

ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Season after Pentecost Worship Bulletin August 23, 2020

Virtual Service 9:30 a.m. on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/stgeorgestc/>

Welcome to St. George's! We are blessed by your attendance at our worship today.

The Rev. Robin Reeves-Kautz, Rector
510 13th Avenue North
Texas City, Texas 77590
(409) 945-2583
www.stgeorgestc.org

You can find our Current and Past Bulletins for Virtual Services on our website at:
<https://www.stgeorgestc.org/sunday-worship-services-online/>

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

The Word of God

Processional Hymn
“Be Still and Know”

The Word of God

Opening Acclamation

BCP 355

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Collect for Purity

BCP 355

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.*

Kyrie Eleison

BCP 356

Celebrant Lord, have mercy.
People **Christ, have mercy.**
Celebrant Lord, have mercy.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Old Testament

LayReader A Reading (Lesson) from **Exodus 1:8-2:10**

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, “Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.” Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, “When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.” But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?”

The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.” So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, “Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.”

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, “This must be one of the Hebrews’ children,” she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?” Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Yes.” So the girl went and called the child’s mother. Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.” So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, “because,” she said, “I drew him out of the water.”

LayReader The Word of the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

LayReader Join me in reading **Psalm 124** by half phrase.

1 If the LORD had not been on our side, *
let Israel now say;

2 If the LORD had not been on our side, *
when enemies rose up against us;

3 Then would they have swallowed us up alive *
in their fierce anger toward us;

4 Then would the waters have overwhelmed us *
and the torrent gone over us;

5 Then would the raging waters *
have gone right over us.

6 Blessed be the LORD! *
he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.

7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; *
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

8 Our help is in the Name of the LORD, *
the maker of heaven and earth.

The Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
 according to Matthew.

People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of the Lord.

People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

The Homily

Prayer in the Face of a Pandemic: A Litany

Healing, sustaining, restoring and compassionate God,
whose grace is greater than frightening viruses and
frustrating vulnerability and even the virus of racism
and division,

**Breathe new life into our hurting world and our
daunting journey.**

Remind us of the trustworthiness of your promise,
that you will never leave us nor forsake us.

**Reawaken our souls to this Resurrection truth—
that our fear is not our governor; that our frailty
does not have the final word to speak; and that our
suffering is never the end of our story.**

We hurt with the crisis of this coronavirus, those hurting
from racial injustice and division across our land.

**We break with those who are broken in this global
pandemic.**

We remember those who are afflicted with the virus.

**Bring to these hurting souls a healing that restores,
a strength that sustains, and a joy so durable that
nothing can diminish it.**

We remember medical professionals on whom our lives
depend, who are placing themselves in harm's way daily
to provide aid to afflicted patients.

**Equip them with strength beyond their strength,
courage beyond their courage, and a fresh awareness
of how deeply their work matters.**

We remember the most vulnerable in our midst:
The homebound, nursing home-bound, and hospitalized;
those whose vitality belies their years; those whose
financial vulnerability inspires anguish; those whose
addiction cries out for a journey of recovery; those whose
depression generates a crippling sense of isolation.

**Come, Lord Jesus. Come as a companion, encourager,
and deliverer in every circumstance where people feel
alone, isolated, marginalized, and desperate.**

We remember those whose employment is severely
impacted by bans, mandates, and restrictions.

**Come, Holy Spirit. Bring unexpected provision,
unanticipated contingency, and unforeseen blessing.**

We remember families that must both accommodate
new realities and adjust to unplanned rhythms.

**Come, Parenting God, and initiate within our families a
compassion for all, an energized patience, an expanded
playfulness, and an elevated penchant for loving.**

We remember your church, taken out of its normal
patterns and practices.

**Holy God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—awaken in
your church a vision for what it means to connect in
the midst of disconnection, to engage in the midst of
disengagement, to bless in a season of reoriented blessing.**

We remember those who are cynical about this crisis—
and those who feel secure and unthreatened.

**Crucified, Resurrected Christ, humble us in our
arrogance; disrupt us in our artificial sense of safety; and
transform our cynicism into an eagerness to stand
alongside those who are hurting.**

Let your love be our breathing. Let your compassion
be our heartbeat. Let your mind become our mind.
**Let your Way be our way; your Truth our truth; your
Life our life.**

Most of all—Heartbroken, Weeping, and Resurrecting
God—remind us that you are not watching our struggle
from a distance.

**Speak to us afresh the truth that you are with us,
allowing your tears to commingle with ours, allowing
your heart to break with ours, allowing your intimate
grace to redeem our suffering, our sickness, and our
sorrow.**

In this [time of suffering], where the cross looms large,
**usher us into the cadences of Resurrection, so that we
might engage in the stewardship of life amid the
trappings of death.**

Come, Lord Jesus!
Come, Lifegiving Spirit!

Come, Universe-Creating, Circumstance-Transforming God!
**Come and bring wholeness in our brokenness, hope in
our despair, healing in our hurting, life in our death.**

Reform our hearts, O God.
**Redirect our way. On the canvas of our journey,
display the colors of your grace.**

Rework our desires, O God. Recreate our will.
**Like a Poet come and rewrite our song,
that we might sing for you.**

Confession of Sin

BCP 359

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our
neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

**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.***

The Celebrant concludes with an absolution or a suitable Collect.

The Absolution

BCP 360

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

BCP 360

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The Blessing

The Priest, gives the blessing.

Recessional Hymn

“Are you Willing”

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**