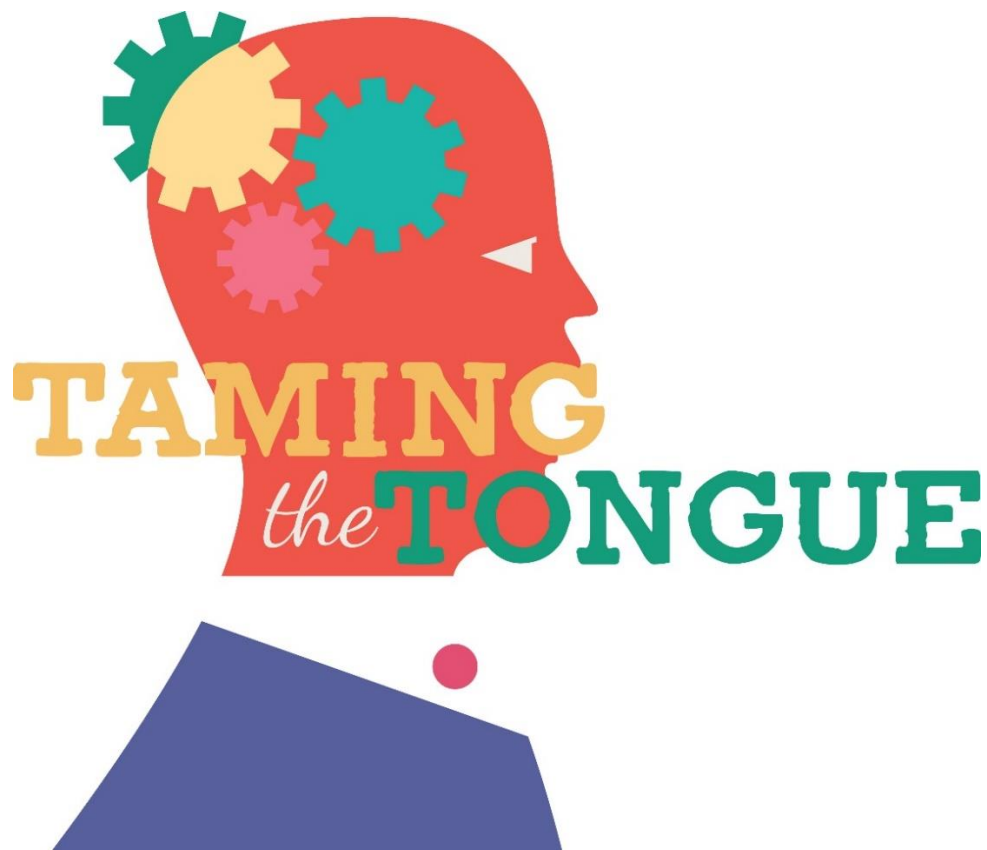


Pentecost XVII



**September 15, 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

LEVAS 30 – *At the Cross*

1 Alas! and did my Savior bleed,
and did my Sov'reign die?
Would He devote that sacred head
for sinners such as I?

*At the cross, at the cross, where I first saw the light,
and the burden of my heart rolled away;
it was there by faith I received my sight,
and now I am happy all the day.*

2 Was it for crimes that I have done,
He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity! Grace unknown!
And love beyond degree!

Refrain

3 Well might the sun in darkness hide,
and shut its glories in;
when God, the mighty maker,
died for His own creature's sin.

Refrain

4 Thus might I hide my blushing face
while His dear cross appears;
dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
and melt mine eyes to tears.

Refrain

5 But drops of tears can ne'er repay
the debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away;
'tis all that I can do.

Refrain

At the Cross, #30 from *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* — Words: Isaac Watts, 1707, refrain Ralph E. Hudson, 1885. Music: Ralph E. Hudson, 1885.

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.

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.**

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he awakens-- awakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Listen for The Word of The Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSE

Psalm 116: 1-8

1 I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

2 The cords of death entangled me;
the grip of the grave took hold of me; *
I came to grief and sorrow.

3 Then I called upon the Name of the Lord: *
“O Lord, I pray you, save my life.”

4 Gracious is the Lord and righteous; *
our God is full of compassion.

5 The Lord watches over the innocent; *
I was brought very low, and he helped me.

6 Turn again to your rest, O my soul, *
for the Lord has treated you well.

7 For you have rescued my life from death, *
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.

8 I will walk in the presence of the Lord *
in the land of the living.

THE EPISTLE

James 3:1-12

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue-- a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree,

my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

Listen for The Word of The Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN

H707 – *Take My Life* (v. 1)

1 Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

THE GOSPEL

Mark 8:27-38

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

SEQUENCE HYMN

H707 – *Take My Life* (v. 2)

2 Take my voice, and let me sing
always, only, for my King;
take my intellect, and use

every power as thou shalt choose.
Take my will, and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Take my life, and let it be, #707 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-1879), alt. Music: *Hollingside*, John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876).

