

Pentecost VII



Luke 11:1

July 27, 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 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
evermore his praises sing:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King.

2 Praise him for his grace and favor
to his people in distress;
praise him still the same as ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Glorious in this faithfulness.

H410 – *Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven*

3 Father-like he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hand he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Widely yet his mercy flows.

4 Angels, help us to adore him;
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace.

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven, #410 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847). Music: *Lauda anima*, John Goss (1800-1880); desc. Craig Sellar Lang (1891-1971). Descant by permission of Novello and Company, Limited.

OPENING SENTENCES

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. 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

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.

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 18:20-32

The Lord said to Abraham, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know." So the men turned from there, and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" And the Lord said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake." Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." Then he said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." Then he said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

Listen for The Word of The Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSE

Psalm 138

1 I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; *
before the gods I will sing your praise.

2 I will bow down toward your holy temple
and praise your Name, *
because of your love and faithfulness;

3 For you have glorified your Name *
and your word above all things.

4 When I called, you answered me; *
you increased my strength within me.

5 All the kings of the earth will praise you, O Lord, *
when they have heard the words of your mouth.

6 They will sing of the ways of the Lord, *
that great is the glory of the Lord.

7 Though the Lord be high, he cares for the lowly; *
he perceives the haughty from afar.

8 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; *
**you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
your right hand shall save me.**

9 The Lord will make good his purpose for me; *
**O Lord, your love endures for ever;
do not abandon the works of your hands.**

THE EPISTLE

Colossians 2:6-15-19

As you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, erasing the

record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it. Therefore do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food and drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or sabbaths. These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, dwelling on visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows with a growth that is from God.

Listen for The Word of The Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN

LEVAS 194 – *Lead Me, Guide Me* (v. 1 & 2)

*Lead me, guide me, along the way,
For if you lead me, I cannot stray
Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.
Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me.*

1 I am weak and I need thy strength and power
To help me over my weakest hour;
Help me through the darkness thy face to see,
Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me.

Refrain

2 Help me tread in the paths of righteousness,
be my aid when satan and sin oppress;
I am putting all my trust in thee.
Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me.

Refrain

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 11:1-13

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." He said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to

us. And do not bring us to the time of trial." And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs. "So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Listen for The Word of The Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN

LEVAS 194 – *Lead Me, Guide Me* (v. 3)

3 I am lost if you take your hand from me,
I am blind without thy light to see;
Lord, just always let me thy servant be.
Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me.

*Lead me, guide me, along the way,
For if you lead me, I cannot stray
Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.
Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me.*

Lead Me, Guide Me, #194 from *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* — Words: Doris M. Akers (b. 1922). Music: Doris M. Akers; arr. Richard Smallwood. Copyright © Doris Akers. Copyright renewed, all rights controlled by Unichappell Music, Inc. (Rightsong Music Publisher). International Copyright Secured. All Rights Reserved.

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: God, the mother who nurtures us, is also God of power without end. We call on this God of comfort and might, saying: O mighty and gracious God, 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. O mighty and gracious God,
Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, for Carrie, our Bishop, for Karen, our Vicar, and for all the clergy and people. O mighty and gracious God,
Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: For our President, the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority. O mighty and gracious God,
Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: For your church, that the good news we spread always heed the physical and social needs of our listeners, O mighty and gracious God,
Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: For leaders of nations, that they bring peace to their lands, destroying the demons of poverty and inequity, O mighty and gracious God,
Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: For the dying among us, that they be granted dignity and serenity as they await the comforting arms of their mothering God, O mighty and gracious God,
Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: For people of all ages nearing breakdown, that they glimpse Jerusalem's hope, and that their hearts rejoice again, O mighty and gracious God,
Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: For those on our prayer list: Gloria, Mildred, Karen, Rashad, Tammy, Faye, Fr. Bill, James, Silma, Aldwyn, Gilma, and Irene, O mighty and gracious God.
Hear our prayer.

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

Celebrant: God of glory and tenderness, engrave in us the images of your sacred stories. Relieve us of our many burdens, and let our lives give honest testimony to your dominion, through Christ our Lord.

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

Senior Warden

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Karen Mercer

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

H635 – *If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee*

1 If thou but trust in God to guide thee,
and hope in him through all thy ways,
he'll give thee strength whate'er betide thee,
and bear thee through the evil days.
Who trusts in God's unchanging love
builds on a rock that nought can move.

2 Sing, pray, and keep his ways unswerving;
so do thine own part faithfully,
and trust his word, though undeserving;
thou yet shalt find it true for thee;
God never yet forsook in need
the soul that trusted him indeed.

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

LEVAS 152 – *Let Us Break Bread Together*

1 Let us break bread together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
Oh Lord, have mercy on me.

2 Let us drink wine together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
Oh Lord, have mercy on me.

3 Let us praise God together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
Oh Lord, have mercy on me.

Let Us Break Bread Together, #152 from *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* — Words: Traditional. Music: Negro Spiritual; arr. Carl Haywood (b. 1949), from *The Haywood Collection of Negro Spirituals*. Arr. 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.

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 207 – *We'll Understand It Better By and By*

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

August 3, 2025	First Sunday Meal Mutual Ministry Review Canon Dr. Rev. Kristofer Lindh-Payne
August 7, 2025	Faith Forum Gather Invite Session
August 9, 2025	Bookbag Stuffing Party 10 am – 12:30 pm
August 10, 2025	Faith Forum Welcome Session
August 16, 2025	Bookbag Stuffing Party 10 am – 12:30 pm
August 17, 2025	Faith Forum Connect Session
August 20, 2025	Advisory Board Meeting
August 23, 2025	Back to School Event 10 am – 2 pm

August 24, 2025 Faith Forum
Transform Session

August 30, 2025 Thank You Luncheon
Clean Green

August 31, 2025 Faith Forum
Send Session

COLLEGE FOR CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The College for Congregational Development is a comprehensive training program that seeks to nurture and develop congregational development practitioners from within existing parish lay and clergy leadership. The program draws on congregational and organization development theory and practice, focusing on developing healthy and responsive leadership, facilitation skills, and teamwork through understanding of Anglican/Episcopal ethos, culture, spirituality, and ways of being the church today. It is a two-year program. Studies include readings, a content exam, and the completion of a congregational project within participants' ministry settings.

The focus of The College is on congregational teams learning together to broaden congregational leadership. We believe teams are best able to implement positive, shared, and long-lasting change for the health of their community.

REGISTRATION

2025-2026 Weekend Program, Year A

Registration for the 2025-2026 Weekend Program of the College for Congregational Development (CCD) opened in July. Drawing on congregational and organization development theory and practice, CCD seeks to nurture and equip lay and clergy leaders through developing healthy, responsive leadership, facilitation skills, and teamwork. The weekend program will use Year A of the curriculum and gather at Diocesan Center in Baltimore for six full-day sessions (October 11, November 8, January 10, February 7, March 14, and April 25). Registration is \$250 per person.

Notes

Today is: _____ Sermon Title: _____

Key Verses:

Worship Songs:

Prayers:
