

Welcome to Christ Episcopal Church
in Cape Girardeau, Missouri

H A P P Y
Sunday



Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 9

The Gathering of God's People

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.

The Collect of the Day

Presider: God is with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray:

O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Reading

2 Kings 5:1-14

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master, because by him the Lord had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said. And the king of Aram said, "Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel."

He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. He brought the letter to the king of

Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his leprosy." When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me."

But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel." So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean." But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage. But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean'?" So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm

Psalm 30

Exaltabo te, Domine

- 1 I will exalt you, O Lord,
because you have lifted me up *
and have not let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 O Lord my God, I cried out to you, *
and you restored me to health.
- 3 You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead; *
you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.

- 4 Sing to the Lord, you servants of his; *
give thanks for the remembrance of his holiness.
- 5 For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye, *
his favor for a lifetime.
- 6 Weeping may spend the night, *
but joy comes in the morning.
- 7 While I felt secure, I said,
"I shall never be disturbed. *
You, Lord, with your favor, made me as strong as the
mountains."
- 8 Then you hid your face, *
and I was filled with fear.
- 9 I cried to you, O Lord; *
I pleaded with the Lord, saying,
- 10 "What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the Pit? *
will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?"
- 11 Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me; *
O Lord, be my helper."
- 12 You have turned my wailing into dancing; *
you have put off my sack-cloth and clothed me with
joy.
- 13 Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; *
O Lord my God, I will give you thanks for ever.

The Second Reading

Galatians 6:(1-6)7-16

[M]y friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor's work, will become a cause for pride. For all must carry their own

loads.

Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher.]

Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest-time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised-- only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! As for those who will follow this rule-- peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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

Third Reading

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

The Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on

that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.'

"Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me."

The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!" He said to them, "I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

Greg Heisman

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.

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.

Dismissal

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

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

Servers

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|----------------------------|---------------|
| <i>Presider</i> | Chris Master |
| <i>Preacher</i> | Greg Heisman |
| <i>Reader</i> | Bob Lowe |
| <i>Greeter</i> | Monica Waldon |
| <i>Altar Guild</i> | Monica Waldon |
| <i>St. Isidore's Guild</i> | Bruce Mims |
| <i>Vestry Counter</i> | Bob Lowe |

Notes on the Service

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Il Kg 5:1-14 • Ps 30 • Gal 6:(1-6),7-16 • Lk 10:1-11,16-20

The collect, taken from a 7th century book of 6th century prayers, alludes to Jesus' Summary, "keep thy commandments by loving thee and our neighbor," cited by Galatians last Sunday and by Luke next Sunday.

The saga of Elijah's successor as prophet-activist, Elisha, continues. The Syrian commander, Naaman, has been told that a prophet in Israel can cure leprosy. Assuming that that prophet is in the pay of the Israelite king, the Syrian king intercedes with gifts on Naaman's behalf. Miffed, the Is-raelite king, who has no influence over Elisha, accuses the Syrian of trying to provoke an incident. Hearing of the diplomatic uproar, Elisha prescribes a bath in Jordan, which is not dramatic enough for the com-mander. Condescending to follow Elisha's directions, Naaman is clean-sed. In his day, Jesus will heal lepers and will be compared with Elisha.

One might imagine Naaman expressing his thanks for recovery with a poem like Psalm 30 "my God, I cried out to you, and you restored me to health," and regretting his former false confidence, "While I felt secure, I said 'I shall never be disturbed....'" The psalm's actual author is thought to have lived several centuries after Naaman, and to have been so sick that he had expected to die, "I was going down to the grave." Later still, Ps 30 would be sung at Hanukkah to represent Judah nearly exterminated but rescued.

Closing his letter to the Galatians, Paul urges his readers not to tire of doing good. He repeats that no ethnic distinction, such as circumcision, is important compared with faith in Christ. This passage is the source of Bowring's hymn text, "In the Cross of Christ I glory." Paul's statement that he bears on his "body the marks [stigmata] of Jesus" could be understood in the sense of the stigmata of Francis of Assisi and others, although nowhere else is that mentioned, so probably Paul means that he carries scars from his having been flogged for his allegiance to Jesus.

Last Sunday, Jesus declared that his mission was so urgent that his fol-lowers did not have time even to bury their dead parents. Next, Jesus or-ganizes 70 disciples, like Moses' 70 elders at Sinai, into teams of two to canvas villages along his route to Jerusalem, to alert villagers that the kingdom is on its way. They are to be defenseless, and without re-sources other than their terrifying message of salvation and judgment. This appears to be a pilot project, testing disciples for later missions. (Omitted by the lectionary are three verses condemning Galilean towns which already had not accepted Jesus' message.) The experiment was a spectacular success, for Jesus says that he saw the head of all evil, Satan, being destroyed.

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