

Welcome to Christ Episcopal Church  
in Cape Girardeau, Missouri

H A P P Y  
*Sunday*



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 20

# The Gathering of God's People

Prelude.....Matt Palisch

Processional Hymn.....#530 Spread, O spread thou mighty word  
*All standing, the Presider says*

*Presider:* Come Holy Spirit, our souls inspire.

*People:* **And fill us with celestial fire!**

*Presider:* 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.**

Song of Praise.....Be a bright flame before me (on p. \_)

## The Collect of the Day

*Presider:* God is with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Presider:* Let us pray:

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## First Reading

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

**M**y joy is gone, grief is upon me,  
my heart is sick.  
Hark, the cry of my poor people  
from far and wide in the land:  
"Is the Lord not in Zion?  
Is her King not in her?"  
("Why have they provoked me to anger with their images,  
with their foreign idols?")  
"The harvest is past, the summer is ended,  
and we are not saved."  
For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt,  
I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me.  
Is there no balm in Gilead?  
Is there no physician there?  
Why then has the health of my poor people  
not been restored?

O that my head were a spring of water,  
and my eyes a fountain of tears,  
so that I might weep day and night  
for the slain of my poor people!

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

**The Psalm**

Psalm 79:1-9

*Deus, venerunt*

- 1 O God, the heathen have come into your inheritance;  
they have profaned your holy temple; \*  
they have made Jerusalem a heap of rubble.
- 2 They have given the bodies of your servants as food for the birds  
of the air, \*  
and the flesh of your faithful ones to the beasts of the  
field.
- 3 They have shed their blood like water on every side of Jerusalem, \*  
and there was no one to bury them.
- 4 We have become a reproach to our neighbors, \*  
an object of scorn and derision to those around us.
- 5 How long will you be angry, O Lord? \*  
will your fury blaze like fire for ever?
- 6 Pour out your wrath upon the heathen who have not known you \*  
and upon the kingdoms that have not called upon  
your Name.
- 7 For they have devoured Jacob \*  
and made his dwelling a ruin.
- 8 Remember not our past sins;  
let your compassion be swift to meet us; \*  
for we have been brought very low.
- 9 Help us, O God our Savior, for the glory of your Name; \*  
deliver us and forgive us our sins, for your Name's sake.

## The Second Reading

1 Timothy 2:1-7

First of all, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For

there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,

Christ Jesus, himself human,

who gave himself a ransom for all

-- this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth..

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

*The People stand for the Hymn and reading of the Gospel.*

Gospel Hymn.....#551 Rise up, ye saints of God

## Third Reading

Luke 16:1-13

Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd

in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

*Presider:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

### Sermon

Gina Mills

### Affirmation of Faith

*Presider:* Let us affirm our faith: Do you believe in God?

*People:* I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

*Presider:* Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

*People:* I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come again to judge the living and the  
dead.

*Presider:* Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

*People:* I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## The Prayers Of The People

*Presider:* We pray for God to fill us with the Holy Spirit.

*Reader:* Generous God, we thank you for the power of your Holy Spirit. We ask that we may be strengthened to serve you better. Come Holy Spirit,

***People:* Renew your people.**

*Reader:* We thank you for the wisdom of your Holy Spirit. We ask you to make us wise to understand your will. Come Holy Spirit,

***People:* Renew your people.**

*Reader:* We thank you for the peace of your Holy Spirit. We ask you to keep us confident of your love wherever you call us. Come Holy Spirit,

***People:* Renew your people.**

*Reader:* We thank you for the healing of your Holy Spirit. We ask you to bring reconciliation and wholeness where there is division, sickness and sorrow. We pray especially for those we name: *(list the sick)* Are there others? Come Holy Spirit,

***People:* Renew your people.**

*Reader:* We thank you for the gifts of your Holy Spirit. We ask you to equip us for the work which you have given us. Come Holy Spirit,

***People:* Renew your people.**

*Reader:* We thank you for the fruit of your Holy Spirit. We ask you to reveal in our lives the love of Jesus. Come Holy Spirit

***People:* Renew your people.**

*Reader:* We thank you for the breath of your Holy Spirit, given us by the risen Lord. We ask you to keep the whole Church, living and departed, in the joy of eternal life. Come Holy Spirit,

***People:* Renew your people.**

*Presider:* Wise and loving God, who rejuvenates and enlivens our days: Give to the Diocese of Missouri congregations engaged in the "Requiem or Renaissance" process the courage to assess honestly, the wisdom to discern your path forward rightly, and the gratitude to continually praise you, who live and reign with the Son and Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

*Presider:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

**All:** 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 your Son 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.

*Presider:* 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.**

**The Peace**

*Presider:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People:** And also with you.

*We greet each other in the name of the risen Christ.*

**Offertory Hymn**.....LEVAS #72 Just a closer walk

**The Agape Meal**

*The Presider and People give thanks for the gift of our daily bread.*

*Presider:* Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe.

**People:** You bring forth bread from the earth; we long for the day when we may once again partake of the bread of life, the Body of your Son Jesus Christ. As grain scattered upon the earth is gathered into one loaf, so gather your Church in every place into the kingdom of your Son. Glory to you for ever and ever. Amen.

*The Presider and People give thanks for the gift of wine.*

*Presider:* Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe.

