

## Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost Sunday, August 30, 2020

**The Collect:** Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; 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 3:1-15 read from the New International Version Bible**

3 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

2 There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. 3 So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.”

4 When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!”

And Moses said, “Here I am.”

5 “Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” 6 Then he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

7 The Lord said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. 8 So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. 9 And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. 10 So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”

11 But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

12 And God said, “I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.”

13 Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?”

14 God said to Moses, “I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I am has sent me to you.’”

15 God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’

“This is my name forever,  
the name you shall call me  
from generation to generation.

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

### **Track 2 Old Testament: Jeremiah 15:15-21 read from the New International Version Bible**

15 Lord, you understand;  
remember me and care for me.  
Avenge me on my persecutors.

You are long-suffering—do not take me away;  
think of how I suffer reproach for your sake.

16 When your words came, I ate them;

they were my joy and my heart's delight,  
for I bear your name,

Lord God Almighty.

17 I never sat in the company of revelers,  
never made merry with them;

I sat alone because your hand was on me  
and you had filled me with indignation.

18 Why is my pain unending  
and my wound grievous and incurable?

You are to me like a deceptive brook,  
like a spring that fails.

19 Therefore this is what the Lord says:

“If you repent, I will restore you  
that you may serve me;

if you utter worthy, not worthless, words,  
you will be my spokesman.

Let this people turn to you,  
but you must not turn to them.

20 I will make you a wall to this people,  
a fortified wall of bronze;

they will fight against you  
but will not overcome you,

for I am with you  
to rescue and save you,”

declares the Lord.

21 “I will save you from the hands of the wicked  
and deliver you from the grasp of the cruel.”

**The Word of the Lord**

**Track 1 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c read from The Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer**

- 1 Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name; \*  
    make known his deeds among the peoples.
- 2 Sing to him, sing praises to him, \*  
    and speak of all his marvelous works.
- 3 Glory in his holy Name; \*  
    let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
- 4 Search for the Lord and his strength; \*  
    continually seek his face.
- 5 Remember the marvels he has done, \*  
    his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,
- 6 O offspring of Abraham his servant, \*  
    O children of Jacob his chosen.
- 23 Israel came into Egypt, \*  
    and Jacob became a sojourner in the land of Ham.
- 24 The Lord made his people exceedingly fruitful; \*  
    he made them stronger than their enemies;
- 25 Whose heart he turned, so that they hated his people, \*  
    and dealt unjustly with his servants.
- 26 He sent Moses his servant, \*  
    and Aaron whom he had chosen.
- 45 Hallelujah!

**Track 2 Psalm 26:1-8 read from The Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer**

- 1 Give judgment for me, O Lord,  
    for I have lived with integrity; \*  
    I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.
- 2 Test me, O Lord, and try me; \*  
    examine my heart and my mind.
- 3 For your love is before my eyes; \*

I have walked faithfully with you.

4 I have not sat with the worthless, \*  
nor do I consort with the deceitful.

5 I have hated the company of evildoers; \*  
I will not sit down with the wicked.

6 I will wash my hands in innocence, O Lord, \*  
that I may go in procession round your altar,

7 Singing aloud a song of thanksgiving \*  
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

8 Lord, I love the house in which you dwell \*  
and the place where your glory abides.

### **Epistle: Romans 12:9-21 read from the New Living Translation Bible**

9 Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. 10 Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. 11 Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. 12 Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. 13 When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.

14 Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them. 15 Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. 16 Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all!

17 Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. 18 Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

19 Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say,

"I will take revenge;

I will pay them back,”  
says the Lord.

20 Instead,

“If your enemies are hungry, feed them.

If they are thirsty, give them something to drink.

In doing this, you will heap

burning coals of shame on their heads.”

21 Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.

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

#### **Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28 read from the New Revised Standard Version Bible**

21 From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. 22 And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” 23 But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

24 Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25 For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. 26 For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

27 “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. 28 Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

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

**Closing Prayer: On September 5 we celebrate the life of Gregorio Aglipay Priest and Founder of the Philippine Independent Church. Read from *A Great Cloud of Witnesses*.**

Gregorio Aglipay was the principal founder and first Supreme Bishop of the Philippine Independent Church.

Aglipay was born in 1860 and orphaned at an early age. As a boy, he worked in the tobacco fields during the Spanish occupation of his homeland, and for the rest of his life bore hard feelings toward the Spanish colonialists. He took a degree in law before embarking on theological studies in preparation for the priesthood. He was ordained in 1890, but seems to have been something of a free spirit from the beginning, illustrated by his joining the Freemasons, an affiliation that was forbidden to Catholic priests.

In 1898, the Philippine Revolution began to bring an end to Spanish colonization. Because church and state were deeply intertwined, any revolutionary activity in the state was destined to have impact as well on the church. Matters were compounded by the fact that the Spanish hierarchy did not allow native Filipinos to rise through the ranks of their own church. Aglipay quickly took the side of the Filipino nationalists and recognized that national independence would also mean independence from the Roman Catholic Church, because it was strongly allied with Spanish interests. Aglipay called upon his fellow Catholic priests to occupy the parishes and support the revolution. Many followed his lead.

At first, Aglipay was threatened with excommunication, and later he was tempted with a deal that would have made him a Roman Catholic bishop with enormous resources at his personal disposal. Aglipay refused the deal. When Isobelo Delos Reyes, Sr. and those working with him established the new Philippine Independent Church, Aglipay was elected its first Supreme Bishop. Subsequently, Aglipay and the whole of the Philippine Independent Church were excommunicated from the Roman Catholic Church.

Aglipay died in 1940.

In 1960, the Philippine Independent Church entered into full communion with The Episcopal

Church and, through that affiliation, is recognized as being in full communion with the churches of the Anglican Communion.

**Let us pray:** Eternal God, you called Gregorio Aglipay to witness to your truth in the renewal of your Church in the Philippines: Help us, like him, to be guided by your Holy Spirit, that people everywhere may hear the saving words of our Savior, so that all may believe and find eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**