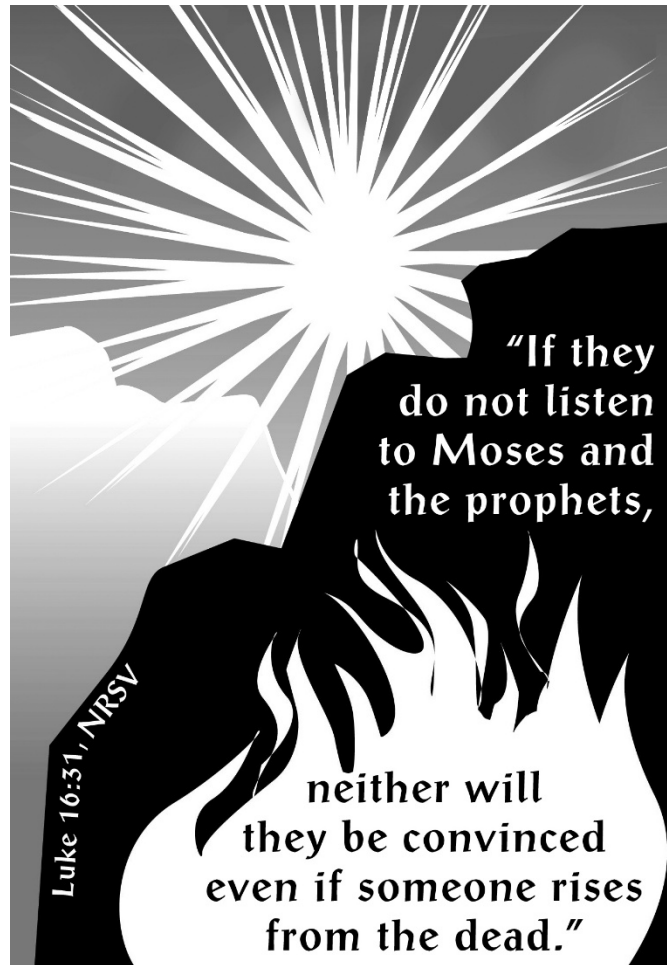


Pentecost XVI



**September 28, 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**

A Gentle Reminder

To help us create a prayerful space for worship, please silence all cell phones and electronic devices before the service begins.

If you arrive after the service has started, we kindly ask that you follow the guidance of our greeters so that you may enter at a time that is least disruptive.

Thank you for your presence and for helping us keep our worship centered in reverence and joy.

PRELUDE

OPENING HYMN

AAH 89 – Jesus Is the Light of the World

*1 Hark! the herald angels sing,
Jesus, the Light of the world;
glory to the newborn King,
Jesus, the Light of the world.*

Refrain:

*We'll walk in the light, beautiful light;
come where the dewdrops of mercy are bright,
shine all around us by day and by night,
Jesus, the Light of the world.*

*2 Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Jesus, the Light of the world;
join the triumph of the skies,
Jesus, the Light of the world.
Refrain*

*3 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Jesus, the Light of the world;
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Jesus, the Light of the world.
Refrain*

*4 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
Jesus, the Light of the world.
hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Jesus, the Light of the world.*

Refrain

Title: Jesus, the Light of the World Author (stanzas): Charles Wesley Author (refrain): George D. Elderkin Meter: 7.7.7.7 with refrain Language: English Refrain First Line We'll walk in the light, beautiful light Publication Date: 1890 Copyright: Public Domain.

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

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 OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT

Amos 6:1a,4-7

Alas for those who are at ease in Zion, and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria. Alas for those who lie on beds of ivory, and lounge on their couches, and eat lambs from the flock, and calves from the stall; who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp, and like David improvise on instruments of music; who drink wine from bowls, and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph! Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile, and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

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

THE RESPONSE

Psalms 146

Lauda, anima mea

1 Hallelujah!

Praise the Lord, O my soul! *

I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

2 Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth, *
for there is no help in them.

3 When they breathe their last, they return to earth, *
and in that day their thoughts perish.

4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
whose hope is in the Lord their God;

5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
who keeps his promise for ever;

6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
and food to those who hunger.

7 The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; *
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

8 The Lord loves the righteous;
the Lord cares for the stranger; *
**he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.**

9 The Lord shall reign for ever, *
**your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!**

THE EPISTLE

1 Timothy 6:6-19

There is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains. But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will bring about at the right time-- he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen. As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

Listen for The Word of The Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN

LEVAS 69 – In the Garden (1st & 2nd verse)

*I come to the garden alone,
While the dew is still on the roses;*

*And the voice I hear, falling on my ear,
Refrain: The Son of God discloses.
And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.*

*2 He speaks, and the sound of His voice
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing;
And the melody that He gave to me
Within my heart is ringing.*

Refrain

In the Garden, #69 from *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* — Words: C. Austin Miles (1868-1946). Music: C. Austin Miles.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 16:19-31

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.' But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' He said, 'Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house-- for I have five brothers-- that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' He said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, Lord Christ.

