

Pentecost III



**June 29, 2025
10 am**

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

A WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE CHURCH

**Celebrant: The Reverend Karen Mercer
Musician: Dr. Lior Leigh**

PRELUDE

OPENING HYMN

1 The Church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the word:
from heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.

2 Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation,
one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy Name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with every grace endued.

3 Though with a scornful wonder
men see her sore oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder,
by heresies distressed;

H525 – *The Church's One Foundation*
yet saints their watch are keeping,
their cry goes up, "How long?"
and soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.

4 Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war
she waits the consummation
of peace for evermore;
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blessed,
and the great Church victorious
shall be the Church at rest.

5 Yet she on earth hath union
with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with thee.

The Church's one foundation, #525 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: Samuel John Stone (1839-1900). Music: *Aurelia*, Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1818-1876).

OPENING SENTENCES

Alleluia Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

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

L 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 OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have built your Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone: Grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their teaching, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT

1 Kings 19:15-16,19-21

The Lord said to Elijah, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place." So he set out from there, and found Elisha son of Shaphat, who was plowing. There were twelve yoke of oxen ahead of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle over him. He left the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, "Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." Then Elijah said to him, "Go back again; for what have I done to you?" He returned from following him, took the yoke of oxen, and slaughtered them; using the equipment from the oxen, he boiled their flesh, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out and followed Elijah, and became his servant.

Listen for The Word of The Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSE

Psalm 16

1 Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; *

**I have said to the Lord, “You are my Lord,
my good above all other.”**

2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, *

upon those who are noble among the people.

3 But those who run after other gods *

shall have their troubles multiplied.

4 Their libations of blood I will not offer, *

nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.

5 O Lord, you are my portion and my cup; *

it is you who uphold my lot.

6 My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; *

indeed, I have a goodly heritage.

7 I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; *

my heart teaches me, night after night.

8 I have set the Lord always before me; *

because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.

9 My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; *

my body also shall rest in hope.

10 For you will not abandon me to the grave, *

nor let your holy one see the Pit.

11 You will show me the path of life; *

**in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.**

THE EPISTLE

Galatians 5:1,13-25

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the

Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

Listen for The Word of The Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN

I I am weak but thou art strong;
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk, let me walk close to thee.

LEVAS 72 – *Just a Closer Walk With Thee* (v. 1)

*Just a closer walk with thee,
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to thee,
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.*

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 9:51-62

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When the days drew near for Jesus to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village. As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

Listen for The Word of The Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN

LEVAS 72 – *Just a Closer Walk With Thee* (v. 2)

2 Through this world of toil and snares,
If I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.

*Just a closer walk with thee,
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to thee,
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.*

Just a Closer Walk with Thee, #72 from *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* — Words: Anonymous. Music: American Folk Song.

SERMON

The Rev. Karen Mercer

Let us pause momentarily as we reflect on God's word.

THE 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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessor: Like the dead man who sat up, let us rise to speak our prayers from the heart, saying: Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples. We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, for Carrie, our Bishop, for Karen, our Vicar, and for all the clergy and people. We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: For our President, the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority. We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: For the church, that its leaders come fully alive and give hope for all the members, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: That people everywhere take courage in approaching death and celebrate life with greater joy, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: For Christians, Jews, and Muslims, that we speak more kindly of one another in church, synagogue, and mosque, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: For widows, widowers, divorced parents, orphans, and all single people that they find love in community and comfort in God, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: For all in any need, especially those on our prayer list: Gloria, Mildred, Karen, Rashad, Tammy, Faye, Fr. Bill, James, Silma, Aldwyn, Gilma, and Irene. We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: For dying people and the dead, especially children and loved ones, that they see God face to face, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

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

Celebrant: God of kings, prophets, children, and widows, breathe your spirit of life into the living and the dead. Make us one with you and one another, and let all creation praise your name, now and forever.

A PRAYER FOR OUR PARISH

God of Eternity, we gather today to give thanks for the past. We think back to those who first had a vision of a church in this place, to those who gave of their labor, their treasure, their time to make it happen.

God of Eternity, we also give thanks for our present and our future. As we gather here today we look for hope. The present is unsettling, the future is uncertain. We hope that in the goodness of your love that your guidance will be ever-present.

Fill us with a vision for what we could be. Give us hope for our congregation and our community that lead us into your abundance and not our scarcity.

God of Eternity, in a time of uncertainty we so often fall into fear and worry, show us the opportunities in our chaotic world, remind us of our priorities in relationship to you, push us to see how our choices matter, and then fill us with hope in a new heaven and a new earth.

