

Holy Eucharist

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 18B

September 5, 2021

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85887946777?pwd=eig4MEdsMUh6clV6b2dUblFOQ3I2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 858 8794 6777

Passcode: 782611

Prelude

Opening Hymn

O Christ the healer

Tune: *Truro*



O Christ, the heal- er, we have come to pray for
From ev- ery ail- ment flesh en- dures our bod- ies
Grant that we all, made in one faith, in your com-
health, to plead for friends. How can we fail to
cla- mor to be freed; yet in our hearts we
-mu- ni- ty may find the whole-ness that, en-
be re- stored, when reached by love that nev- er ends?
would con- fess that whole-ness is our deep-est need.
-rich- ing us, shall reach the whole of hu- man- kind.

All standing as they are able, the Presider says

Blessed be + the one, holy, and living God.

People **Glory to God for ever and for ever. Amen.**

The Presider begins the Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The following is sung, all standing as they are able

D F#m7 GM9 Em7 D/E

Sure - ly the pres - ence of the Lord is in this place; I can

Em7 F#m7 A7 G A7 D G F#m7 A7

feel His might - y pow - er and His grace. I can

D F#m7 GM9 Em7

hear the brush of an - gels' wings, I see glo - ry on each face;

Em7 F#m7 A7 F#m7 Em7 F#m7 A7 D

Sure - ly the pres - ence of the Lord is in this place.

Collect of the Day

Presider God be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Let us pray.

Grant us, O LORD, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All sit.

First Reading

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

A Reading from the book of Proverbs.

- ¹A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches,
and favor is better than silver or gold.
²The rich and the poor have this in common:
the LORD is the maker of them all.
⁸Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity,
and the rod of anger will fail.
⁹Those who are generous are blessed,
for they share their bread with the poor.
²²Do not rob the poor because they are poor,
or crush the afflicted at the gate;
²³for the LORD pleads their cause
and despoils of life those who despoil them.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 125

to be prayed in Unison

- ¹**Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, ***
which cannot be moved, but stands fast for ever.
²**The hills stand about Jerusalem; ***
so does the LORD stand round about his people,
from this time forth for evermore.
³**The scepter of the wicked shall not hold sway over the land**
allotted to the just, so that the just shall not put their hands to evil.

**⁴Show your goodness, O LORD, to those who are good *
and to those who are true of heart.
⁵As for those who turn aside to crooked ways,
the LORD will lead them away with the evildoers; *
but peace be upon Israel.**

Second Reading

James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17

A Reading from the letter of James.

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. [¹¹For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.]

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

<i>Reader</i>	The Word of the Lord.
<i>People</i>	Thanks be to God.

All stand as they are able.

Sequence Hymn

Tune: *Slane*

She came to Jesus

She came to Je- sus from out- side the fold —
Claim- ing a bless- ing, a touch of God's grace,
God, you still bless those who seek you in prayer.

Ca- naa- nite wo- man! Per- sist- ent and bold!
She knew God's love was not bound- ed by place.
You wel- come dream- ers who faith- ful- ly dare.

Look- ing to Je- sus, she want- ed to see
Je- sus, you list- ened, de- bat- ed, then healed —
In Christ, now ris- en, your mer- cy ex- tends:

One who would help her and set her child free.
For in her ask- ing, her faith was re- vealed.
Those on the out- side are wel- comed as friends.

Holy Gospel

Mark 7:24-37

All stand as they are able.

*Gospeller
People*

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

²⁴[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,²⁵ but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He 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." ²⁸But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.



³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in



private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “*Ephphatha*,” that is, “Be opened.” ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

Gospeller
People

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

Sermon

Nicene Creed

All stand as they are able.

Presider Let us affirm the faith of the Church using the words of the Nicene Creed:

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**
**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father [and the Son],
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

All remain standing.

Presider: Ever-present and compassionate God, you care for all persons with your unconditional divine love, and you extend your liberating grace to all peoples: Open our hearts to be strong, fearless, and defiant in the pursuit of justice and relief, especially on behalf of the poor and the stranger, as we pray: You care for near and far alike; liberate your children from their oppression.