SEQUENCE HYMN

LEVAS 69 – In the Garden (3rd verse)

*3 I'd stay in the garden with Him
Though the night around me be falling;
But He bids me go through the voice of woe,
His voice to me is calling.*

Refrain

In the Garden, #69 from Lift Every Voice and Sing II — Words: C. Austin Miles (1868-1946). Music: C. Austin Miles.

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

God alone is our help. We lift up our needs and the needs of the whole human family, saying: Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For those who lead the people of God, that they may seek after integrity and be true to their call to service, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For Christians everywhere, that we may be rich in good works and generously share what we have, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: That our eyes may be open to see poverty and human need, and that seeing, we may act justly, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For an end to the abyss between rich and poor, in our community, in this nation, and throughout the world, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: That our young people may learn to love charity, justice, and a gentle spirit; we pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For the aged, the infirm, the lonely, the homeless, [especially N.,] and for all who need help to live with dignity, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: That those who are imprisoned for the sake of the gospel may bear bold and glad witness to the Lord, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer

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

Celebrant: Giver of all life, we ask you to sustain our life and the life of the world.

Hear our cries for help. Make us as generous as you are in answering those who turn to you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord. **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 & 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

LEVAS 120 – Sweet, Sweet Spirit

1 *There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in
this place, And I know that it's the
Spirit of the Lord. There are sweet
expressions on each face, And I
know they feel the presence of the
Lord.*

2 *There are blessings you cannot
Receive Till you know Him in His
fullness, and believe. You're the
one to profit when you say, "I am
going to walk with Jesus all the
way."*

*Refrain Sweet Holy Spirit, Sweet
Heavenly Dove, Stay right here
with us, filling us with your love
And for these blessings we lift our
hearts in praise; Without a doubt
we'll know that we have been
revived when we shall leave this
place.*

Refrain

3 *If you say He saved you from your
sin, Now you're weak, you're
bound, and cannot enter in, you
can make it right if you will yield;
You'll enjoy the Holy Spirit that
we feel.*

Refrain

Sweet, Sweet Spirit, #120 from *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* — Words: Doris Akers (b. 1922). Music: Doris Akers. Copyright © 1962. Renewed 1990 Manna Music, Inc. 25510 Stanford Ave., Suite 101, Valencia, CA 91355. International Copyright Secured. All Rights Reserved.

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

H325 – Let us break bread together on our knees

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

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

H594 –God of grace, God of glory

- 1 *God of grace and God of glory,
on thy people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient Church's story;
bring her bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour.*
- 2 *Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise:
grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the living of these days.*
- 3 *Cure thy children's warring madness,
bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.*
- 4 *Save us from weak resignation*

*to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of thy salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving thee whom we adore.*

God of grace and God of glory, #594 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: Harry Emerson Fosdick (1878-1969), alt. By permission of the author. Music: *Cwm Rhondda*, John Hughes (1873-1932).

THE DISMISSAL

The Rev. Karen Mercer

As we go forth into the world, refreshed and renewed, we reaffirm our commitment to our mission as a congregation:

We are committed to sharing God's love with all through our worship and ministries.

Let us go forth to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia

POSTLUDE

Our Prayer List

Your prayers are requested for members and friends of The Church of the Holy Nativity: Eileen, Gloria, Mildred, Karen, Tammy, Emanuel, Karen R., Dorris, Gouri, Katrina, Elaine, Justina, Eva, 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

September 28, 2025–	Faith Forum Sent with Together
October 1, 2025 –	HN Community Choir Practice
October 8, 2025 –	HN Community Choir Practice
October 11, 2025–	CCD 8:30-4:30
October 12, 2025–	First Sunday Meal & Holy Nativity Choir Rehearsal
October 15, 2025–	HN Community Choir Practice
October 16, 2025–	Career Awareness Project (CAP) Launches 4:00 – 5:15 pm
October 19, 2025 –	Hospitality Gathering – Ice Cream Social
October 21, 2025–	Advisory Board Meeting
October 23, 2025 –	CAP 4:00-5:15
October 26, 2025 –	The Rev. Canon Randy K. Callender Canon for Mission Celebrant and Preacher
October 29, 2025 –	HN Community Choir Practice
October 30, 2025 –	CAP 4:00-5:15
November 2, 2025 –	Trail of Souls Pauli Marray Recognition

Cathedral of the Incarnation
Time: TBD

November 8, 2025—

SAVE THE DATE!
Investing in the Future:
Holy Nativity Pauli Murray
Episcopal Learning Center
Campaign Kickoff

Upcoming Formation Opportunities: Let's Grow Together!

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

Evangelism 101 – October 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*.