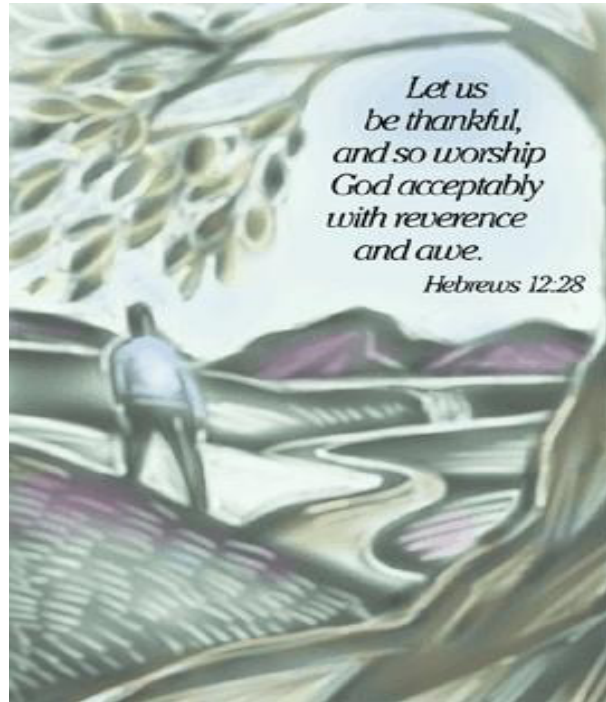


Pentecost XI



**August 24, 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

H8 – *Morning Has Broken*

*1 Morning has broken
like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken
like the first bird.
Praise for the singing!
Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing
fresh from the Word!*

*2 Sweet the rain's new fall
sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall
on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness
of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness
where his feet pass.*

*3 Mine is the sunlight!
Mine is the morning
born of the one light
Eden saw play!
Praise with elation,
praise every morning,
God's re-creation
of the new day!*

Morning has broken, #8 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965), alt. By permission of David Higham Associates Limited, London. Music: *Bunessan*, Gaelic melody; harm. Alec Wyton (b. 1921). Harmonization Copyright © by The Church Pension Fund.

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.

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.

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 58:9b-14

If you remove the yoke from among you,

the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness

and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually,

and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you

shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many

generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to

live in. If you refrain from trampling the sabbath, from pursuing your own interests

on my holy day; if you call the sabbath a delight and the holy day of

the Lord honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways,

serving your own interests, or pursuing your own affairs; then you shall take delight

in the Lord, and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

Listen for the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSE

Psalm 103:1-8

Benedic, anima mea

- 1 Bless the LORD, O my soul, *
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.
- 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, *
and forget not all his benefits.
- 3 He forgives all your sins *
and heals all your infirmities;
- 4 He redeems your life from the grave *
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;
- 5 He satisfies you with good things, *
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- 6 The LORD executes righteousness *
and judgment for all who are oppressed.
- 7 He made his ways known to Moses *
and his works to the children of Israel.
- 8 The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.

THE EPISTLE

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. (For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death." Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear.") But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking; for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! At that time his voice shook the earth; but now he has promised,

"Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven." This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of what is shaken-- that is, created things-- so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

Listen for The Word of The Lord
Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN

LEVAS 66 – I Must Tell Jesus (1st & 2nd verses)

*1 I must tell Jesus all of my trials;
I cannot bear these burdens alone,
In my distress He kindly will help me,
He ever loves and cares for His own.*

*Refrain: I must tell Jesus! I must tell Jesus!
I cannot bear my burdens alone;
I must tell Jesus! I must tell Jesus!
Jesus can help me, Jesus alone.*

*2 I must tell Jesus all of my troubles,
He is a kind, compassionate friend;
If I but ask Him, He will deliver,
Make of my troubles quickly an end.*

Refrain

Must Tell Jesus, #66 from *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* — Words: Elisha A. Hoffman (1839-1929). Music: Elisha A. Hoffman.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 13:10-17

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

Now Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd,

"There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day." But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?" When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to You, Lord Christ.

SEQUENCE HYMN

LEVAS 66 – I Must Tell Jesus 3rd & 4th Verse

*3 Tempted and tried I need a great Savior,
One who can help my burdens to bear
I must tell Jesus, I must tell Jesus;
He all my cares and sorrows will share.*

Refrain

*4 O how the world to evil allures me!
O how my heart is tempted to sin!
I must tell Jesus, and He will help me,
Over the world the vict'ry win.*

Refrain

Must Tell Jesus, #66 from *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* — Words: Elisha A. Hoffman (1839-1929). Music: Elisha A. Hoffman.