Intercessor: Gracious and loving God, you have called your Church to follow the royal law to love our neighbors as ourselves. We pray for our bishops Bonnie, Michael, Justin, Moises, Elizabeth, Donald and Craig, all ministers, priests, deacons, ministry teams, those in formation; and our brothers and sisters worshipping at St John's, Detroit; and Church of the Pentecost, Bonao, and Holy Spirit, Carreras, in the Dominican Republic. We pray for those who support your mission of mercy in all the world; those who teach; and those who take your word into their hearts. Empower our witness of reconciliation that we may speak gracefully to those whose ears cannot yet hear the Good News of God's love and may serve generously those whose mouths cannot yet proclaim your grace. You care for near and far alike; **liberate your children from their oppression.**

Silence is kept.

You guide the leaders of the nations to show mercy and to eschew partiality: Free from their bondage those whose lot is only leftovers and crumbs, and empower those who struggle to live on what falls from their masters' tables. You care for near and far alike; **liberate your children from their oppression.**

Silence is kept.

You embrace with your compassion, O God, those whom some call dogs, and all others who are dishonored or poor: Heal and comfort all who are in weakness or in need

throughout the world. You care for near and far alike; **liberate your children from their oppression.**

Silence is kept.

You have chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of your dominion: Reconcile our community that we may be people of radical hospitality, welcoming native and foreigner, rich and poor, without distinction or partiality. You care for near and far alike; **liberate your children from their oppression.**

Silence is kept.

You withhold your healing presence from no one: Honor our prayers for all who are sick or in need [especially_____].

You call us to share in your work of reconciliation and freedom. We thank you for the many ministries of this congregation: our work of worship, outreach, education, service, and fellowship. Hear our Joy as we give you thanks [especially for _____].

You keep your promises for ever; hear our prayers for those who have died [especially _____]. You care for near and far alike; **liberate your children from their oppression.**

Presider Gracious and living God, your loving care reaches to the ends of the earth, rescuing those who live in bondage and fear: Open our eyes and ears to your call of compassion, that we may joy fully share in your eternal life, and bring all humanity into the goodness of your Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

The Presider says

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these."

A minister then says

Let us confess our sins to God.

A period of silence is observed.

Minister and People together say

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

A Priest stands and says

Almighty God + have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Prayers for those celebrating their birthdays and anniversaries

Those who will be celebrating their birthday in September are invited to the front of the church.

Prayer for a Birthday

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants Alan, Bob, and Kailyn, as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for an Anniversary

Eternal God, creator and preserver of all life, author of salvation, and giver of all grace: Look with favor upon the world you have made, and for which your Son gave his life, and especially upon Alan and Kitty. Grant that their wills may be so knit together in your will, and their spirits in your Spirit, that they may continue to grow in love and peace with you and one another all the days of their lives. **Amen.**

Peace

All stand as they are able.

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The People then are seated.

Announcements

Holy Communion

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.
Ephesians 5:2

How the Holy Communion is prepared

The Presider, other Eucharistic Ministers, and any participating Acolytes must wash their hands, or use hand sanitizer, before celebrating and before distribution. Gloves will not be used.

The Presider alone will bring the bread and wine from the credence table to the Altar at the time of the offertory. All of the elements for Holy Communion will be placed on the Altar for the Eucharistic Prayer. The Presider alone stands at the altar, with others 6 feet or more away.

The **priest's wafer and chalice** will be uncovered in front of the Presider during the Eucharistic Prayer. They **are for the Presider alone**. They are consumed entirely by the Presider, or appropriately disposed of after the service.

The priest's wafer and the people's wafers will be kept separate at all times. The **people's wafers will be a container** on the Altar, which will remain covered throughout the Eucharistic Prayer.

During consecration, the Presider will touch the container, not the wafers.

The **distribution** of consecrated wine is not permitted at this time (as of June 19, 2020 Diocese of Michigan directive).

How the Holy Communion will be distributed

Everyone distributing communion will use hand sanitizer before they begin distribution. Gloves will not be used.

Communicants will be encouraged to use hand sanitizer before receiving. Hand sanitizer will be available at the service.

Everyone distributing communion will use hand sanitizer before they begin distribution. Gloves will not be used.

Communicants will be encouraged to use hand sanitizer before receiving. Hand sanitizer will be available at the service.

