



St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
Port Townsend, Washington

**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Proper 19A**  
**Liturgy of the Word**  
**September 13, 2020 - 9:30 am**  
**Launching Sunday**

The service begins on page 355 of *The Book of Common Prayer*



Celebrant                      Blessed be the One, Holy, and Living God.  
People                         **Glory to God for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Collect for Purity**

Holy Wisdom, in your loving kindness you recreated and restored us when we were lost: inspire us with your truth that we may love you with our whole minds and run to you with open hearts. Amen.

**The Gloria**

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,  
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. *Amen.*

## The Collect

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## First Lesson 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.

## Psalm 114

*Pg. 756 BCP*

1 Hallelujah!

When Israel came out of Egypt, \*  
the house of Jacob from a people  
of strange speech,

2 Judah became God's sanctuary  
\*

and Israel his dominion.

3 The sea beheld it and fled; \*  
Jordan turned and went  
back.

4 The mountains skipped like  
rams, \*and the little hills like  
young sheep.

5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? \*  
O Jordan, that you turned back?

6 You mountains, that you skipped like  
rams? \*  
you little hills like young sheep?

7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of  
the Lord, \*  
at the presence of the God of Jacob,

8 Who turned the hard rock into a pool  
of water \*  
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

## The Second Lesson      Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling 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 judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment 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 honor of the Lord.

Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor 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 judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment 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.

Priest or Deacon  
People

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew  
**Glory to you Lord Christ.**

## Matthew 18:21-35

Peter came and said to Jesus, "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 would 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 would 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."

People                    The Gospel of the Lord.  
                               **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

## **The Sermon**

The Rev. Dianne Andrews

### **Affirmation of Faith**

We believe in God above us,  
 maker and sustainer of all life,  
 of sun and moon,  
 of water and earth,  
 of male and female.

We believe in God beside us,  
 Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh,  
 born of a woman, servant of the poor,  
 tortured and nailed to a tree.

A man of sorrows, he died forsaken.  
 He descended into the earth  
 to the place of death.  
 On the third day he rose from the tomb.  
 He ascended into heaven  
 to be everywhere present,  
 and his kingdom will come on earth.

We believe in God within us,  
 the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,  
 life-giving breath of the Church,  
 spirit of healing and forgiveness,  
 source of resurrection and of eternal life. Amen.

## **The Peace**

### **Birthday Blessing**

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Offertory

In this moment, we take time virtually to pass the offering plate representing our gifts, our hopes, and our prayers offered in gratitude to our Creator and in thanksgiving for this community.

**With grateful hearts, we give what we can.  
In joyful hope, we give for what can be.**

*Your gifts are greatly appreciated.*

*On-line giving is always an option.*

*You will find the “Give to St. Paul’s” button  
at the top of the St. Paul’s website homepage: [www.stpaulspt.org](http://www.stpaulspt.org)*

Celebrant: In thanksgiving we pause to observe the solemnity of this moment.

## Confession

**Eternal God, maker of the skies above,  
lowly Christ, born amidst the growing earth,  
Spirit of life, wind over the flowing water,  
in earth, sea and sky, you are there.**

**O hidden mystery,  
sun behind all suns,  
soul behind all souls,  
in everything we touch,  
in everyone we meet,  
your presence is around us,  
and we give you thanks.**

**But when we have not touched  
but trampled you in creation,  
when we have not met  
but missed you in one another,  
when we have not received  
but reject you in the poor,  
forgive us,  
and hear now our plea for mercy.**

## Absolution

Hear now the words of Jesus for all who are truly sorry and seek to renew their lives:  
Your sins are forgiven. Go in peace; come and follow me.

## Prayers of the People

Let us pray for deep peace and healing for ourselves, our relationships, our nation, the world, and this planet, our island home. Let us respond to each petition saying:

God of love and mercy.... **Hear our prayer.**

Lord, we pray for our human family. Teach us to live in unity and peace that, together, we serve one another and care for the good creation you have entrusted to us.

God of love and mercy.... **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for your church, in its strength and its inevitable weakness. Remind us that “church” is not a cathedral or an institution, it is your people... and you have promised to be with us wherever and whenever two or three gather in your name, even as we come together this day from a distance. Strengthen us to be your witnesses and servants in the world.

God of love and mercy.... **Hear our prayer.**

We remember all who are sick, troubled, lured by falseness, or suffer any kind of adversity, especially those who struggle with addiction, mental or chronic illness. We pray for those on our prayer list, and for those whose names we offer now:

*silence*

God of love and mercy.... **Hear our prayer.**

Deepen our compassion for all who struggle, especially those who are beyond our sight:

For those who are lonely, anxious, or depressed. For those without communities of support. For parents who are exhausted, and for children and young people who feel helpless, sad, and isolated.

For those who are sheltering-at-home with their abusers, and for all for whom home is not a place of safety.

God of love and mercy.... **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are dying, for those who have died, for all who mourn, and for those who offer comfort. We remember, especially John Staples and Russ Minter...

*silence*

God of love and mercy.... **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who serve to provide for our needs, to care for us, and to serve our communities.

We pray for firefighters, police, and emergency medical workers. For doctors, nurses, and all health care professionals. For those who serve in the armed forces, especially those who have been called to help fight the virus.

God of love and mercy.... **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are displaced, homeless or suffering from wildfires and climate change. We pray for the will and the strength to make the changes we need to make as we seek healing and health for the earth, her skies and her waters.

God of love and mercy.... **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world, that they may serve the greater good, for your people and all creation.

God of love and mercy.... **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for our Nation as we are forced to wrestle with inequities and racism. Help us to resist the temptation to look away and give us strength to do our part to heal the wounds of long-standing injustice. Give us the courage to speak out, the humility and compassion to listen, and the patience, perseverance and will to become the Beloved Community.

God of love and mercy.... **Hear our prayer..**

We give thanks for all of the blessings of this life...

*silence*

As we praise you, give us the courage to seek your loving guidance in all things, especially as we recognize the need to step out of our comfort zones to do the work that is before us. Help us to come together for the sake of your vision of heaven on earth.

God of love and mercy.... **Hear our prayer.**

**Celebrant:** Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **Prayer in a Time of Pandemic**

Gracious God, to whom our needs are known before we ask: we pray for strength and courage to meet the days ahead. May your arms of love guide us through this strange land. Teach us the power of stillness and of deep listening. Open our eyes and broaden our vision. Help us to let go of those things that no longer serve us, and to welcome new ways of connecting, of sharing, and of showing our love and care for others. We pray for our sisters and brothers around the globe. Together we walk through this storm asking for awakened hearts. Guide us, O Lord, and show us your ways. We ask these prayers in the name of the One who suffers with us, in the name of Christ who is the bread of life and the hope of the world.

## Blessing

May the everlasting God shield you,  
West and west wherever you go.  
And the blessing of God be upon you.

The blessing of Christ be upon you.

The blessing of the Spirit be upon you.

The blessing of the Trinity be upon you  
now and for ever more.

## Dismissal

Let us go forth from this time of worship to continue the work we have been given to do: to reach out, to love, and to serve in the name of risen Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

We go forth saying: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## Postlude

*Zoom fellowship to follow the service.  
Click the Zoom Fellowship link on the home page.*