



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!



August 23, 2026 Thirteenth 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 *Praise My Soul, the King of heaven* Hymnal 410, vs 1,2,4

Collect of the Day *Prayerbook* 232

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.

The Proclamation of the Word

First Lesson: 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."

Psalm 124

**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.**

Second Lesson: Romans 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-- what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Gospel Hymn: *Glorious things of thee are spoken* Hymnal 522-523 vs. 1 before Gospel vs. 2 after the Gospel

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

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.

Sermon: The Rev. Wayne V Whitney, PhD., Associate Rector (*a few moments of silence follow the sermon*)

Prayers of the People

Heavenly Father, through Christ, you came into the world to be truth and life to all who know you. Give us the insight to claim your kingship in our lives and to proclaim this truth to the world as we pray Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the church, for those who lead worship, for those who pray, for those who prophesy, for those who teach, and for those who serve the world in your name. That together, we might fulfill your mission. Lord in your mercy,

We pray for this nation; for all in authority and for those who strive to better the lives of all people in our country, that it might be a place of promise and possibility. Lord in your mercy,

We pray for the welfare of the world; for those who are persecuted and cry for justice; for those who hunger and thirst for knowledge and freedom; for those who work for the common good. That we may know peace and justice in all the world. Lord in your mercy,

We pray for the needs of our communities; for the hopes of families and for the needs of each of us gathered here. That we might live abundantly. Lord in your mercy,

We pray for those who suffer, for relief and comfort and we pray for all who are in need. Asking also that we may be part of this healing in meaningful ways. We especially pray for Cheryle, Therese, Glenn, Kevin, Clint, Jim, Nancy, Paul, Fred, Mack, Bill, Susan, Carole, Jeff, Margaret, Susan, Inge, and the Cohen family. Lord in your mercy,

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for St. John the Baptist in Glendale. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for The Church of the Province of West Africa. Lord in your mercy,

We pray for the dying and the deceased, that all may find a loving home in the kingdom promised to us through our savior. We pray also for those who mourn, that they may be comforted now, in their time of need. Lord in your mercy,

We offer all these prayers and praises to you O God and ask that they may be granted as may be best for us and for the world. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Offering Music *O the Blood* Thomas & Mary Miller, Trenton Halterman

Communion Music *How Great Is Our God*, Chris Tomlin, sung by Tamra Duncan & Trenton Halterman

Closing Hymn *Joyful Joyful we adore thee* Hymnal 376 vs 1-3



*The altar flowers today are given to the Glory of God
in joyous celebration of Cheryles' 79th birthday
by the Dunkelberg Family*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Transition Update

As you know, shortly after Fr. Scot's departure, the vestry met with the Canon to the Ordinary (Bishop's assistant) Robert Phillips, and outlined the process for replacing Fr. Scot. We departed from the usual process of securing an interim rector who would guide us in a formal search process. Instead, the vestry will choose a viable candidate for interim, and if after the year's end the vestry and the candidate agree that the match is good, then we will select him/her as our permanent rector. If it is agreed that the match is not good, then we will reopen the search process. This should improve our efficiency and the speed at which a replacement rector is installed.

The vestry met again on Thursday, the 20th, defined the profile of the ideal replacement rector, and started to review resumes for the candidates we have so far. Canon Robert will come to Nativity Sunday, August 30, and speak with the church as a whole. We hope to be able to announce a selection in the near future. We will keep you posted on the progress.

Take Them A Meal:

"Would you like to help some Nativity friends in need? Are you a good cook and enjoy your time in the kitchen? Do you like preparing meals? We have a "TAKE THEM A MEAL" program here at Nativity that jumps in whenever someone in the church is home recovering from surgery or a hospital stay. We use an online site that organizes dates and meals that can be prepared and delivered by you to our friends in their homes. Fortunately, this only happens occasionally, but if you are interested, please either call, text or tell Haidee Williams haideeonly@gmail.com, 772,713,9502) that you would like to be on the "cooking list" next time a parishioner needs our help.

Native American Ministries of Nativity

Cleaning Kitchen Drive for Native American elders being assisted by Native Health of Phoenix. Native American Ministries of Nativity will be holding a collection of the following items for Native Americans Elders who are struggling to make ends meet in the Phoenix area.

Items needed:

Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Toilet Cleaner, Dish Soap, Kitchen Towels, Kitchen Scrubbies, Windex, Laundry Soap, Clorox Wipes, Hand Sanitizer, Pinesol, Trash Bags. Collection will be for the first 3 weeks of August in box in Christopher Hall. Please help us help these Seniors who are living away from the Reservation and often very isolated. Any questions, please contact Liz Northcott at 480-694-9084.

Music Ministry Update

If you have a heart for singing and would like to join the choir please join us on Wednesday Sept. 16th at 6:30 for rehearsal. We sing at the 10 am service and do a run through at 9 am. If you would like more information please contact Tamra at tamraduncan@thenativity.net.