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: Jesus calls us to give up our lives for others. That we may have the faith to live as Jesus did, let us pray for all in need, saying: send us your Spirit, O Lord.

Intercessor: O gracious God, you have given up your very self to save the world. That we may be empowered to give up ourselves for one another, we pray:
Send us your Spirit, O Lord.

Intercessor: You have made your people equal and free in the baptism of your Son. That we may live joyfully in this new day, we pray:

Send us your Spirit, O Lord.

Intercessor: You call us to take up our cross and follow the way of Christ. That we may serve one another and live in obedience to your word, we pray:

Send us your Spirit, O Lord.

Intercessor: You show to us all the poor and the needy, all the homeless and the hungry. We especially pray for those on our parish prayer list: Eileen, Gloria, Mildred, Karen, Tammy, Emanuel, Karen R., Dorris, Gouri, Katrina, Elaine, Justina, Eva, Rebecca, Lisa, Faye, Fr. Bill, Sharon, Vestina, Ruth, James, Diamond, Jamie, King, Katrina, Angel, Hope, Arlene, Norman, Dorian, and Noleen. That we may lighten their load by taking it upon ourselves, we pray:

Send us your Spirit, O Lord.

Intercessor: You give us enough that we may share with the needy. That we and all institutions of relief may be insistent in our care for others, we pray:

Send us your Spirit, O Lord.

Intercessor: You have surrounded us with saints of every time and place. That we may follow them as they follow Christ on the way to the cross, we pray:

Send us your Spirit, O Lord.

Intercessor: You may add your own intercessions at this time.

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

Celebrant: Hear our prayers, O merciful God, and accept our praises. May the gospel of your cross give its miraculous life to all the world, through 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

LEVAS 31 – *Lead Me To Calvary*

1 King of my life I crown thee now,
Thine shall the glory be;
Lest I forget thy thorn-crowned brow,
Lead me to Calvary.

*Lest I forget Gethsemane,
Lest I forget thine agony,
Lest I forget thy love for me,
Lead me to Calvary.*

2 Show me the tomb where thou wast laid,
Tenderly mourned and wept;
Angels in robes of light arrayed
Guarded thee whilst Thou slept.

Refrain

3 Let me, like Mary, through the gloom,
Come with a gift to thee;
Show to me now the empty tomb,
Lead me to Calvary.

Refrain

4 May I be willing, Lord, to bear
Daily my cross for thee;
Even thy cup of grief to share
Thou hast borne all for me.

Refrain

Lead Me to Calvary, #31 from *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* — Words: Jennie Evelyn Hussey (1874-1958). Music: William J. Kirkpatrick (1838-1921). Copyright © 1921. Renewed 1949 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission.

DOXOLOGY

H 380

**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 35 – *O How He Loves You and Me*

1 O how He loves you and me.
O how He loves you and me;
He gave His life, what more could He give;
O how He loves you, O how He loves me,
O how He loves you and me.

2 Jesus to Calvary did go,
His love for the worlds to show;
What He did there brought hope from despair;
O how He loves you, O how He loves me,
O how He loves you and me.

O How He Loves You and Me, #35 from *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* — Words: Kurt Kaiser (b. 1934). Music: Kurt Kaiser. Copyright © 1975 Word Music (a div. of WORD, INC.). All Rights Reserved. International Copyright Secured. Used by permission.

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 144 – *Where He Leads Me, I Will Follow*

1 I can hear my Savior calling,
“Take thy cross and follow, follow me.”

*Where He leads me I will follow,
I’ll go with Him, with Him all the way.*

2 I’ll go with Him through the garden,
I’ll go with Him, with Him all the way.

Refrain

3 I’ll go with Him through the judgement,
I’ll go with Him, with Him all the way.

Refrain

4 He will give me grace and glory,
And go with me, with me all the way.

Refrain

Where He Leads Me, #144 from *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* — Words: E. W. Blandy, c. 1890. Music: John S. Norris (1844-1907).

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, Rebecca, Lisa, Faye, Fr. Bill, Sharon, Vestina, Ruth, James, Diamond, Jamie, King, Katrina, Angel, Hope, Arlene, Norman, Dorian, and Noleen.

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 15	Advisory Board Meeting Immediately after service
September 22	Worship at 10:30 am with St. Mark's on the Hill 1620 Reisterstown Rd., Pikesville, MD
September 29	Rev. Kirtley Yearwood will be our guest Celebrant
October 6	First Sunday Meal
October 20	Advisory Board Meeting Immediately after service
October 23	Bible Study resumes on Zoom @ 7 pm

October 25 Session 2: Healing from Internalized Oppression-Pt.1
6-9 pm @ the Diocesan Center

October 26 Session 2: Healing from Internalized Oppression- Pt.2
9-4 pm @ the Diocesan Center

November 6 Prayer Service – Wednesdays – 12 Noon

Notes

Today is: _____ Sermon Title: _____

Key Verses:

Worship Songs:

Prayers:
