

## Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, August 23, 2020

**The Collect:** 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.**

### **Track 1 Old Testament: Exodus 1:8-2:10 read from the Modern English Version Bible**

8 Now there rose up a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. 9 He said to his people, "Surely, the people of the sons of Israel are more numerous and powerful than we. 10 Come, let us deal wisely with them, lest they multiply, and it come to pass that when any war breaks out, they also join our enemies, and fight against us, and escape from the land."

11 Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with their labor. They built for Pharaoh storage cities: Pithom and Rameses. 12 But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew so that as a result they abhorred the sons of Israel. 13 The Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigor, 14 and they made their lives bitter with hard service—in mortar and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field, all their service in which they made them serve was with rigor.

15 The king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, of which the name of one was Shiphrah, and the name of the other Puah, 16 and he said, "When you perform the office of a midwife to the Hebrew women and see them on the stools, if it is a son, then you must kill him, but if it is a daughter, then she may live." 17 However, the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but kept the male children alive. 18 The king of Egypt called for the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this thing and preserved the male children's lives?"

19 The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives come to them."

20 Therefore God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and grew very mighty. 21 So it happened that because the midwives feared God, He gave them families.

22 Pharaoh charged all his people, saying, "You must cast every son that is born into the river, and you must preserve every daughter's life."

2 Now a man of the house of Levi went and married a daughter of Levi. 2 And the woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw him, that he was a beautiful child, she hid him three months. 3 When she could no longer hide him, she took for him a container made of bulrushes and daubed it with tar and with pitch. She then put the child in it and set it in the reeds by the river's bank. 4 Then his sister stood afar off so that she might know what would happen to him.

5 The daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash herself at the river while her maidens walked along by the river's side, and when she saw the container among the reeds, she sent her maid, and she retrieved it. 6 When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying. She had compassion on him and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children."

7 Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call for you a nursing woman of the Hebrew women so that she may nurse the child for you?"

8 And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the young girl went and called the child's mother. 9 Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away, and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him. 10 Now the child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses and said, "Because I drew him out of the water."

### **The Word of the Lord**

### **Track 2 Old Testament: Isaiah 51:1-6 read from the Modern English Version Bible**

Listen to Me, you who pursue righteousness,  
you who seek the Lord:

Look to the rock from which you were hewn  
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

2 Look to Abraham your father  
and to Sarah who bore you;  
for I called him alone,  
and blessed him, and multiplied him.

3 For the Lord shall comfort Zion,  
He will comfort all her waste places;  
He will make her wilderness like Eden,  
and her desert like the garden of the Lord;  
joy and gladness shall be found in it,  
thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.

4 Listen to Me, O My people;  
and give ear to Me, O My nation:  
for a law shall proceed from Me,  
and I will set My justice as a light of the peoples.

5 My righteousness is near,  
My salvation has gone forth,  
and My arms shall judge the peoples;  
the coastlands shall wait for Me,  
and for My arm they shall expectantly wait.

6 Lift up your eyes to the heavens,  
and look on the earth beneath.  
For the heavens shall vanish away like smoke,  
and the earth shall grow old like a garment,  
and those who dwell in it shall die in like manner;  
but My salvation shall be forever,  
and My righteousness shall not be abolished.

**The Word of the Lord**

## **Track 1 Psalm 124 read from The Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer**

- 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.

## **Track 2 Psalm 138 read from The Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer**

- 1 I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; \*  
before the gods I will sing your praise.
- 2 I will bow down toward your holy temple  
and praise your Name, \*  
because of your love and faithfulness;
- 3 For you have glorified your Name \*  
and your word above all things.
- 4 When I called, you answered me; \*  
you increased my strength within me.
- 5 All the kings of the earth will praise you, O Lord, \*  
when they have heard the words of your mouth.
- 6 They will sing of the ways of the Lord, \*

that great is the glory of the Lord.

7 Though the Lord be high, he cares for the lowly; \*

he perceives the haughty from afar.

