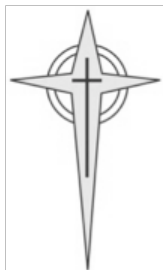


THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

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!



September 13, 2026

The 16th Sunday after Pentecost



Today's Celebrant

Holy Eucharist Rite I - 8 am & Holy Eucharist Rite II - 10 am

The Rev. Wayne 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

Acknowledging the people of the land, the Akimel O'odham, O'odham Jewed, Hohokam, and other indigenous people as original stewards of this land, we give thanks for our ancestors, our elders, and for all indigenous peoples. 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.

During the 8:00 service: During the 10:00 service:

Opening Hymn

Great is thy faithfulness
771(W1V) 1-3

Opening Acclamation

Prayerbook 323

Prayerbook 355

Song of Praise

Prayerbook 324

Hymnal S280

Collect of the Day

Prayerbook 182

Prayerbook 233

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.

The Proclamation of the Word

First Lesson: Exodus 14:19-31

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Psalm 114 *Book of Common Prayer* p. 756

1 Hallelujah!

**When Israel came out of Egypt, *
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,**

**2 Judah became God's sanctuary *
and Israel his dominion.**

**3 The sea beheld it and fled; *
Jordan turned and went back.**

**4 The mountains skipped like rams, *
and the little hills like young sheep.**

**5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? *
O Jordan, that you turned back?**

**6 You mountains, that you skipped like rams? *
you little hills like young sheep?**

**7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, *
at the presence of the God of Jacob,**

**8 Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water *
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.**

Second Lesson: Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

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

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Gospel Hymn: *Guide me, O thou great Jehovah* Hymnal 690
(vs. 1 before the Gospel, vs. 2 after the Gospel)

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’

But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Sermon: The Rev. Wayne Whitney, PhD | Associate Rector

(a few moments of silence follow the sermon)

	<u>During the 8:00 service:</u>	<u>During the 10:00 service:</u>
Nicene Creed	Prayerbook 326	Prayerbook 358
Prayers of the People	Prayerbook 329	(on the screens)
Confession	Prayerbook 330	Prayerbook 360
The Peace		
Announcements, Birthday and Anniversary Blessings		
Offering Anthem		<i>Living Hope, Phil Wickham, Clara White</i>

	<u>During the 8:00 service:</u>	<u>During the 10:00 service:</u>
Doxology	Hymnal 380 vs 3 (spoken)	Hymnal 380 vs 3
The Great Thanksgiving	Prayerbook 340	Prayer A - Prayerbook 361
The Sanctus	Prayerbook 341	Hymnal S129
The Lord's Prayer	Prayerbook 336	Prayerbook 364
Breaking of the Bread	Prayerbook 337	Hymnal S154

The Invitation to Communion

All who seek God are welcome to the Lord's Table to receive the Bread and Wine of Christ's Body and Blood. Even if you do not seek God, God seeks you. For those who would like to receive a gluten-free wafer, please cross your hands palms-down. If you would prefer a blessing instead of communion, fold your arms across your chest. Healing prayers and prayers of Intercession are available during the 10 am service in the Prayer Chapel during Communion.

	<u>During the 8:00 service:</u>	<u>During the 10:00 service:</u>
Communion Hymn		Amazing Grace Hymnal 671
Post-Communion Prayer	Prayerbook 339	Prayerbook 365
The Blessing		
Closing Hymn		
Hymnal		<i>We all are one in mission</i> 755 (W1V)
Dismissal		



*The altar flowers today are given
to the glory of God,
in loving memory of friends gone to soon.
By Margaret Cohea*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bible Study - The next gathering is Tuesday, **October 27** at 11 am. The class is welcoming, engaging and open to all interested. Take prayer time to discern your interest in giving God time to join us in our discussion. For info please text or email the Rev. Dr. Suzie Chamness at (727) 549-1260 or suz61146@yahoo.com.

Share the Gift of Rest - Our 7th Annual Pillow Drive begins TODAY! We're collecting new, standard-size pillows for Native American Connection, supporting individuals, families and children across the Valley. Your donation will go directly to individuals transitioning out of homelessness or into supportive housing. Help us reach our goal of 100 pillows by October 11th. Drop off your donations in the bin located in Christopher Hall, or order online using the QR code on the flyer.

Transition Update

As part of our search process, we are expanding the process to solicit the thoughts and feelings of the parish at large. Canon Robert has suggested this and agreed to facilitate the process. His invitation is included below and everyone is encouraged to attend. Remember this is your parish and your input is needed.

Greetings Nativity!

It was a blessing to meet with you and discuss your current transition process. As an integral part of the transition process, I would like to offer you an opportunity to voice your experience of life at Nativity through a facilitated parish-wide gathering on Sunday, September 20th, after the 10:00 AM service. I will facilitate the session (running no more than 90 minutes) using a tool that highlights and assesses signs of parish vitality.

I truly hope that you will participate in this gathering, as your input will be of paramount importance to the Vestry as they connect with and discern possible candidates.

I'm excited and look forward to being with you soon!

*Blessings to all,
Canon Robert+*

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**.