

8:00 SERVICE



# The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist

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**The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

September 13, 2020

# MORNING PRAYER

Rite II from the Book of Common Prayer (1979)

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## Opening Acclamation

BCP 78

*Officiant* The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him.

*Habakkuk 2:20*

## Confession of Sin

BCP 79

*Officiant* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence is kept to allow time to confess specific sins to God.

*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.

## Absolution

BCP 80

*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 Invitatory & Psalter

*Officiant* Lord, open our lips.

BCP 80

*People* And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

All Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

## **Jubilate** (*Psalm 100*)

*BCP 82-83*

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; \*  
serve the Lord with gladness  
and come before his presence with a song.  
Know this: The Lord himself is God; \*  
he himself has made us, and we are his;  
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.  
Enter his gates with thanksgiving;  
go into his courts with praise; \*  
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.  
For the Lord is good;  
his mercy is everlasting; \*  
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

## **Psalm 103:8-13**

*BCP Version*

8 The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, \*  
slow to anger and of great kindness.  
9 He will not always accuse us, \*  
nor will he keep his anger for ever.  
10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, \*  
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.  
11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, \*  
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.  
12 As far as the east is from the west, \*  
so far has he removed our sins from us.  
13 As a father cares for his children, \*  
so does the LORD care for those who fear him.

*All* **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

# The Lessons

## First Lesson- Genesis 50:15-21

*Common English Bible*

In our first reading, Joseph forgives his brothers for selling him into slavery in Egypt and cares for them after their father Jacob's death.

When Joseph's brothers realized that their father was now dead, they said, "What if Joseph bears a grudge against us, and wants to pay us back seriously for all of the terrible things we did to him?" So they approached Joseph and said, "Your father gave orders before he died, telling us, 'This is what you should say to Joseph. "Please, forgive your brothers' sins and misdeeds, for they did terrible things to you. Now, please forgive the sins of the servants of your father's God."'" Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

His brothers wept too, fell down in front of him, and said, "We're here as your slaves."

But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I God? You planned something bad for me, but God produced something good from it, in order to save the lives of many people, just as he's doing today. Now, don't be afraid. I will take care of you and your children." So he put them at ease and spoke reassuringly to them.

*Lector*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

A bell is rung. We wait until we cannot hear the residual of the bell ringing anymore before beginning the canticle.

## Canticle 14: A Song of Penitence

*BCP 90-91*

O Lord and Ruler of the hosts of heaven, \*

God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,  
and of all their righteous offspring:

You made the heavens and the earth, \*  
with all their vast array.

All things quake with fear at your presence; \*  
they tremble because of your power.

But your merciful promise is beyond all measure; \*  
it surpasses all that our minds can fathom.

O Lord, you are full of compassion, \*  
long-suffering, and abounding in mercy.

You hold back your hand; \*  
you do not punish as we deserve.

In your great goodness, Lord,

you have promised forgiveness to sinners, \*  
that they may repent of their sin and be saved.  
And now, O Lord, I bend the knee of my heart, \*  
and make my appeal, sure of your gracious goodness.  
I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned, \*  
and I know my wickedness only too well.  
Therefore I make this prayer to you: \*  
Forgive me, Lord, forgive me.  
Do not let me perish in my sin, \*  
nor condemn me to the depths of the earth.  
For you, O Lord, are the God of those who repent, \*  
and in me you will show forth your goodness.  
Unworthy as I am, you will save me,  
in accordance with your great mercy, \*  
and I will praise you without ceasing all the days of my life.  
For all the powers of heaven sing your praises, \*  
and yours is the glory to ages of ages. Amen.

## **Second Lesson- Romans 14:1-12**

*Common English Bible*

In this passage from Romans, Paul is addressing disagreements among the Christians in Rome about which Jewish dietary restrictions and holidays should be observed by followers of Jesus. Paul encourages them to tolerate a diversity of spiritual practices within the community.

Welcome the person who is weak in faith—but not in order to argue about differences of opinion. One person believes in eating everything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. Those who eat must not look down on the ones who don't, and the ones who don't eat must not judge the ones who do, because God has accepted them. Who are you to judge someone else's servants? They stand or fall before their own Lord (and they will stand, because the Lord has the power to make them stand). One person considers some days to be more sacred than others, while another person considers all days to be the same. Each person must have their own convictions. Someone who thinks that a day is sacred, thinks that way for the Lord. Those who eat, eat for the Lord, because they thank God. And those who don't eat, don't eat for the Lord, and they thank the Lord too. We don't live for ourselves and we don't die for ourselves. If we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we belong to God. This is why Christ died and lived: so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. But why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you look down on your brother or sister? We all will stand in front of the judgment seat of God. Because it is written,

*As I live, says the Lord, every knee will bow to me,  
and every tongue will give praise to God.*

So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

*Lector*     The Word of the Lord.

*People*     **Thanks be to God.**

A bell is rung. We wait until we cannot hear the residual of the bell ringing anymore before beginning the canticle.

