

Welcome to Saint Mary's Episcopal Church!

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost—August 15, 2021

PRELUDE

Heleluyan
Voice/Drum/Trombone

Words: traditional Muscogee (creek)
Music: Muscogee, arr. Charles Webb

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

How Wondrous and Great

Saint Mary's Choir

Words: Henry Ustick Onderdonk
(1759-1858)
Music: Lyons, att. Johann Michael Haydn
(1737-1806)

OPENING COLLECT

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

Celebrant Divine Love, undaunted by death and fear, who went to the depths to bring back life: in the power of the cross shape a people of service, breaking bread for a hungering world; through Jesus Christ, the true food. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

FIRST MESSAGE

Ephesians 5:15-20

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

Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

GRADUAL

Psalm 34: Taste and See

Words & music: Psalm34
adapt. James E Moore Jr

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL

John 6:51-58

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

Jesus said, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. 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."

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

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

Taste and See (Refrain only, 4X) Words & Music: James E. Moore

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.

BLESSING

CLOSING SONG

For Everyone Born Words: Shirley Erena Murray
Saint Mary's Choir Music: Brian Mann

DISMISSAL.

Deacon says the words of dismissal.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Bambalela 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*.