**People:** You create the fruit of the vine; we long for the day when you will once again refresh us with the cup of salvation in the Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Glory to you for ever and ever. Amen.

*The Presider and People give thanks for the gift of food.*

*Presider:* Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe.

*People:* You have blessed the earth to bring forth food to satisfy our hunger. Let this food strengthen us in the Eucharistic fast that is before us, that following our Savior in the way of the cross, we may come to the joy of his resurrection. Glory to you for ever and ever. Amen.

### The Lord's Prayer

*The Presider then continues*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*All:* 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,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

### Blessing

*A period of silence is kept.*

*Presider:* May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. Amen.

### Announcements

Recessional Hymn.....#594 God of grace and God of glory

### Dismissal

*Presider:* Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the Spirit!  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

*People:* Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude.....Matt Palisch

## Servers

*Presider*

Carl Muench

*Preacher*

Gina Mills

*Reader*

Sue Balsamo

*Greeter*

Monica Waldon

*Altar Guild*

Monica Waldon

*St. Isidore's Guild*

Bruce Mims

*Vestry Counter*

Sue Balsamo

*Organist*

Matt Palisch

## Be a bright flame before me

Carmina Gadelica

Richard Michael Joseph

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are: "Be a bright flame before me, Be a guiding star above me, Be a smooth path below me, And a kindly shepherd behind me, To-day, to-night and forever. A-men." The score includes a repeat sign at the beginning of the first line and a fermata over the final note of the fifth line.

Be a  
bright flame be - fore me, Be a guid - ing star a -  
bove me, Be a smooth path be - low me, And a  
kind - ly shep - herd be - hind me, To - day, to - night and for -  
ev - er. A - men.

# LEVAS 72 Just a closer walk

1. I am weak but thou art strong; \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. Through this world of toil and snares, \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. When my fee - ble life is o'er, \_\_\_\_\_  
*Refrain:* Just a clos - er walk with thee, \_\_\_\_\_

1. Je - sus, keep me from all wrong; — I'll be sat - is - fied as  
 2. If I fal - ter, Lord, who cares? — Who with me my bur - den  
 3. Time for me will be no more; — Guide me gent - ly, safe - ly  
*Refrain:* Grant it, Je - sus, is my plea, — Dai - ly walk - ing close to

*D.C. for Refrain*

1. long \_\_\_\_\_ As I walk, let me walk close to thee.  
 2. shares? \_\_\_\_\_ None but thee, dear — Lord, none but thee.  
 3. o'er \_\_\_\_\_ To Thy king - dom — shore, to thy shore.  
*Refrain:* thee, \_\_\_\_\_ Let it be, dear — Lord, let it be.

Words: Anonymous  
 Music: American Folk Song

# Notes on the Service

## Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jer 8:18-9:1 • Ps 79:1-9 • I Tim 2:1-7 • Lk 16:1-13

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Jeremiah asks, "Why have they provoked me with idols?" Jesus teaches, "You cannot worship God and mammon." Today's collect asks God that we be taught to love things heavenly, not things earthly. Grant that we may "forsake all covetous desires and inordinate love of riches," prayed the collect used 1549-1978 for St. Matthew's feast, September 21.

It is timely to read "the summer is over" four days before the autumn equinox. Although this lament is not dated, the weeping prophet might have composed it when the Judeans had failed to repent even after a summer of drought, or else he composed it when Jerusalem actually was conquered by the Babylonians in 597 B.C. Gilead is the region now known as Jordan. The balm of Gilead was made from the sap of the *Styrax* tree, used by the ancients as an ointment. Jeremiah's question, "Is there no balm in Gilead?" would serve as the opening line of the African-American spiritual.

Ps 79 not only pairs well with Jeremiah's lament; its vv 6-7, "Pour out thy wrath...." appear also in Jeremiah, two chapters from the end of today's excerpt. If Jeremiah was quoting the psalm, then it must be of earlier composition than is often assumed. If the psalmist was quoting Jeremiah, then the psalm could be about any one of several desecrations of the temple by Gentiles; indeed, later Jewish custom would assign it for use during services commemorating the destruction of the second temple.

I Timothy urges us to "make prayers and supplications and give thanks for all, for kings...." That directive was the source of the opening phrase of the Prayer for the Whole State of Christ's Church (in Rite I Eucharist), "Almighty..God, who by thy holy Apostle hast taught us to make prayers and supplications and to give thanks for all men ...." The Apostle (Paul) is urging prayers because that is acceptable to the one God through the one mediator, "the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all," the only place in all the writings attributed to Paul that Mark's term ransom is used to speak of Jesus' work.

Jesus' parable of the dishonest steward perplexes many. Seeing his pink slip coming, a canny manager insures his unemployment security by doing favors for those in positions to help him later. Not all commentators are sure that the last few sentences are congruent with the point of the parable, though all would agree with Luke that one cannot serve God and greed.

September 21 will be the feast of Matthew/Levi the sometime tax collector who became an apostle, and who is credited with having written a Gospel.

**Rev. Stephen Weissman**  
Asheville, North Carolina

Thank you for coming to Christ Episcopal Church.

We hope to see you again soon.



*We are a community forgiven and loved by God,  
joyfully called to the work of reconciliation.*

[christchurchcape.org](http://christchurchcape.org)