1948). Music: Charles H. Gabriel (1856-1932).

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, Norman, and Dorian.

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

September 1, 2024	First Sunday Meal – Donna & Peter hosting Friendly Farms, 17434 Foreston Rd., Upperco, MD
September 15, 2024	Advisory Board Meeting Immediately after service
September 22	Worship at 10:30 a.m. with St. Mark's on the Hill 1620 Reisterstown Rd., Pikesville, MD
October 6, 2024	First Sunday Meal
October 9, 2024	Prayer Service – Wednesdays – 12 Noon Bible Study resumes on Zoom @ 7 pm
October 16, 2024	Prayer Service – 12 Noon Bible Study on Zoom – 7 pm
October 20, 2024	Advisory Board Meeting Immediately after service

Notes

Today is: _____ Sermon Title: _____

Key Verses:

Worship Songs:

Prayers:
