

ORDER OF SERVICE
September 13, 2020 - Pentecost 15

INTRODUCTION

“Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.”

Good morning everyone. This is Fr. Dean Mercer and I welcome you as the parish of St. Paul’s gathers on the 15th Sunday of Pentecost. Separated physically, we join in spirit, sharing in the joy of the resurrection of our Lord.

Reading the lessons is Olivia Waterman; the anthem performed by David McCartney; and the litany led by the Rev’d Chris Miller.

So let us hear Holy Scripture, reflect and pray together, and open our hearts to the Living Word, Jesus Christ - our risen Saviour and Lord.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you call your Church to witness that in Christ we are reconciled to you. Help us so to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may turn to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. AMEN.

LESSONS

First Reading

READER: A reading from Exodus.

Exodus 14:19–31 (NRSV)

- 19** The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them.
- 20** It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.
- 21** Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided.
- 22** The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.
- 23** The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh’s horses, chariots, and chariot drivers.
- 24** At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic.
- 25** He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, “Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.”
- 26** Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.”
- 27** So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea.

28 The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained.

29 But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

30 Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.

31 Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

READER: Psalm 114.

Psalm 114

Hallelujah! When Israel came out of Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech, Judah became God's sanctuary and Israel his dominion.

The sea beheld it and fled; Jordan turned and went back.

The mountains skipped like rams, and the little hills like young sheep.

What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? O Jordan, that you turned back?

You mountains, that you skipped like rams? you little hills like young sheep?

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob.

Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

READER: A reading from the Gospel of Matthew

Matthew 18:21–35 (NRSV)

21 Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?”

22 Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

23 “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves.

24 When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him;

25 and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made.

26 So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’

27 And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.

28 But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’

29 Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’

30 But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt.

31 When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place.

32 Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.

33 Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’

34 And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt.

35 So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

LITANY (#7)

Litanist: Let us pray in faith to God our Father, to his Son Jesus Christ, and to the Holy Spirit, saying, "Lord, hear and have mercy."

For the Church of the living God throughout the world, let us ask the riches of his grace.

Lord, hear and have mercy.

For all who proclaim the word of truth, let us ask the infinite wisdom of Christ.

Lord, hear and have mercy.

For all who have consecrated their lives to the kingdom of God, and for all struggling to follow the way of Christ, let us ask the gifts of the Spirit.

Lord, hear and have mercy.

For Elizabeth our Queen, for the Prime Minister of this country, and for all who govern the nations, that they may strive for justice and peace, let us ask the strength of God.

Lord, hear and have mercy.

For scholars and research-workers, that their studies may benefit humanity, let us ask the light of the Lord.

Lord, hear and have mercy.

For all who have passed from this life in faith and obedience, let us ask the peace of Christ.

Lord, hear and have mercy.

A Collect For Educational Institutions

O Eternal God, bless all schools, colleges, and universities, that they may be lively centres for sound learning, new discovery, and the pursuit of wisdom; and grant that those who teach and those who learn may find you to be the source of all truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all you have done for us. We thank you for the splendour of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love. We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side. We thank you for setting us tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us. We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone. Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through

which he overcame death; for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom. Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER & BLESSING

Leader: And now as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Doors of St. Paul's Have Re-opened - Sunday, September 13.

In a series of careful steps, the doors are re-opening and services and programs are being resumed - starting with Sunday Services. We are working toward the resumption of other services and programs over the next few weeks. However, because the virus remains active, safety guidelines are in effect and all online services will continue for the foreseeable future.

Beginning today, four services will be offered in the church. Ninety (90) people, which is 30% of capacity, are allowed in the church proper - main floor and balcony - at any one time. The hall, kitchen and rooms downstairs remain closed.

Sunday Schedule:

8.00 a.m.

10.00 a.m.

1.00 p.m. (Chinese)

3.45 p.m. (Tamil)

6.00 p.m. - Evening Prayer - beginning in October. It will continue on Zoom for the foreseeable future.

