

Welcome to Saint Mary's Episcopal Church!

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost—August 22, 2021

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Word of God

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed be the One Holy and Living God.
People **Glory to God forever and ever.**

SONG OF PRAISE

Love Divine All Love Excelling

Words: Charles Wesley

Saint Mary's Choir

Music: *Hyfrydol*, Rowland Hugh Prichard

OPENING COLLECT

Celebrant God be with you.
People **And also with you.**

Celebrant 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.**

Please be seated.

FIRST MESSAGE

Ephesians 6:10-20

Lay Leader Let us prepare ourselves to hear the Word Of God.
People **Our hearts and minds are open.**

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Lay Leader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL

Heleluyan

Voice/Drum/Trombone

Words: traditional Muscogee (creek)

Music: Muscogee, arr. Charles Webb

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL

John 6:56-69

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Please be seated.

HOMILY

The Reverend Susan Moss

Please stand as you are able.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH AND BAPTISMAL PROMISES

Lay Leader Let us stand and affirm our faith.

People **We believe that God is present in the darkness before dawn;
in the waiting and uncertainty where fear and courage join hands,
conflict and caring link arms, and the sun rises over barbed wire.
We believe in a with-us God who sits down in our midst to share our humanity,
a feasting God.
We affirm a faith, that takes us beyond a safe place into action,
into vulnerability, into the streets.
We commit ourselves to work for change and put ourselves on the line;
to bear responsibility, to take risks, live powerfully and face humiliation;
to stand with those on the edge;
to choose life and be used by the Spirit for God's new community of Hope. Amen.**

Lay Leader And now we join together with members of the worldwide Anglican/Episcopal Communion in translating the beliefs in our hearts into action in our lives, in these baptismal questions. Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Lay Leader Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Lay Leader Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Lay Leader Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Lay Leader Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People **I will, with God's help.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lay Leader Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

After hearing "Lord, in your mercy", the people respond:

People **Hear our prayer.**

Please be seated.

SAINT MARY'S COMMUNITY PRAYERS: CONCERNS AND THANKSGIVINGS

Everyone is invited to offer concerns and thanksgivings.

Lay Leader O God, accept the prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please stand as you are able.

PEACE

Celebrant The Peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Eucharistic Prayer

OFFERTORY PRAYER

People **God be in my head and in my thinking.
God be in my mouth and in my speaking.
God be in my heart and in my loving.
God be in my hands and in my giving. Amen.**

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts

People **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Celebrant and People on Zoom

Gracious God, You stand at the door of our hearts and knock. You wait for us and we only can let you in. We believe and trust in you and ask you now to fill us with your presence. Nourish us with your body and unite us in your blood, that we may be your blessing to a world in need. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

People Our Father, in heaven, hallowed be your Name.
your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ

People We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread

Please be seated.

COMMUNION HYMN

Come now, O Prince of Peace

Words & Music: O-so-so
Geonyong Lee para. Marion Pope

Please stand as you are able.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray together.

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, and renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ. Amen.

ST. MARY'S QUILT CEREMONY FOR THE CLASS OF 2021

BLESSING

CLOSING SONG

Hamba Nathi

Saint Mary's Choir

Text/Tune: Trad. South African

Arr: Anders Nyberg

DISMISSAL

Deacon <Deacon says the words of dismissal.>

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Hamba Nathi (Reprise)

St. Mary's Band

SOURCES

The Opening Collect is from *Prayers for an Inclusive Church* by Steven Shakespeare. The Gospel is from the New Revised Standard Version. The Prayers of the People are from *The Book of Common Prayer*.

Affirmation of Faith is from *Iona Abbey Worship Book* by The Iona Community.

The Closing Prayer is from *A New Zealand Prayer Book*.