

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Diocese of Ottawa



THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 17th, 2017 at 10.15 am

PRELUDE

Adagio from Sonata II (Felix Mendelssohn)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 323

Ye Holy Angels Bright

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Welcome, welcome to this holy table; welcome to you, for we are Christ's body, Christ's work in the world. Welcome to you whose baptism makes you salt of the earth and light to the world. Rejoice and be glad. Praise God who gives us forgiveness and hope.

Amen. Christ is our light, the joy of our salvation.

Praise and glory to Christ, God's new beginning for humanity making ritual water gospel wine, cleansing all our worship.

Love and loyalty to Christ, who gives us the gospel.

Praise to Christ who calls us to holiness.

FORGIVENESS

We come seeking forgiveness for all we have failed to be and do as members of Christ's body.

Silence is kept.

In God there is forgiveness.

Loving and all-seeing God, forgive us where we have failed to support one another and to be what we claim to be. Forgive us where we have failed to serve you; and where our thoughts and actions have been contrary to yours, we ask your pardon.

God forgives you, ✠ be at peace. Rejoice and be glad, for Christ is resurrection and reconciliation for all the human race.

We shall all be one in Christ, one in our life together. Praise to God who has created us, praise to God who has accepted us, praise to God who sends us into the world.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

God of deep compassion, you welcome the weak and free us from the bondage of sin. Break the cycle of judgement and violence through Jesus our forgiveness, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING

Exodus 14:19-31

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, 'Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.'

Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.' So Moses

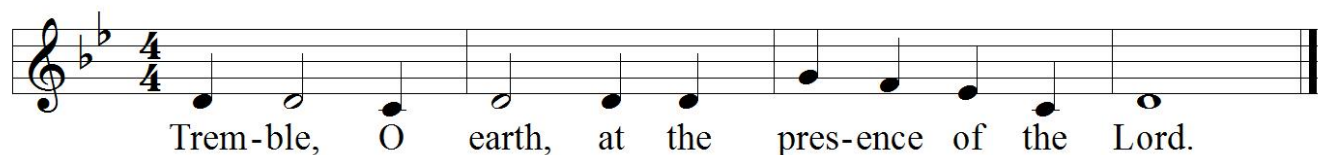
stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 114



Hallelujah! When Israel came out of Egypt,
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,
Judah became God's sanctuary, and Israel his dominion.

The sea beheld it and fled; Jordan turned and went back.
The mountains skipped like rams, and the little hills like young sheep.

What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? O Jordan, that you turned back?
You mountains, that you skipped like rams? you little hills like young sheep?

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,
at the presence of the God of Jacob.
Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

THE SECOND READING

Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give

thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. For it is written, 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.' So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN 614

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.'

'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

The Gospel of Christ. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

HOMILY

ANTHEM

Christ Goes Before (Carl Schalk)

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us affirm our faith.

You, O God, are supreme and holy.

You create our world and give us life.

Your purpose overarches everything we do.

You have always been with us. You are God.

You, O God, are infinitely generous, good beyond all measure.

You came to us before we came to you.

**You have revealed and proved your love for us in Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and rose again.**

You are with us now. You are God.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit.

You empower us to be your gospel in the world.

You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.

You are our God. We worship you.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE PEACE

Blessed be Christ, the Prince of Peace,
who breaks down the walls that divide.

The peace of God be always with you.

And also with you.

OFFERTORY HYMN 395

Bring Many Names

THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Holy God, accept all we offer you this day. May we who are reconciled at this table
bring wholeness to our broken world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

Amen.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

The Lord is here.

God's Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to offer thanks and praise.

It is the joy of our salvation, God of the universe, to give you thanks through Jesus Christ. You said, 'Let there be light'; there was light. Your light shines on in our darkness. For you the earth has brought forth life in all its forms. You have created us to hear your Word, to do your will and to be fulfilled in your love. You sent your Son to be for us the way we need to follow and the truth we need to know.

Day by day you call us to be one people, to be your people. Day by day you call us to feed the hungry, heal the sick, deliver the oppressed, and to wait and watch for your kingdom.

You send your Holy Spirit to strengthen and to guide, to warn and to revive your Church. Therefore, with all your witnesses who surround us on every side, countless as heaven's stars, we praise you for our creation and our calling, with loving and with joyful hearts:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly__ Lord, God of__ pow - er and might, heav'n and earth are
full of your glo - ry, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed are you, most holy, in your Son; On that night before he died he took bread and gave you thanks. He broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said: Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me.