8 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; \*

you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;

your right hand shall save me.

9 The Lord will make good his purpose for me; \*

O Lord, your love endures for ever;

do not abandon the works of your hands.

### **Epistle: Romans 12:1-8 read from the New American Standard Bible**

12 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, [a]acceptable to God, which is your [b]spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this [c]world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may [d]prove what the will of God is, that which is good and [e]acceptable and perfect.

3 For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. 4 For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. 6 Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, [f]according to the proportion of his faith; 7 if [g]service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; 8 or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with [h]liberality; he who [i]leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

### **The Word of the Lord**

### **Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20 read from the New Century Version Bible**

13 When Jesus came to the area of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his followers, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

14 They answered, “Some say you are John the Baptist. Others say you are Elijah, and still others say you are Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

15 Then Jesus asked them, “And who do you say I am?”

16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

17 Jesus answered, “You are blessed, Simon son of Jonah, because no person taught you that. My Father in heaven showed you who I am. 18 So I tell you, you are Peter.[c] On this rock I will build my church, and the power of death will not be able to defeat it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; the things you don’t allow on earth will be the things that God does not allow, and the things you allow on earth will be the things that God allows.” 20 Then Jesus warned his followers not to tell anyone he was the Christ.

### **The Gospel of the Lord**

**Closing Prayer: On August 30 we celebrate the life of Charles Chapman Grafton, Bishop of Fond du Lac, and Ecumenist. Read from *A Great Cloud of Witnesses*.**

Under the influence of the Oxford and Cambridge Movements, Charles Chapman Grafton became a major figure in the renewal of liturgical life in The Episcopal Church.

Grafton was born April 12, 1830, in Boston, and attended Harvard Law School. He was confirmed at Church of the Advent—then a leading parish implementing the principles of the Oxford Movement—where he began seriously to explore his vocation. After graduation, he moved to Maryland to study with the Tractarian Bishop William Whittington, who eventually ordained him deacon on December 23, 1855, and priest on May 30, 1858.

Grafton served a number of parishes in Maryland but experienced a growing attraction to the religious life. In 1865, he left for England specifically to meet a leading proponent of the Oxford Movement, Edward Bouverie Pusey. In the following year, after a series of meetings held at All Saints, Margaret Street, in London, Grafton and two others took religious vows and the Society of St. John the Evangelist had its beginning. Grafton returned to America in

1872 and was elected fourth Rector of the Church of the Advent, Boston. In 1882, he founded the Sisterhood of the Holy Nativity based in Ripon, Wisconsin.

In 1888, Grafton was elected second bishop of Fond du Lac. His consent process was difficult, as many thought him too ritualistic, but he soon became known not only as an Anglo-Catholic but also as an ecumenist, deeply committed to improving relations with the Orthodox and Old Catholics.

Perhaps the most famous event during Grafton's long episcopate was the ordination of his eventual successor as bishop co-adjutor in 1900. He invited the Russian Orthodox Bishop Tikhon and the Old Catholic Bishop Anthony Kozlowski to participate. The service stirred up furor across the country with the publication of a photograph (called derisively "The Fond du Lac Circus") that showed all eight Episcopal bishops and the two visiting bishops in cope and miter. It caused a church-wide controversy over ritual and vestments that lasted for more than six months, with accusations and threats of ecclesiastical trial flying from all corners, and with scurrilous attacks and virulent justifications. When the dust finally settled, the legitimacy of traditional catholic ritual and vestments had gained a permanent place in the liturgy of The Episcopal Church.

Bishop Grafton died August 30, 1912.

**Let us pray:** Loving God, you called Charles Chapman Grafton to be a bishop in your Church and endowed him with a burning zeal for souls: Grant that, following his example, we may ever live for the extension of your kingdom, that your glory may be the chief end of our lives, your will the law of our conduct, your love the motive of our actions, and Christ's life the model and mold of our own; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, throughout all ages. **Amen.**