Morning Prayer will continue to be offered on Zoom, Monday through Saturday, as of September 13th. The Sunday recording will continue to be offered online.

Safety Guidelines

As required, St. Paul's is following the safety guidelines issued by the Diocese of Toronto.

Anyone is welcome to read the detailed guidelines available on the Diocesan website, but the following Ten Commandments are offered as a working summary:

1. Please do not enter the church if you have a temperature, feel ill or have been in contact with a COVID-19 positive individual over the past two weeks.
2. Reserve a seat - online (www.stpl.ca) or by calling the church office (416-499-1545). Maximum attendance is 60 on the main floor and 30 in the balcony.
3. Wear a mask.
4. On Sundays, enter and sign-in at Entrance A (the main church door). During the week, sign-in at Entrance C.
5. Wash your hands.
6. Keep your distance (six feet, except with your family or members of your "bubble").
7. No singing.
8. No eating (snacks for children may be brought, but not shared with other children). And BYOW - "bring your own water".
9. Communion is in one kind (bread only) and in procession.
10. One at a time in washrooms and the elevator (with the exception of parents/guardians with children).

Before and After - General cleaning by cleaning staff resumes as before, and between services trained volunteers will ensure that high-touch areas will be cleaned: door handles, bannisters, the top of chairs, etc..

Seat Reservations

Due to a seating limitation of 30% capacity for group gatherings in the Diocesan safety guidelines, we request that you reserve a seat for Sundays. Registration is now open and available by calling the church office (416-499-1545) or by registering online here:

www.stpl.ca/services.html

Choose and click on the service you wish to attend and complete the registration. Kindly pass the word along to those you know who may wish to attend but do not have internet access.

Other Services, Programs and Meetings - Gradually, we plan to resume other services, programs and meetings, but safely and carefully. Watch for updates and announcements.

Summary - Due to broad cooperation across the country, the safety guidelines ensure that it is relatively safe to come back to church in the same way that it is now relatively safe to go to the grocery store, drug store, or hardware store. We are grateful to the Bishops and Diocese for their guidance. Small steps, but all in the right direction. And, as has been true all along, the situation remains dynamic. We'll do our best to keep everyone updated.

Backpacks for School - Ivy Matthews has a supply of backpacks for kids headed back to school. If interested, call her at: 905-947-4635. Thank you, Ivy.

S.P.Y. - St. Paul's Youth - Friday Nights, 7 p.m. - Resuming in September.

Looking for Work - Slowly, businesses are opening and jobs are resuming, and while some of the employment projections are encouraging, we could also be looking at a lot of lost jobs. If you're looking, or know someone who is, here's the national job site: www.jobbank.ca

Friday Night Bible Study - on Zoom - Resuming September 18 - Revelation 9, Lesson 9. Friday nights we are studying the Book of Revelation, one that is often avoided due to its coded language and many symbols. But here's from the study guide we will follow: "In fact, Revelation offers one of the clearest and sharpest visions of God's ultimate purpose for the whole creation, and of the way in which the powerful forces of evil, at work in a thousand ways, can be and are being overthrown through the victory of Jesus the Messiah and the consequent costly victory of his followers." Paperback copies or electronic versions of the study guides can be purchased online at Amazon.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/830877703>

Telephone: 647-374 4685, or 647-558 0588; Meeting ID: 830 877 703

Have you moved? - If you have moved recently, kindly notify the office of your new address, phone number and e-mail address. We appreciate your help.

Gifts and Offerings - The emergency measures and suspension of all church services and programs presents a large challenge to churches and charities dependent on regular gatherings and fundraising events. Your faithful support is as important now as it has ever been. Church Envelopes can be sent by mail.

Members may wish to sign up for the Pre-Authorized Giving Program (contact the office). Or, gifts can be made online at our website through CanadaHelps here: www.stpl.ca/give.html
Members who use online banking may now also make E-transfers (contact the office).

Contact

The clergy of St. Paul's are all in the vicinity. If any one of us can be of service, don't hesitate to call or write.

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