After supper, he took the cup, and gave you thanks. He gave it to them and said: Drink this. It is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you, shed for all, to forgive sin; do this to remember me. Therefore, with this bread and wine we recall your goodness to us.

God of the past and present, we your people remember your Son. We thank you for his cross and rising again, we take courage from his ascension; we look for his coming in glory and in him we give ourselves to you.

With thanksgiving and hope we say:

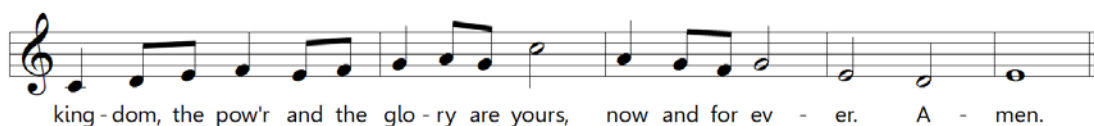
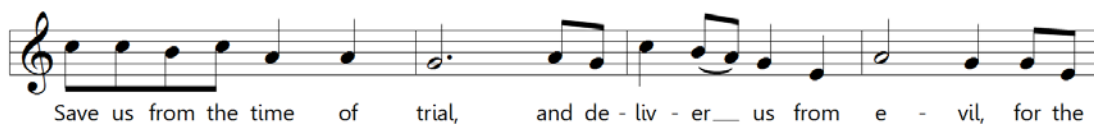
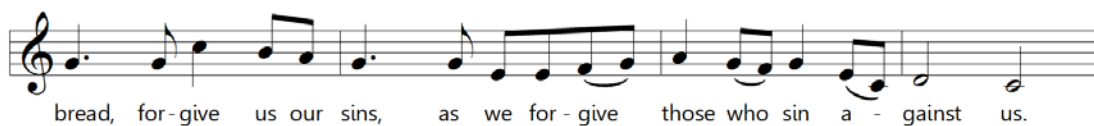
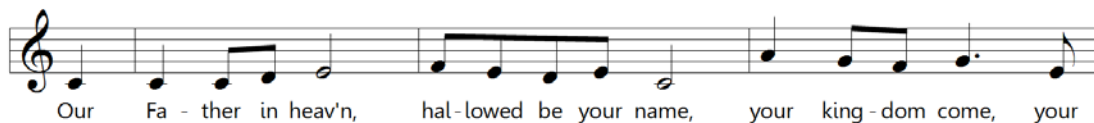
Glorify to you, Lord Christ; your death we show forth; your resurrection we proclaim; your coming we await; Amen! Come Lord Jesus.

Send your Holy Spirit, ✠ that we who receive Christ's body may indeed be the body of Christ, and we who share his cup draw strength from the one true vine. Called to follow Christ, help us to reconcile and unite. Called to suffer, give us hope in our calling. For you, the heavenly one, make all things new; you are the beginning and the end, the last and the first, to whom we bring our songs of everlasting praise.

Blessing, honour and glory be yours, here and everywhere, now and forever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As Christ teaches, we pray,



THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Silence is kept.

Christ's body was broken for us on the cross.

Christ is the bread of life.

His blood was shed for our forgiveness.

Christ is risen from the dead.

THE INVITATION

Come God's people, come to receive Christ's heavenly food.

Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

Our God is Love (Hal Hopson)

Please request a gluten-free wafer if required or a blessing if desired.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. *Silence is kept.*

God of peace, in this eucharist we have been reconciled to you and to our neighbours.

May we who have been nourished by holy things always have the courage to forgive.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

Amen.

Blessed be God who calls us together.

Praise to God who makes us one people.

Blessed be God who has forgiven our sin.

Praise to God who gives hope and freedom.

Blessed be God whose Word is proclaimed.

Praise to God who is revealed as love.

Blessed be God who alone has called us.

Therefore we offer all that we are and all that we shall become.

Accept, O God, our sacrifice of praise.

Amen. Accept our thanks for all you have done. Our hands were empty, and you filled them.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus; and may the blessing of God our Creator, Redeemer and Giver of life ✠ be with you always. **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN 438

O Jesus, I Have Promised (Tune: Thornbury #444)

DISMISSAL

Go now to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Allegro maestoso from Sonata II (Felix Mendelssohn)

Presider & Preacher The Reverend Beth Bretzlaff

Organist Dr Gordon Johnson

Liturgy: *A New Zealand Prayer Book - He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa*, used with permission. Collect: *Opening Prayers* (1997) alt. Readings: *New Revised Standard Version Bible (NRSV) Anglicized Edition*, © 1989, 1995, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Psalm Music: ©2001 Gordon Johnston.