

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

22405 N. Miller Rd., Scottsdale, Arizona 85255 | www.NativityScottsdale.org | 480-307-9216

*Our Mission: To transform lives with the love of God In Jesus Christ.
All are welcome! No Exceptions!*

July 12, 2026 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost



Today's Celebrant -
Holy Eucharist - 9 am
The Rev. Wayne V Whitney, PhD., Associate Rector



All church activities may be internet streamed, video recorded, and photographed for church uses. Entry on to the church campus or into any church building constitutes consent to be streamed, videotaped, or photographed for church purposes. Scent-Free Seating in the Nave - Because some folks have allergy issues, we have created a scent-free section in the front left part of the sanctuary. Please sit in that section only if you are free of scented items such as perfume, hairspray, after-shave, body spray, hand lotion, etc. It's an act of hospitality.

Acknowledgement and Thanksgiving for the Land

The Episcopal Church of the Nativity is situated on the ancestral land of the Huhugam and Salado people and present day O'odham, Yavapai, and Apache people who traveled throughout this land. We respectfully acknowledge and honor all Tribal communities - past and present - for their ongoing stewardship of this land. We commit ourselves to actively work alongside indigenous people for reconciliation and justice as we live into our Baptismal Covenant and respect the dignity of every person.

Opening Hymn *Come thou font of every blessing, Hymnal 686 vs 1-3*
Collect of the Day Prayerbook 231

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Proclamation of the Word

First Lesson: Genesis 25:19-34

These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the Lord. And the Lord said to her,

"Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger."

When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called Edom.) Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Psalm 119:105-112 *Let us read it responsively by whole verse.*

105 Your word is a lantern to my feet
and a light upon my path.

106 **I have sworn and am determined
to keep your righteous judgments.**

107 I am deeply troubled; preserve my life,
O Lord, according to your word.

108 **Accept, O Lord, the willing tribute of my lips,
and teach me your judgments.**

109 My life is always in my hand,
yet I do not forget your law.

110 **The wicked have set a trap for me,
but I have not strayed from your commandments.**

111 Your decrees are my inheritance for ever;
truly, they are the joy of my heart.

112 **I have applied my heart to fulfill your statutes
for ever and to the end.**

Second Lesson: Romans 8:1-11

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law-- indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Gospel Hymn: *Holy Spirit, ever living*
Hymnal 511 vs. 1 before Gospel vs. 2 after the Gospel

Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!”

“Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

Sermon: The Rev. Scot McComas, Rector
(a few moments of silence follow the sermon)

Nicene Creed Prayerbook 358

Prayers of the People

Leader: Heavenly Sower, we offer you grateful hearts for the seeds of faith, mercy, compassion and justice that have been planted in us each season. Give us lives that nurture the good news so that we can share the harvest of your love with others and hear us as we pray, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: Give to the church universal the ability to thrive in times of change, help those who are seeking a deeper knowledge of you find a church community that will inspire, support and delight them. Lord in your mercy,

Leader: Bless this nation and all who govern. Bless all nations and all people with health, peace and safety. Lord in your mercy,

Leader: Give us the will to bring peace, justice and security to all people. Guide us forward that we might end the systems of discrimination and racism so that all your beloved are provided equitable opportunities and safety. Lord in your mercy,

Leader: Comfort those who suffer from abuse, discrimination, disease, anxiety, loneliness, unemployment, homelessness, or hopelessness with your sustaining presence. Lord in your mercy,

Leader: Grant healing to those who are ill from any illness, protect all those who tirelessly work to heal and care for the sick and suffering. We especially pray for Cheryle, Therese, Glenn, Kevin, Kimber, Clint, Jim, Nancy, Norma, Paul, Fred, Mack, Bill, Susan, Carole, Mary Anne, Jeff, Margaret, the Houshmand family, and the Graves family. Lord in your mercy,

Leader: Deliver the departed into the joy of your kingdom and blanket the grieving with your comfort and peace. Keep us ever mindful that whether we live or whether we die, we are yours and we are loved. Lord in your mercy,

Leader: Create peace around the world where conflict abides: in the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and Africa; as well as in our own United States. We pray for the people effected by earthquakes. Lord in your mercy,

Leader: In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for St. Michael's in Coolidge. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for the Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan. Lord in your mercy,

Leader: We ask all these things through Jesus Christ,
our only strength and advocate.

People: Amen.

Offering Music *O Come to the Altar*, Elevation Worship, Clara White

Communion Music *Just as I am*, Hymnal 693

Closing Hymn *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!* Hymnal 460 vs 1,4,5

*The altar flowers today are given to the glory of God,
in thanksgiving for the United States of America
on our 250th birthday!*

By Michael Drexler



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bible Discussion

Our next Discussion Group meeting will be **July 14**, at 11:00 Am in the Bethlehem Room of the young person area. We should be finishing our time with the Book of Matthew. We will be moving on to another book in the Bible then. It is a great time to attend and give us your ideas of which Book you would be interested in. Our discussions continue to be a source of joy and learning to all of us. Consider joining us. We are open and welcoming and hope to see you there in the coming months. For information call Suzie Chamness at (727) 549-1260.

The Nativity Book Lover's Group will be taking a summer break and will meet again on **September 10**. We will be reading Ken Follett's most recent novel "Circle of Days" over the summer. Hope you have an opportunity to read it and join us for the discussion. Any questions, please contact Rubie Czerwinski at 402-578-6336 or rubiec@hotmail.com.

Summer Schedule

Through Labor Day, Sunday morning services at Nativity are at 9 am. The choir is off for the summer yet we still have music with a few singers and our pianist Owen Williams. The Rev. Wayne Whitney, PhD continues live Power Bible Study after the 9 am service on his non-preaching Sundays.

Neighborhood Rides?

Would you or someone that you know like to attend services but can't drive or are not able to drive? We are considering a new program to help with transportation to and from both the 8 am service and the 10 am service and would like your input. We would gather a list of people who need transportation and match them with parishioners that are willing to provide transportation. The match would be with the same person each Sunday if possible. If interested contact Susan Reynolds at OctoberHill@oathill.com phone 925-786-4400 or Kimber V. Narusis at KimberNarusis@gmail.com phone 815-861-9340.