The people will come to the Altar rail as they are able. The Minister will place the bread in the hand. The distribution will happen without directly touching the hand of the person receiving. Hand-to-mouth distribution is not permitted. If hand-to-hand contact happens, the minister will re-sanitize.

If a blessing is preferred, the blessing will be given without touch.

The people stand as they are able as a minister brings forward the alms basin.

Offertory Hymn

Doxology

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

The people remain standing.

The Presider says

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Maker and redeemer of all, we lift our hearts to thank you, because you open our ears to hear your voice and release our tongue to sing your praise.

You created the earth as a place of encounter between you and your creatures.

You called your people from slavery and wilderness to covenant and abundant life.

You gave your children manna to share, and from the crumbs that fell from their table you made a banquet to welcome the Gentiles to the joy of your companionship.

You made the body of your crucified and risen Son the altar of your mercy and of our redemption.

And so we zealously sing the triumphs of your grace, joining with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven in the hymn of your eternal glory.

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly

5
God of po - wer and might. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly

9
God of po - wer and might. Hea - ven and earth are

12
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! All

15
hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na, ho -

18
san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est!

24
molto rit.
Bles-sed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.

The Presider continues

Life-giving God, you share your bread with the poor, and you make this banquet the place where in the power of your Spirit we are united as one body in your Son.

Make this meal a moment of reconciliation between you and your people,
and let those who share in it be ambassadors of reconciliation within your wounded world.

Send your Holy Spirit upon this bread and this cup,
that they may be for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, at the table with his disciples, took bread,
gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying,

"Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

After they had eaten, he took the cup.
Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying,

"Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

The Presider continues

God of the afflicted, you have chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith
and to be heirs of the kingdom that you have promised to those who love you.

Make your church rich as you are rich, in compassion and mercy, in wisdom and grace;
and make your people poor as you are poor, in sharing the calamity
of those who endure injustice and knowing the pain of all who live with the world's anger.

Take away the mask of poverty, that all may see with joy the riches
of those the world calls poor, and remove the mask of wealth,
that all may see with love the poverty of those the world calls rich.

Hasten the day when your gentle mercy triumphs over the world's harsh judgment,
and all find a place at the feast of your kingdom,
ever one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **AMEN.**

The Presider then says

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

**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

A period of silence is kept.

The Presider says

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Presider says

Christ makes himself known to us
in the breaking of bread.

**He offers us his body broken for our sake
and his blood shed for the forgiveness of our sins.**

We accept his promises and gifts
and depend on his life to sustain ours.

**In turn we offer ourselves in thanksgiving
to the risen Lord who has conquered death.**

So we celebrate his victory here and now
and anticipate the joyous feast in his coming kingdom.

**United around this sacrament,
we receive strength and courage
to continue our pilgrimage with God in the world.**

The Presider continues

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, those who are not physically present here join us in offering you praise and thanksgiving. We remember your death, Lord Christ; we proclaim your resurrection; we await your coming in glory. And since they cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we beseech you to come spiritually into their hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us all with your grace, Lord Jesus, and never let us be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. **Amen.**

All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

After Communion, the Presider says

Let us pray.

God of abundance, you have fed us
with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
**you have united us
with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one
with all your people in heaven and on earth.**
**Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen**

Blessing

A priest blesses the people, saying

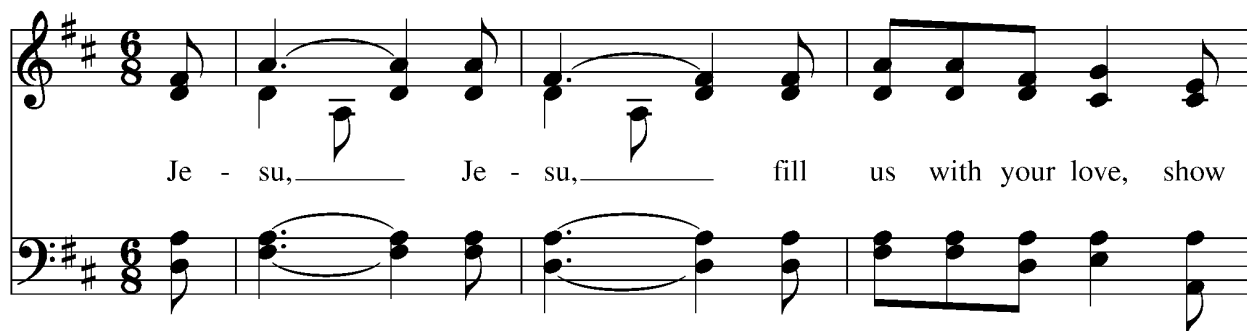
Go into the world, and know how much a tired and hurting world needs your strength and gladness. For there are deeds of compassion and courage that will never be done, unless you do them; and words of hope and healing that will never be spoken, unless you speak them.

And may God's blessing + be with you,
Christ's peace be with you,
the Spirit's outpouring be with you, now and always. **Amen**

Closing Hymn

LEVAS 74

Jesu, Jesu



Fine

us how to serve the neigh - bors we have from you._____

2. Neigh - bors are rich_____ and poor, neigh - bors are black_____ and
 3. These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should
 4. Lov - ing puts us on our knees, serv - ing as though we are
 5. Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their

D.C.

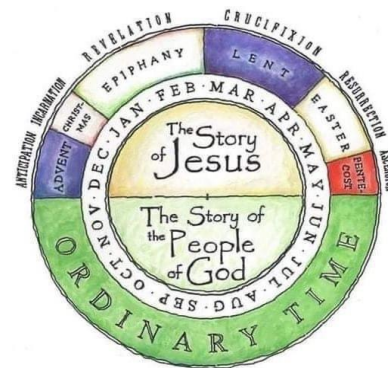
2. white, neigh - bors are near_____ and far_____ a - way._____
 3. love; all these are neigh - bors to us_____ and you._____
 4. slaves, this is the way we should live_____ with you._____
 5. feet, this is the way we should live_____ with you._____

Dismissal

Minister And now, my siblings in Christ, I bid you go in peace
 to love and serve our Lord.

People **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude



Upcoming Commemorations

- Sept. 5 Gregorio Aglipay: Priest and Founder of the Philippine Independent Church, 1940
7 Elie Naud: Huguenot Witness to the Faith, 1722
8 Nikolai Grundtvig: Bishop and Hymnwriter, 1872; and,
Søren Kierkegaard: Teacher and Philosopher, 1855
9 Constance, Thecla, Ruth, Frances, Charles Parsons, and Louis Schuyler,
The Martyrs of Memphis, 1878
10 Alexander Crummell, Priest, 1898
11 Mychael Judge, Chaplain and Martyr, and the Victims of 9/11, 2001; and,
Harry Thacker Burleigh: Composer, 1949

OFFERING OUR DONATIONS OF FOOD AND FUNDS TO FAITH IN ACTION

Faith in Action is continuing to provide leadership in collecting donations to support households in need in the Chelsea and Dexter areas. They are in need of our continuing help. **If you donate fresh produce**, it is best to bring it directly to FIA on Tuesdays or Wednesdays. **The usual "TOP ITEMS" needed are:** baked beans, coffee, canned tomatoes, hamburger helper (or any helper), spaghetti sauce, small cans Campbell's soup, ketchup, ranch dressing, cereal, 64oz fruit juices, chips, crackers, toilet paper, laundry soap, cleaning products. You may bring your donations to FIA, or to Nancy who will see that they get there. **If you bring food directly to FIA**, please let Nancy know, so she can continue to keep our records of donation. If you write a check, please make it to *Faith In Action*. The **next Food Drive at the church** will **September 19**. Please leave your donations at the church on that day.

Financial donations to help us combat the continuing effects of the pandemic can be made by PayPal at www.faithinaction1.org, by [Facebook](#), or by mailing a check to *Faith in Action*, 603 S. Main Street, Chelsea MI 48118.

If you need help, please call FIA at (734) 475-3305

+++++



On Sunday, August 29, sixteen years after Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast, **Hurricane Ida** made landfall in the same region. This Category 4 storm brought flooding and damaging winds that caused a loss of water to hundreds of thousands and a loss of electricity to over 1 million people. Episcopal Relief & Development is working closely with the Diocese of Louisiana and other regional partners in what will be a long-term response. Your generous gift will help alleviate suffering for the most vulnerable residents impacted by Hurricane Ida. Please visit episcopalrelief.org/hurricane-relief to make a gift today.

Notes for "She Came to Jesus"

"When the Canaanite woman first approached Jesus asking for help, 'he did not answer her at all.' When he did answer, he said, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel' (Matthew 15:23-24). Many people are perplexed by Jesus' initial response to this desperate mother. Why did he speak to her in the way that he did?

While his words seem harsh at first, he did have a conversation with her about her faith, and he did listen to what she had to say. Then he healed her child. He confirmed what she believed — that God's love is "not bounded by place," or culture, or anything else.

So many people whose lives were touched by Jesus were outsiders; they were people 'outside the fold.' Why are we sometimes hesitant to reach out in ministry to other people? Do you know anyone who — following Jesus' example — has a wonderful gift for talking to anyone and breaking down stubborn barriers between people from different backgrounds and cultures?"

Adapted from [*Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor*](#) by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (Upper Room Books, 2009).

+++++



September 5, 2021 – Pentecost 15 B The Feast of Constance and Her Companions: The Martyrs of Memphis

On September 9, The Episcopal Church celebrates the witness of Constance and her companions, remembered along with other faithful Christians as the Martyrs of Memphis.

Yellow fever, a mosquito-borne illness that frequently affected the American South during the late 19th century, had reached an epidemic status in August 1878. Memphis, Tennessee, on the banks of the Mississippi River, had been afflicted by the disease several times before, leading citizens to flee the city en masse at the earliest signs of an outbreak. More than half of the city's population left, leaving more than 20,000 people behind. According to *A Great Cloud of Witnesses*, "As cases multiplied, death tolls averaged 200 daily. When the worst was over, ninety percent of the people who remained had contracted the fever; more than 5,000 people had died."

Faithful Episcopalians and other Christians remained behind in the stifling heat to serve the city in its crisis. Chief among these saints were Constance, the Superior of the Sisters of St. Mary, and several other sisters of the order, who had come to Memphis some years earlier to found a girls' school at St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral. The cathedral was located in the thick of the yellow fever epidemic, which provided ample opportunity to minister to the afflicted.

They tended the sick, gave rest to the weary, soothed the suffering, and blessed the dying, making a special effort to find and take care of the numerous orphaned children of Memphis.

Constance and her companions knew well the danger and destruction that the fever represented, but would not be deterred from serving God and neighbor in that place. By the end of September, four of the sisters, along with two Episcopal priests and many unnamed volunteers, had succumbed to the fever: Sister Constance, Sister Thecla, Sister Ruth, Sister Frances, the Rev. Louis Schuyler and the Rev. Charles Parsons. Sister Constance's last words, uttered when she was no longer physically able to serve, are enshrined in the altar at St. Mary's Cathedral: "Alleluia! Osanna!"



Collect for Constance and Her Companions

We give you thanks and praise, O God of compassion, for the heroic witness of Constance and her companions, who, in a time of plague and pestilence, were steadfast in their care for the sick and dying, and loved not their own lives, even unto death; Inspire in us a like love and commitment to those in need, following the example of our Savior Jesus Christ; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Icon of Constance and Her Companions, from St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral in Memphis, Diocese of West Tennessee.

This bulletin insert was adapted from A Great Cloud of Witnesses' account of Constance and Her Companions.

+++++

From riteplanning.com. Copyright © 2021 Church Publishing Inc. All rights reserved

Opening Hymn Text from Wonder, Love and Praise, #775. Tune from Hymnal 1982 #184.

Sequence Hymn Text: Copyright © 2002 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

Copied with permission from *Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor* by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (Upper Room Books, 2009). **Tune** *Slane*, in the Public Domain.

Confession from *Enriching our worship*, p.19 **Postcommunion prayer**, p.69; **Blessing**, p.71.

Eucharistic Prayer from Wells, Samuel and Abigail Kocher, *Eucharistic prayers*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2016, pp.270-271.

Invitation to the Table adapted from *Biblical Confessional Worship Invitation to the Table*. Louisville KY: PCUSA, Oct. 27, 2011. <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/bcr-132/> Accessed 12 June 2019

Our Mission:

We seek to grow as diverse disciples of Jesus Christ,
and to serve Jesus by serving others in the world,
guided by the values of Ancient Rites, Open Minds, and Affirming Hearts.



St Barnabas Episcopal Church
20500 West Old US-12
Chelsea MI 48118
stbarnabaschelsea.org