God of our future, may we walk boldly into what may come, as a people of faith and hope. May we be found faithful in the world in which we live.

Amen.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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 & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

H574 – *Before Thy Throne*

1 Before thy throne, O God, we kneel:
give us a conscience quick to feel,
a ready mind to understand
the meaning of thy chastening hand;
whate'er the pain and shame may be,
bring us, O Father, nearer thee.

3 For sins of heedless word and deed,
for pride ambitious to succeed,
for crafty trade and subtle snare
to catch the simple unaware,
for lives bereft of purpose high,
forgive, forgive, O Lord, we cry.

2 Search out our hearts and make us true;
help us to give to all their due.
From love of pleasure, lust of gold,
from sins which make the heart grow cold,
wean us and train us with thy rod;
teach us to know our faults, O God.

4 Let the fierce fires which burn and try,
our inmost spirits purify:
consume the ill; purge out the shame;
O God, be with us in the flame;
a new-born people may we rise,
more pure, more true, more nobly wise.

Before thy throne, O God, we kneel, #574 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: William Boyd Carpenter (1841-1918), alt. Music: *St. Petersburg*, Dimitri S. Bortniansky (1751-1825).

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

Eucharistic Prayer B - BCP p. 367

The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and says

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

H362 – *Holy, Holy, Holy* (v. 1)

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee:

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,

God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.

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 Christ's death,

We proclaim Christ's resurrection,

We await Christ's 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 on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins:

Have mercy on us.

Jesus, 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

H312 – *Strengthen for Service*

1 Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands
that holy things have taken;
let ears that now have heard thy songs
to clamor never waken.

2 Lord, may the tongues which "Holy" sang,
keep free from all deceiving;
the eyes which saw thy love be bright,
thy blessed hope perceiving.

3 The feet that tread thy hallowed courts
from light do thou not banish;
the bodies by thy Body fed
with thy new life replenish.

Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands, #312 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: Syriac Liturgy of Malabar; tr. Charles William Humphreys (1840-1921); alt. Percy Dearmer (1867-1936). By permission of Oxford University Press. Music: *Malabar*, David McKinley Williams (1887-1978). Copyright © The Church Pension Fund.

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.

THE BLESSING

Go forth from this place and be kind. Everyone here, in one way or another, carries something heavy. So love mercy, practice forgiveness, and be gentle with yourself. And show God's unconditional love and acceptance to yourself and to everyone you meet. And the blessing of God Almighty: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be among you, those you love, and all those God calls you to love, this day and forevermore. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

LEVAS 136 – *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*

1 I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus,
No turning back, no turning back!

2 Though no one join me, still I will follow,
Though no one join me, still I will follow,
Though no one join me, still I will follow,
No turning back, no turning back!

3 The world behind me, the cross before me,
The world behind me, the cross before me,
The world behind me, the cross before me,
No turning back, no turning back!

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, Rashad, Katrina, Angel, Hope, Arlene, Norman, Dorian, Daniel, Nicole, Michael, Tyrus, Shirley, Silma, Aldwyn, William, Deja, Joy, Gilma, Irene, and Michael.

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

July 6, 2025	First Sunday Meal
July 13, 2025	Introduction Invite, Welcome, Connect
July 16, 2025	Advisory Board Meeting
July 19, 2025	Ice Cream Social with St. David's Episcopal Church 3 – 5 pm
July 20, 2025	Ministry Review with Canon Kristofer Lindh-Payne Immediately following service
July 27, 2025	Invite Formation Session
August 3, 2025	First Sunday Meal
August 10, 2025	Welcome Formation Session
August 17, 2025	Connect Formation Session
August 20, 2025	Advisory Board Meeting
August 23, 2025	Back to School Event 11 am – 2 pm

Upcoming Formation Opportunities: Let's Grow Together!

This summer, we're offering two exciting opportunities to explore effective ways to connect with others and deepen our ministry of invitation and welcome.

Invite, Welcome, Connect – July – August 2025

Join us this July for an interactive experience designed to help us strengthen our culture of hospitality and belonging. Whether you're new to the community or a longtime member, this is a great opportunity to explore how we can invite others into a deeper relationship with God and one another.

Evangelism 101 – September 2025

Curious about how to share your faith in authentic, approachable ways? This foundational course in August will offer practical tools for connecting with others and telling the story of God's love with confidence and grace. These events are open to all—come be a part of the movement to *Invite, Welcome, and Connect*. More details and sign-up information coming soon!

Notes

Today is: _____ Sermon Title: _____

Key Verses:

Worship Songs:

Prayers:
