

Welcome to Saint Mary's Episcopal Church!  
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost—August 29, 2021

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Word of God

OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

SONG OF PRAISE

*African Processional*  
Saint Mary's Choir

Collected by Elaine Hanson  
Arr: Ralph M Johnson  
Vs 2-5: Bret Hesla

OPENING COLLECT

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

*Officiant* God of unclean hands, touching those rejected by the world, despised by the religious: guide us from false purity which hides misshapen hearts; lead us to the joyful feast in which all are renewed; through Jesus Christ the beauty of God's face. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

FIRST MESSAGE

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

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

Moses said: So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you. You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today? But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

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

GRADUAL

*God Be In My Head*  
Choir Anthem

*Please stand as you are able.*

GOSPEL

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.  
*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me;  
in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.'

You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile." For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

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

*Please be seated.*

HOMILY

Erica Scheurer

*Please stand as you are able.*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH AND BAPTISMAL PROMISES

*Officiant* 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.**

*Officiant* 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.**

*Officiant* 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.**

*Officiant* Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?  
*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Officiant* Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?  
*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Officiant* 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 FORM IV

*Officiant* Let us pray for the Church and for the world.  
 Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Officiant* Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Officiant* Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Officiant* Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Officiant* Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Officiant* We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

*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

*Officiant* Peace be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**

## 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.

<Short time of silence>

## 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.

## CLOSING PRAYER

*Officiant* Holy and ever living God, by your power we are created and by your love we are redeemed;  
guide and strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may give ourselves to your service, and live  
each day in love to one another and to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
*People* Amen.

## BENEDICTION

*Officiant* May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy  
Spirit be with us all.  
*People* Amen.

## CLOSING SONG

*God of Grace*  
Saint Mary's Choir

Words: Henry Emerson Fosdick  
Music: Cum Rhondda, John Hughes

## DISMISSAL

*Deacon* <Deacon says the words of dismissal.>  
*People* Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

## POSTLUDE

African Processional (*Reprise*)

## SOURCES

The Opening Collect is from *Prayers for an Inclusive Church* by Steven Shakespeare.

The Gospel and First Message are 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*.