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 : We would be empty without God's gifts, and we would be selfish if we
Kept them to ourselves. For God's generosity let us pray, saying: Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor : Teach us to love and share your gift of peace, we pray you, O Lord.
Hear our prayer

Intercessor : Teach us to love and share your gift of mind, we pray you, O Lord.
Hear our prayer

Intercessor : Teach us to love and share your gift of life, we pray you, O Lord.
Hear our prayer

Intercessor : Do not leave us to merchants of war, we pray you, O Lord.
Hear our prayer

Intercessor : Do not leave us to merchants of lies, we pray you, O Lord.
Hear our prayer

Intercessor : Do not leave us to merchants of death, we pray you, O Lord.
Hear our prayer

Intercessor : Teach us to cherish all truth that is not ours, we pray you, O Lord.
Hear our prayer

Intercessor : Teach us to cherish all life that is not ours, we pray you, O Lord.

Hear our Prayer

Intercessor :Hear our prayers for all in need including: Gloria, Mildred, Karen, Tammy, Karen R., Dorris, Faye, Fr. Bill, Rashad, Silma, Aldwyn, Gilma, and Cassandra, we pray you, O Lord.

Hear our prayer

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

Celebrant: *You enter our lives, O God, by the gift of yourself. It is the way we are to enter yours. Teach us that generosity. Teach it to everyone alive, our brothers and sisters in this world. We pray through Christ, our teacher and brother. Amen.*

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

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

*1 Be not dismayed whate'er betide,
God will take care of you;
Beneath His wings of love abide,
God will take care of you.*

*Refrain: God will take care of you,
Through ev'ry day,
O'er all the way;
He will take care of you,
God will take care of you.*

*2 Through days of toil
when heart doth fail,*

*LEVAS 183 – God Will Take Care of You
God will take care of you;
When dangers fierce your path assail,
God will take care of you.*

Refrain

*3 All you may need He will provide,
God will take care of you;
Nothing you ask will be denied,
God will take care of you.*

Refrain

*4 No matter what may be the test,
God will take care of you;
Lean, weary one, upon His breast,
God will take care of you.*

Refrain

I Love the Lord, #67 from *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* — Words: Traditional. Music: Traditional; arr. Richard Smallwood. Arr. used by permission of Century Oak/Richwood Music.

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

H130

**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.

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 145 – Have Thine Own Way, Lord

1 Have thine own way, Lord!

Have thine own way!

Thou art the potter,

I am the clay!

Mold me and make me

After thy will,

While I am waiting,

Yielded and still.

2 Have thine own way, Lord!

Have thine own way!

Search me and try me,

Master, today!

Purer than snow, Lord,

Wash me just now,

As in thy presence

Humbly I bow.

3 Have thine own way, Lord!

Have thine own way!

Wounded and weary,

Help me, I pray!

Power all power

Surely is thine!

Touch me and heal me,

Savior divine!

4 Have thine own way, Lord!

*Have thine own way!
Hold o'er my being
Absolute sway!
Fill with thy Spirit
'Til all shall see
Christ only, always,
Living in me!*

Have Thine Own Way, Lord!, #145 from *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* — Words: Adelaide A. Pollard (1862-1934). Music: George C. Stebbins (1846-1945).

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 77 – Jesus is All the World To Me

*1 Jesus is all the world to me,
My life, my joy, my all;
He is my strength from day to day,
Without Him I would fall:
When I am sad, to Him I go.
No other one can cheer me so;
When I am sad He makes me glad,
He's my friend.*

*2 Jesus is all the world to me,
My friend in trials sore;
I go to Him for blessings, and
He gives them o'er and o'er;*

*He sends the sunshine and the rain.
He sends the harvest's golden grain.
Sunshine and rain, harvest of grain,
He's my friend.*

*3 Jesus is all the world to me,
And true to Him I'll be;
Oh, how could I this friend deny,
When He's so true to me?
Following Him I know I'm right.
He watches o'er me day and night;
Following Him by day and night,
He's my friend.*

*4 Jesus is all the world to me,
I want no better friend;
I trust Him now, I'll trust Him when
Life's fleeting days shall end:
Beautiful life with such a friend.
Beautiful life that has no end;
Eternal life, eternal joy,
He's my friend.*

Jesus Is All the World to Me, #77 from *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* — Words: Will L. Thompson (1847-1909). Music: Will L. Thompson.

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 24, 2025	Faith Forum–Welcome/Connect Session
August 31, 2025	Faith Forum –Transform Session
September 13, 2025	Thank You Luncheon –Clean Green Team 12:30 p.m.
September 14, 2025	Guest Celebrant & Preacher: Rev. Dina Van Klaveren Canon, Stewardship and Development
September 21, 2025	Faith Forum – Send Session



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 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!