## **Canticle 17: The Song of Simeon**

*BCP 94*

Lord, you now have set your servant free \*  
to go in peace as you have promised;  
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, \*  
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:  
A Light to enlighten the nations, \*  
and the glory of your people Israel.

*All*   **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

## **Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:21-35**

*Common English Bible*

After last week's Gospel reading about conflict in the church, Peter follows up with a question about how many times one should attempt the process of reconciliation with someone.

Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Should I forgive as many as seven times?"

Jesus said, "Not just seven times, but rather as many as seventy-seven times. Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle accounts, they brought to him a servant who owed him ten thousand bags of gold. Because the servant didn't have enough to pay it back, the master ordered that he should be sold, along with his wife and children and everything he had, and that the proceeds should be used as payment. But the servant fell down, kneeled before him, and said, 'Please, be patient with me, and I'll pay you back.' The master had compassion on that servant, released him, and forgave the loan.

"When that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him one hundred coins. He grabbed him around the throat and said, 'Pay me back what you owe me.'

"Then his fellow servant fell down and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I'll pay you

back.’ But he refused. Instead, he threw him into prison until he paid back his debt.

“When his fellow servants saw what happened, they were deeply offended. They came and told their master all that happened. His master called the first servant and said, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you appealed to me. Shouldn’t you also have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?’ His master was furious and handed him over to the guard responsible for punishing prisoners, until he had paid the whole debt.

“My heavenly Father will also do the same to you if you don’t forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

*Lector*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

A bell is rung. The preacher waits until they cannot hear the residual of the bell ringing anymore before beginning the sermon.

### **Sermon: The Rev. Tracy Wells Miller, Rector**

A moment of silence follows the sermon.

### **The Apostles’ Creed**

*BCP 96*

*All*    **I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
          creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
          and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He 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,  
          and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
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

## The Lord's Prayer

BCP 97

*Server* The Lord be with you.

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

*Server* Let us pray.

*All* **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.**

## Suffrages B

BCP 98

*Server* Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

*People* **Govern and uphold them, now and always.**

*Server* Day by day we bless you;

*People* **We praise your Name for ever.**

*Server* Lord, keep us from all sin today;

*People* **Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.**

*Server* Lord, show us your love and mercy;

*People* **For we put our trust in you.**

*Server* In you, Lord, is our hope;

*People* **And we shall never hope in vain.**

## Collect of the Day

*Server* O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**



## A Collect for Sundays

BCP 98

*Server* O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## A Collect for the Peace

BCP 99

*Server* O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Prayer for Mission

BCP 100

*Server* Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## Community Prayers

### For Birthdays:

BCP 830

Watch over **Suzanne** Krakover-Nickel (14), **Tara** Ireland (15), **Jan** Beebe (16), **Michael** DeArmond (18), and **Anne** Sherwood (18), O Lord, as their days increase. Bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### For Baptism Anniversaries:

Almighty God, through baptism you unite us to the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ and commission us for ministry in his name. As your servants \_\_\_\_\_ celebrate the anniversary of their baptism, give them courage, patience, and vision, and strengthen them in their Christian vocation of witness to the world and of service to others, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**For Wedding Anniversaries:**

*BCP 431*

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church; send therefore your blessing upon your servants **Peter Goodman & Maureen “Mo” McCarty (15)**; that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**For Travelers:**

*BCP 831*

O God, our heavenly Father, whose glory fills the whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go: Preserve those who travel, in particular \_\_\_\_\_; surround them with your loving care; protect them from every danger; and bring them in safety to their journey's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**The General Thanksgiving**

*BCP 101*

*All*            Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
                  we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
                  for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
                  to us and to all whom you have made.  
                  We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
                  and all the blessings of this life;  
                  but above all for your immeasurable love  
                  in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
                  for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
                  And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
                  that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
                  not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
                  by giving up our selves to your service,  
                  and by walking before you  
                  in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
                  through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
                  to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
                  be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

## Closing Versicle & Response

BCP 102

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

## Concluding Sentence

BCP 102

*Officiant* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.** *2 Corinthians 13:14*

## Serving Today at 8 a.m.

*Presider & Preacher:* The Rev. Tracy Wells Miller

*Server:* Nelson Crandall

*Lesson:* Barb Raney

*Epistle:* Margy Cottle

*Gospel:* Bart Coddington

*Scripture Introductions:* The Rev. Tracy Wells Miller

## Contact Information

### Clergy

**The Reverend Tracy J. Wells Miller, Rector**

rector@st-john-aptos.org / (831) 708-6828 (text preferred when possible)

**The Reverend Joan Anderson, Deacon**

deaconjoan@st-john-aptos.org (new)

### Church Office

Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 9 am - 2 pm

*Phone:* (831) 708-2278 (Church main line- **Please leave voice mail!**)

*Text:* (831) 708-6850 (Office Manager's direct line)

*Email:* admin@st-john-aptos.org

**Pastoral Care Line:** 831-531-7152 (call or text)

For prayer requests, to notify the church of surgery or hospitalizations, to schedule meals or rides, etc. (Pastoral Care Committee members take turns answering this line.)

**Clergy On-Call Line: 831-531-7187** (for urgent needs or emergencies, 24/7)