

Welcome to Christ Episcopal Church
in Cape Girardeau, Missouri

H A P P Y
Sunday



Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 14

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude.....Kevin Hampton, Organist

Processional Hymn.....#533 How wondrous and great thy works

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. 12)

The Collect of the Day

Presider: God is with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray:

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

Hear the word of the Lord,
you rulers of Sodom!

Listen to the teaching of our God,
you people of Gomorrah!

What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices?
says the Lord;

I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams
and the fat of fed beasts;

I do not delight in the blood of bulls,

or of lambs, or of goats.
When you come to appear before me,
 who asked this from your hand?
 Trample my courts no more;
bringing offerings is futile;
 incense is an abomination to me.
New moon and sabbath and calling of convocation--
 I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity.
Your new moons and your appointed festivals
 my soul hates;
they have become a burden to me,
 I am weary of bearing them.
When you stretch out your hands,
 I will hide my eyes from you;
even though you make many prayers,
 I will not listen;
 your hands are full of blood.
Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean;
 remove the evil of your doings
 from before my eyes;
cease to do evil,
 learn to do good;
seek justice,
 rescue the oppressed,
defend the orphan,
 plead for the widow.
Come now, let us argue it out,
 says the Lord:
though your sins are like scarlet,
 they shall be like snow;
though they are red like crimson,
 they shall become like wool.
If you are willing and obedient,
 you shall eat the good of the land;
but if you refuse and rebel,
 you shall be devoured by the sword;
 for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm

Psalm 50:1-8, 23-24

Deus deorum

- 1 The Lord, the God of gods, has spoken; *
he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.
- 2 Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, *
God reveals himself in glory.
- 3 Our God will come and will not keep silence; *
before him there is a consuming flame,
and round about him a raging storm.
- 4 He calls the heavens and the earth from above *
to witness the judgment of his people.
- 5 "Gather before me my loyal followers, *
those who have made a covenant with me
and sealed it with sacrifice."
- 6 Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause; *
for God himself is judge.
- 7 Hear, O my people, and I will speak:
"O Israel, I will bear witness against you; *
for I am God, your God.
- 8 I do not accuse you because of your sacrifices; *
your offerings are always before me.
- 23 Consider this well, you who forget God, *
lest I rend you and there be none to deliver you.
- 24 Whoever offers me the sacrifice of thanksgiving honors me; *
but to those who keep in my way will I show the
salvation of God."

The Second Reading

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old-- and Sarah herself was barren-- because he considered

him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore." All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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

The Sequence Hymn.....LEVAS #72 Just a closer walk with thee

Third Reading

Luke 12:32-40

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailling treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

"Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. "But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

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 Offertory Hymn.....#410 Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven

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.

Recessional Hymn.....LEVAS #192 I need thee ev'ry hour

Dismissal

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

People: Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude.....Kevin Hampton, Organist

Servers

<i>Presider</i>	Bob Lowe
<i>Preacher</i>	Greg Heisman
<i>Reader</i>	Brooke Hildebrand-Clubbs
<i>Greeter</i>	Doc & Karen Cain
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Paula Fetherston
<i>St. Isidore's Guild</i>	Bruce Mims
<i>Vestry Counter</i>	Bob Lowe
<i>Organist</i>	Kevin Hampton

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 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." The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, bar lines, and a fermata over the word "smooth".

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.

Notes on the Service

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Isa 1:1,10-20 • Ps 50:1-8,23-24 • Heb 11:1-3 • Lk 12:32-40

The doctrine of grace underlies the collects for the last 2 Sundays and for today: we require God's help to think and to do what is right; so we ask for it, for without God's help, we cannot even exist, much less do good.

Recent readings have been from Amos and Hosea, prophets who criticized the Northern Kingdom for its luxury and injustice just before it was annexed to the Assyrian Empire in 722. This and next Sunday, readings will be from Isaiah, a priest in the Southern Kingdom during the same era, who was equally critical of his society. The opening list of reigns dates Isaiah's work from 742 to 687 B.C. Today's remarkable passage likens Jerusalem to Sodom and Gomorrah, and dismisses Jerusalem's temple-worship as repulsive to God because it is un-accompanied by virtuous living.

Echoing Isaiah's teaching, Ps 50 pictures God speaking from Mt Zion to rebuke empty rituals. God desires thanks and virtue, not bulls' blood.

During the month following the Feast which celebrates Christ's Transfiguration (Aug. 6), epistles are four passages from Hebrews. Hebrews is about faith in the glorified Christ who pioneered our way to the City of God. Today it takes the Old Testament figures Abel, Enoch, Noah, (vss 4-7, omitted by the lectionary) and, next, Abraham as champions of faithfulness. The lyrical end of this passage is particularly beautiful, "they [people of faith] desire a better country, that is, a heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for he hath prepared for them a city." The final destination of all the faithful, from Abel on, is the City of God. The epistle on August 21 will feature Abel as a prefigure of Christ.

"That dedicated city, dearly loved of God" is the subject of J.M. Neale's text to hymn #518, Christ is Made the Sure Foundation. A high-church pioneer, Neale (1818-'66) wrote or translated many other hymns, and founded the nursing and teaching Sisters of St. Margaret. August 7 is Neale's feast.

Luke 11-12 stresses faith: Faith that our Father will give us our daily bread (July 24); faith that we should be rich toward God, (July 31); faith that we will be provided with eternal treasure, instead of thinking that we have it made, faith for we do not know when the Lord will return from the wedding (today). "Fear not, little flock...." continues this lovely passage, including, "Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not, yet I say unto you that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."

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