

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost Sunday, August 11, 2019

The Collect: Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Track 1 Old Testament: Isaiah 1:1, 10-20 read from the World English Bible

1 The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem, in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

10 Hear Yahweh's word, you rulers of Sodom!

Listen to the law of our God, you people of Gomorrah!

11 "What are the multitude of your sacrifices to me?", says Yahweh.

"I have had enough of the burnt offerings of rams
and the fat of fed animals.

I don't delight in the blood of bulls,

or of lambs,

or of male goats.

12 When you come to appear before me,

who has required this at your hand, to trample my courts?

13 Bring no more vain offerings.

Incense is an abomination to me.

New moons, Sabbaths, and convocations—

I can't stand evil assemblies.

14 My soul hates your New Moons and your appointed feasts.

They are a burden to me.

I am weary of bearing them.

15 When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you.

Yes, when you make many prayers, I will not hear.

Your hands are full of blood.

16 Wash yourselves. Make yourself clean.

Put away the evil of your doings from before my eyes.

Cease to do evil.

17 Learn to do well.

Seek justice.

Relieve the oppressed.

Defend the fatherless.

Plead for the widow.”

18 “Come now, and let’s reason together,” says Yahweh:

“Though your sins are as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow.

Though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

19 If you are willing and obedient,

you will eat the good of the land;

20 but if you refuse and rebel, you will be devoured with the sword;

for the Yahweh’s mouth has spoken it.”

The Word of the Lord

Track 2 Old Testament: Genesis 15:1-6 read from the World English Bible

1 After these things Yahweh’s word came to Abram in a vision, saying, “Don’t be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.”

2 Abram said, “Lord* Yahweh, what will you give me, since I go childless, and he who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” 3 Abram said, “Behold, you have given no children to me: and, behold, one born in my house is my heir.”

4 Behold, Yahweh’s word came to him, saying, “This man will not be your heir, but he who will come out of your own body will be your heir.” 5 Yahweh brought him outside, and said, “Look now toward the sky, and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” He said to Abram, “So your offspring will be.” 6 He believed in Yahweh, who credited it to him for righteousness.

The Word of the Lord

Track 1 Psalm 50:1-8, 23-24 read from The Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer

1 The Lord, the God of gods, has spoken; *
he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to
its setting.

2 Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, *
God reveals himself in glory.

3 Our God will come and will not keep silence; *
before him there is a consuming flame,
and round about him a raging storm.

4 He calls the heavens and the earth from above *
to witness the judgment of his people.

5 "Gather before me my loyal followers, *
those who have made a covenant with me
and sealed it with sacrifice."

6 Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause; *
for God himself is judge.

7 Hear, O my people, and I will speak:
"O Israel, I will bear witness against you; *
for I am God, your God.

8 I do not accuse you because of your sacrifices; *
your offerings are always before me.

23 Consider this well, you who forget God, *
lest I rend you and there be none to deliver you.

24 Whoever offers me the sacrifice of thanksgiving
honors me; *
but to those who keep in my way will I show
the salvation of God."

Track 2 Psalm 33:12-22 read from The Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer

12 Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord! *
happy the people he has chosen to be his own!

- 13 The Lord looks down from heaven, *
and beholds all the people in the world.
- 14 From where he sits enthroned he turns his gaze *
on all who dwell on the earth.
- 15 He fashions all the hearts of them *
and understands all their works.
- 16 There is no king that can be saved by a mighty army;
a strong man is not delivered by his great strength.
- 17 The horse is a vain hope for deliverance; *
for all its strength it cannot save.
- 18 Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon those who fear him, *
on those who wait upon his love,
- 19 To pluck their lives from death, *
and to feed them in time of famine.
- 20 Our soul waits for the Lord; *
he is our help and our shield.
- 21 Indeed, our heart rejoices in him, *
for in his holy Name we put our trust.
- 22 Let your loving-kindness, O Lord, be upon us, *
as we have put our trust in you.

Epistle: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 read from the Revised Standard Version Bible

11 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. 2 For by it the men of old received divine approval. 3 By faith we understand that the world was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was made out of things which do not appear.

8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place which he was to receive as an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was to go. 9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. 10 For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. 11 By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when

she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. 12 Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

13 These all died in faith, not having received what was promised, but having seen it and greeted it from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. 14 For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. 15 If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel: Luke 12:32-40 read from the American Standard Version Bible

32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. 33 Sell that which ye have, and give alms; make for yourselves purses which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief draweth near, neither moth destroyeth. 34 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

35 Let your loins be girded about, and your lamps burning; 36 and be ye yourselves like unto men looking for their lord, when he shall return from the marriage feast; that, when he cometh and knocketh, they may straightway open unto him. 37 Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them sit down to meat, and shall come and serve them. 38 And if he shall come in the second watch, and if in the third, and find them so, blessed are those servants. 39 But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what hour the thief was coming, he would have watched, and not have left his house to be broken through. 40 Be ye also ready: for in an hour that ye think not the Son of man cometh.

The Gospel of the Lord

Closing Prayer: On August 12th we remember Florence Nightingale: Nurse, and Social Reformer. Read from *A Great Cloud of Witnesses*.

Florence Nightingale was born to a wealthy English family in Florence, Italy, on May 12, 1820.

She was trained as a nurse in a hospital run by a Lutheran order of Deaconesses at Kaiserswerth (1851) and in 1853 became superintendent of a hospital for invalid women in London. In response to God's call and animated by a spirit of service, in 1854 she volunteered for duty during the Crimean War and recruited 38 nurses to join her. With them she organized the first modern nursing service in the British field hospitals of Scutari and Balaklava.

Making late-night rounds to check on the welfare of her charges, a hand-held lantern to aid her, the wounded identified her as "The Lady with the Lamp." By imposing strict discipline and high standards of sanitation she radically reduced the drastic death toll and rampant infection then typical in field hospitals. She returned to England in 1856, and a fund of £ 50,000 was subscribed to enable her to form an institution for the training of nurses at St. Thomas's Hospital and at King's College Hospital. Her school at St. Thomas's Hospital became significant in helping to elevate nursing into a profession. She devoted many years to the question of army sanitary reform, to the improvement of nursing, and to public health in India. Her main work, *Notes on Nursing* (1859), went through many editions.

An Anglican, she remained committed to a personal mystical religion, which sustained her through many years of poor health until her death in 1910. Until the end of her life, although her illness prevented her from leaving her home, she continued in frequent spiritual conversation with many prominent church leaders of the day, including the local parish priest, who regularly brought Communion to her. By the time of her death on August 13th, 1910, her accomplishments and legacy were widely recognized, and she is honored throughout the world as the founder of the modern profession of nursing.

Let us pray: O God, who gave grace to your servant Florence Nightingale to bear your healing love into the shadow of death: Grant to all who heal the same virtues of patience, mercy, and steadfast love, that your saving health may be revealed to all; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**