

15th Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 20

September 21, 2014



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
1512 Willow
Blytheville, AR 72315

The Rt. Rev. Larry Benfield, Bishop of Arkansas
Fr. John Scott Trotter

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Opening Rites

BCP 78

You are no longer strangers and sojourners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God. *Ephesians 2:19*

Confession of Sin

Officiant Let us confess our sins to God.

The people kneel as they are able.

A period of silence is kept.

All say together

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

Officiant:

May the Almighty God grant us forgiveness of all our sins, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

The people stand as they are able.

Invitatory and Psalter

Invitatory

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People *And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.*

Officiant and People 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.

BCP 81

The mercy of the Lord is everlasting: Come let us adore him.

The Invitatory

BCP 82

Jubilate Psalm 100

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.

A period of silence is kept.

Psalm

Psalm 105:1-6,37-45

BCP p. 738

I Give thanks to the LORD and call upon his Name; *

make known his deeds among the peoples.

- 2 Sing to him, sing praises to him, *
and speak of all his marvelous works.
- 3 Glory in his holy Name; *
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
- 4 Search for the LORD and his strength; *
continually seek his face.
- 5 Remember the marvels he has done, *
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,
- 6 O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
O children of Jacob his chosen.
- 37 He led out his people with silver and gold; *
in all their tribes there was not one that stumbled.
- 38 Egypt was glad of their going, *
because they were afraid of them.
- 39 He spread out a cloud for a covering *
and a fire to give light in the night season.
- 40 They asked, and quails appeared, *
and he satisfied them with bread from heaven.
- 41 He opened the rock, and water flowed, *
so the river ran in the dry places.
- 42 For God remembered his holy word *
and Abraham his servant.
- 43 So he led forth his people with gladness, *
his chosen with shouts of joy.
- 44 He gave his people the lands of the nations, *
and they took the fruit of others' toil,
- 45 That they might keep his statutes *
and observe his laws.
Hallelujah!

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 Liturgy of the Word

The people sit.

First Lesson

A reading from The Book of Exodus (16:2-15).

²The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.” ⁴Then the Lord said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. ⁵On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” ⁶So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?” ⁸And Moses said, “When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord.” ⁹Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.’” ¹⁰And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. ¹¹The Lord spoke to Moses and said, ¹²“I have heard the

complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’” ¹³ In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴ When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵ When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.

The Word of the Lord
People
Thanks be to God

A period of silence is kept.

Canticle

The First Song of Isaiah

Canticle 9

BCP p. 86

Isaiah 12:2-6

Canticle 9

The First Song of Isaiah

Ecce, Deus

Surely, it is God who saves me; *

I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *
and he will be my Savior.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *
from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say, *

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;
Make his deeds known among the peoples; *
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *
and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

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.

A period of silence is kept.

Second Lesson

A reading from The Letter of Paul to the Philippians (1:21-30).

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. ²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people
People
Thanks be to God

A period of silence is kept.

Hymn

The Hymnal 1982 #543 - O Zion, tune thy voice

A period of silence is kept.

The Gospel

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (20:1-16).

¹“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

The Word of the Lord
People
Thanks be to God

A period of silence is kept.

Sermon

The people stand as they are able.

The Apostles' Creed

All say together

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 people stand or kneel, as they are able.

The Prayers

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Officiant Let us pray.

***Officiant and
People***

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.

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;
R. Govern and uphold them, now and always.
V. Day by day we bless you;
R. We praise your Name for ever.
V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;
R. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.
V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;
R. For we put our trust in you.
V. In you, Lord, is our hope;
R. And we shall never hope in vain.

Collect

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.*

Collect

BCP 98

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.*

Prayer for Mission

O God and Father of all, whom the whole heavens adore: Let the whole earth also worship you, all nations obey you, all tongues confess and bless you, and men and women everywhere love you and serve you in peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Hymn

The Hymnal 1982 #411 O bless the Lord my soul

Prayers of the People

BCP 389

Intercessor

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, “Lord, have mercy”

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For N. our Presiding Bishop, for N. (N.) our own Bishop(s), for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who do not yet believe, and for those who have lost their faith, that they may receive the light of the Gospel, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those in positions of public trust [especially _____], that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who live and work in this community [especially _____], we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For a blessing upon all human labor, and for the right use of the riches of creation, that the world may be freed from poverty, famine, and disaster, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this congregation [for those who are present, and for those who

are absent], that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our enemies and those who wish us harm; and for all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For ourselves; for the forgiveness of our sins, and for the grace of the Holy Spirit to amend our lives, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For _____ , we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of [the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, (blessed N.) and] all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

To you, O Lord our God.

