

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost July 23, 2017

Opening Hymn #375 *Give Praise & Glory unto God*

Song of Praise #433 *We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing*

Lessons Genesis 28:10-19a & Romans 8:12-25

Psalm 139:1-11, 22-23 BCP page 794

Hymn before Gospel LEVAS 119 *Spirit of God, Descend upon my heart*

Gospel Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Prayers of the People

Hymn of Offering LEVAS 69 *In the Garden*

Closing Hymn #372 *Praise to the living God!*

Our Ministers Today:

Preacher & Presider: The Rev. Lou Divis

Organist: Scott Zimmerman

Altar Guild: Else Brunner, Carol Lasher & Vera Dunn

Announcements: Lynne Graham

Camera & Broadcast: Al Leigh & Andrew Wurth

Acolyte: Benjamin Zalewski

Counters: Tom Undercoffler & David Calby

Eucharist Minister: Brenda Syle

Lector: Rita Leigh

Intercessor: Nancy Dooling

Greeter/Usher: Sandy Seeger & Marsha Jones

Genesis 28:10-19a

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!" And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.

Romans 8:12-25

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ-- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were

saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'" Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

Prayers of the People

As children of God and heirs with Christ, let us offer our prayers in the power of the Spirit, saying: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the Church: especially for Michael our Presiding Bishop, Sean our Bishop, and for all other ministers that like the master of the field, we may defer

judgment and wait with patience for the time of God's harvest, let us pray to the Lord. ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

For this parish family, that the good seed of God's word may bring forth a harvest of justice and mercy, let us pray to the Lord. ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

For all who are bound by hatred, resentment and revenge, that the seeds of the Evil One not lead to violence and destruction in personal, racial, or international relations, let us pray to the Lord. ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

For peace in Iraq and Afghanistan, that the seeds of justice and compassion will bear fruit and bring forth a new season of understanding and justice among all God people, let us pray to the Lord. ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

For all who sow and labor to produce food, that they may be helped by favorable weather and heartened by our gratitude and willingness to share, let us pray to the Lord, ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

For all who hunger for life, those who are lonely or depressed, those who live in fear of starvation, and for those who are ill, remembering especially Margaret, Brad, Joe, Rick, Jennie, Sarah, Jerry, Becky, Sara, Kyle, Patti, Kimberly, Karen April, Kathy & Alice, that God's abundant love will sustain and protect them, let us pray to the Lord. ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

For all the departed, remembering especiallyHeather Walker....., that having been gathered into the harvest of eternal life, they may shine like the sun in the kingdom of God, let us pray to the Lord. ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

Lifting our voices with all creation, with Mary the God-bearer, James the Apostle and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ. ***To you, O Lord our God.***

Celebrant: *Holy God, with a love both patient and powerful, you sustain the growth of the good seed your Son has planted. Hear our prayers and let your word bear rich fruit in us, that we may love and serve you in each other. This we ask in your most Holy Name. AMEN.*