

**18th Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Eucharist
Sunday, September 26, 2021 at 9am**



Church of the Holy Nativity, Honolulu, HI
5286 Kalaniana'ole Highway Honolulu, HI 96821
www.holynativityhawaii.org

A Message from the Bishop

As your Bishop, I deeply appreciate all those medically eligible who have been vaccinated against COVID-19, and all those who continue to wear their masks in public and practice social distancing when gathering. Thank you! As Episcopalians, I am convinced this is the very minimum we as God's people can do to fulfill the Great Commandment (Mark 12:29-31) during this difficult time of a worldwide Pandemic: "Jesus replied, "The most important one is *Israel, listen! Our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your mind, and with all your strength.* The second is this, *You will love your neighbor as yourself.* No other commandment is greater than these.'" You, God's people, are truly loving your neighbor through these righteous deeds.

O gracious and holy Father, give us wisdom to perceive you, diligence to seek you, patience to wait for you, eyes to behold you, a heart to meditate upon you, and a life to proclaim you, through the power of the spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Bishop Bob Fitzpatrick

Please bear with us, as we keep our community safe during the current COVID surge. Everyone must be masked during our entire service and we must limit live music. If you choose to receive the Sacrament, please return to your seat before consuming it. After the service, please greet friends quietly and then depart. We will return to coffee hour and other, more relaxed practices as soon as we are safely able to do so! Mahalo for your Koku!

Gathering Music

Prelude: Bist Du Bei Mir by JS Bach / Lorraine Yamamoto, Organist

Opening Hymn: #546 “Awake my Soul...” HNC HouseHold Choir

Opening Acclamation

The people rise in body or in spirit as the Celebrant says

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

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. *Amen.*

Celebrant

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.*

The Gloria

Opening section of the Hymnal, S-280

Offered by members of the HNC choir

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant 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.*

The Lessons

The people are seated for the readings of the day.

Reader: A reading from the Book of Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

The king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, “What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.” Then Queen Esther answered, “If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me-- that is my petition-- and the lives of my people-- that is my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king.” Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, “Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?” Esther said, “A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!” Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, “Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high.” And the king said, “Hang him on that.” So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 124

Reader: We will read Psalm 124, responsively. I will read the odd-numbered verses; the congregation will please respond with the even-numbered verses.

- 1 If the LORD had not been on our side, *
let Israel now say;
- 2 If the LORD had not been on our side, *
when enemies rose up against us;
- 3 Then would they have swallowed us up alive *
in their fierce anger toward us;
- 4 Then would the waters have overwhelmed us *
and the torrent gone over us;
- 5 Then would the raging waters *
have gone right over us.
- 6 Blessed be the LORD! *
he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.
- 7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; *
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.
- 8 Our help is in the Name of the LORD, *
the maker of heaven and earth.

The Second Reading

Reader: A reading from the Book of James 5:13 -20

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People. Thanks be to God.

The Gospel: Mark 9:38-50

All standing, the Priest or Deacon reads the Gospel

Deacon or Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Mark.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

John said to Jesus, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

“For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

After the Gospel, the Reader says The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily

The Reverend Libby Berman

The Nicene Creed

ICET 1988 text

The Celebrant begins. The people join in.

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,

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human.

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,

who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.

who 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: Form III *The Book of Common Prayer*, p. 387

The Intercessor will begin; the congregation is invited to join in the responses printed in italics.

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you. We pray, especially, for the people in our Diocese of Hawaii.

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble. We pray for those on our parish prayer list: Olga & Yuri, Taghi, Susan K., Erwin, Heather, Wayne, Jeff & Kristi, Eugene & Lois, and Lora V. We pray for those with COVID-19 and their caregivers and for those facing employment or housing challenges.

That they all may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions. The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

The Confession and Absolution

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

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.

The Priest stands and says

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 Celebrant offers the greeting of peace to the congregation.*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you!
People And also with you!

Great
are the
works
of the
Lord.

The Offertory Hymn: WLP # 819 “Guide my Feet Lord...”*HNC HouseHold Choir*

“Let us with gladness present the offerings of our life and labor to the Lord.”

Please place your offerings in the koa bowl at the rear of the church. For those worshipping at home, please continue to support Holy Nativity with your financial gifts by sending checks made out to Holy Nativity. *Thank you!*

The Hawaiian Doxology

Led by our HouseHold Choir [video]

Ho’o - na-ni i ka Ma-ku-a mau,
Ke Kei-ki me ka ‘U-ha-ne no,
Ke-A-ku-a mau Ho-’o-mai-ka-’i pu
Ko ke-ia ao, ko ke-la ao. A-me-ne.

The Holy Communion

Eucharistic Prayer C

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 369

The Lord’s Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
People and Celebrant

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

These are the Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ lived, died, and rose again for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The ministers deliver the Bread to the people at the bottom of the chancel area, keeping social distancing guidelines. If you wish to receive a blessing in place of the Sacrament, please cross your hands over your chest as you approach.

The Post-Communion Prayer

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

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 Announcements & Blessing

The Rev. Libby Berman

Closing Hymn & Recessional # 344 “Lord, Dismiss us with thy Blessing”

HNC HouseHold Choir

The Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit!
People Thanks be to God.

The Postlude: Lobe den Herron by Max Reger / Lorraine Yamamoto, Organist

Ministry Team for Today's Service: Thank you, all!

Celebrant & Preacher: The Rev. Libby Berman Deacon: The Rev. Dr. Robert Steele
Eucharistic minister: Lila Johnson Reader: Barbara Abe
Intercessor: Kathy Otani. Usher: Ed Moore
Technical team: Gretchen & Julia Yamaguchi, Adrienne Fung
Altar Guild: Moore Team

Staff:

Music Director: Chris Suzuki Organist: Lorraine Yamamoto
Parish Administrator: Athena DeRasmo Bookkeeper: Wil Ching
Thrift Shop: Peggy Budlong & Cheri Keefer

**JOIN US FOR THE CELEBRATION OF ST. FRANCIS
SUNDAY, October 3rd at 9AM (in person & online)
Bring your pets to zoom and your pictures or photos to church!**



We welcome all visitors and newcomers to our service today. **If you are attending in person, please fill out the welcome card in the pew and turn it in to the usher after the service.** If you are attending online, please feel free to join us for our virtual coffee hour following the service.

If you are not or cannot be vaccinated, or if your immunity is compromised, please join our Zoom gatherings on Sunday mornings. We strongly encourage everyone who is eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, to do so.