Collect

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

General Thanksgiving

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.

Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Closing Sentence

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:20, 21

Prayer List

Joe, Billy, Mary, Dale, Randy, Joyce, Eaton, April Hise, Blake, Londa, Sara and Rey, Anita, Charlotte, Pat, Lori & Reyan, Bryant family, Charles, Carolyn, Caden, “E” Angie, Marcel, Ginny, Tri and Lucca; Michelle, Russell & Drace; the Nelson family, Barbara Dale and Dale, Frances, Randy, The Burnett and Stallings family, Linda, Debbie W, Matthew, Kathy and her family, Robin Moore and family, the Wilder family, those suffering from seasonal storms, meals on wheels, making better men of young men, those serving our country, those traveling, and for those we now name...

Calendar

9/21 15th Sunday after Pentecost
9:00 am Worship
10:00 am fellowship

9/23 6:00 pm Al-Anon

9/24 6:00 pm Emmaus Dinner

9/26 6:00 pm Friday Families

9/27 8:00 Cleaner Safer Blytheville

9:00 am – 1:00 pm Health and Wellness Expo
Blytheville Elementary 216 East Molutrie

10:00 am – 3:00 pm Fall Fair
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

9/28 16th Sunday after Pentecost
9:00 am Worship
10:00 am fellowship & vestry meeting

10/5 2:00 pm Blessing of the animals 1st Methodist, Blytheville

'The Journey' Weekend Retreat

Oct. 17–19, at Camp Mitchell

This new retreat is an adaptation of the Cursillo weekend—but it is not a Cursillo. The Journey takes the best of the Cursillo method and adapts the weekend to a shorter, more compact retreat experience. Gone is all the Cursillo lingo. The talks are shorter and more focused. The retreat will start on Friday evening and end Sunday afternoon and is open to members of all denominations. Download the brochure for more information. Space is limited, so download the application and register now.

Learn About Dick Johnston Camp

Saturday, Nov. 1, at Camp Mitchell

Dick Johnston Camp is a summer camp session held at Camp Mitchell annually for children with one or both parents in prison. The planning committee is actively preparing for next year's camp, and wants to involve more parishes and volunteers in the areas of camper recruitment, scholarships, fundraising and camp leadership. There will be an informational session and lunch Nov. 1 at Camp Mitchell, followed by a planning session for those who wish to stay. Download a registration form. For more information, or if you cannot attend but would like to volunteer, please email Kristi Palmer or call 501-940-1591.

Worship Leaders

| Date | Proper | Service | EM Worship Ldr | reader | Intercessor |
|-------------|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| 9/21 | Pent. 15 Proper 20 | MP | Connie | Liz | Beth |
| 9/28 | Pent. 16 Proper 21 | | Kathryn | | Connie |

Calvary Episcopal Church - Blessing of the Animals

Calvary Episcopal Church and First United Methodist Church of Osceola invite all creatures great and small — and of all faiths and feathers — to the 2nd Annual Blessing of the Animals, 3:00 p.m. Saturday, October 4, 2014. This event will be held in conjunction with the UMC Country Fair at their north lawn located at 303 S Pecan St, Osceola, AR. The Rev. Canon Jason Alexander, Episcopal Church, Little Rock; and Rev. Tony Hill, United Methodist Church, Osceola, will officiate.

St. Francis of Assisi, whose feast day is October 4, is the inspiration for the blessing of the animals ceremony. St. Francis is believed to have had a great love for animals and it is said that he once preached to his “sisters the birds.” He believed that humans have the great fortune of enjoying the natural world but also the responsibility of being stewards of all God’s creation. During the blessing of the animals ceremony prayers will be said remembering St. Francis’ example for us and blessings will be given for all people and pets in attendance! Please bring all animals properly restrained for the safety of the other animals and their people in attendance.

NOTE: There will also be a drive to benefit the Osceola Animal Shelter as well. Please help support Osceola's forgotten pet population by bringing one of the following items: dry dog or cat food, dog biscuits, kitty litter, collars, old blankets and towels.

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