

Welcome to Saint Mary's Episcopal Church!

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost—September 5, 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

Among Us and Before Us
Saint Mary's Choir

Words: John L Bell & Graham Maule
Music: GATEHOUSE, John L Bell

OPENING COLLECT

Officiant God be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Officiant Almighty God, you have so linked our lives one with another that all we do affects, for good or ill, all other lives: So guide us in the work we do, that we may do it not for self alone, but for the common good; and, as we seek a proper return for our own labor, make us mindful of the rightful aspirations of other workers, and arouse our concern for those who are out of work; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST MESSAGE

Officiant Let us prepare ourselves to hear the Word Of God as it comes to us from Bruce Epperly.
People **Our hearts and minds are open.**

Seeking God's Shalom: Reflections on Labor Day

Labor Day is more than symbolic. It reflects the prophetic concern for justice for the hardworking, poor, and vulnerable. The prophetic writings and the gospel message consistently affirm the rights of laborers and the dispossessed in relationship to wealthy landowners and greedy business people. Economics matters in the biblical tradition. What people eat and where they live is a spiritual as well as economic and political issue. Disparity of income and power is a recurring biblical concern: the widows, landless persons, and unemployed people matter to God. Just as God heard the cries of the oppressed Israelites, God hears the cries of the poor. Jesus' ministry embraced rich and poor alike, but his most controversial acts involved his inclusion of outsiders, people at the margins of the religious, social, and economic worlds, as members of the realm of God, deserving care in this life as well as the next.

With the growing disparity between the wealthy and middle class—not to mention the poor—in the United States, Labor Day is an opportunity for the church to give thanks and recognize the importance of those who stand up for workers, as well as embrace the larger implications of this holiday. This is not merely a matter of class struggle but the recognition of God's Shalom in which property and wealth are ultimately a matter of spiritual stewardship rather than private ownership. The scriptures do not oppose property ownership or wealth, but see them as part of God's care for the whole earth.

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

GRADUAL

How Wondrous and Great

Saint Mary's Choir

Words: Henry Ustick Onderdonk

Music: Lyons, att Johann Michael Haydn

GOSPEL

Mark 7:24-37

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

Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

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

ADAPTED GOSPEL BASED DISCIPLESHIP

Break out groups discuss the Opening Collect.

- *What is the Holy Spirit doing in this Collect?*
- *Where do you see yourself?*
- *What does this Collect say about this journey you're on?*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH AND BAPTISMAL PROMISES

Officiant Let us 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. Lord in your mercy,

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. Lord in your mercy,

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. Lord in your mercy,

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. Lord in your mercy,

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. Lord in your mercy,

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. Lord in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

SAINT MARY'S COMMUNITY PRAYERS: CONCERNS AND THANKSGIVINGS

Everyone is invited to offer concerns and thanksgivings, either out loud or in the chat.

COLLECT

Officiant O Christ for whom we search, our help when help has failed, give us courage to expose our need and ask to be made whole; that, being touched by you, we may be raised to new life in the power of your name. **Amen.**

PEACE

Officiant The peace of Christ be always 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

Officiant And now, in the words Jesus taught us, let's say the Lord's Prayer together.
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. Amen.

BLESSING

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

CLOSING SONG

Nada te Turbe
Saint Mary's Choir

Words: Santa Teresa de Jesus
Music: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Nada te Turbe (reprise)

VIRTUAL COFFEE TIME: SOCIALIZE

SOURCES

Opening Collect and Prayers of the People are from *Book of Common Prayer*.
Gospel is from the New Revised Standard Version. Affirmation of Faith is from *Iona Abbey Worship Book* by
The Iona Community. Closing Prayer is from *A New Zealand Prayer Book*.