

## Third Sunday after Pentecost, June 26

**The Collect:** Almighty God, you have built your Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone: Grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their teaching, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you; 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 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14 read from the Revised Standard Version Bible

2 Now when the Lord was about to take Eli'jah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Eli'jah and Eli'sha were on their way from Gilgal. 2 And Eli'jah said to Eli'sha, "Tarry here, I pray you; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Eli'sha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel.

6 Then Eli'jah said to him, "Tarry here, I pray you; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. 7 Fifty men of the sons of the prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. 8 Then Eli'jah took his mantle, and rolled it up, and struck the water, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground.

9 When they had crossed, Eli'jah said to Eli'sha, "Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you." And Eli'sha said, "I pray you, let me inherit a double share of your spirit."

10 And he said, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you; but if you do not see me, it shall not be so." 11 And as they still went on and talked, behold, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Eli'jah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. 12 And Eli'sha saw it and he cried, "My father, my father! the chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" And he saw him no more.

Then he took hold of his own clothes and rent them in two pieces. 13 And he took up the mantle of Eli'jah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. 14 Then he took the mantle of Eli'jah that had fallen from him, and struck the water,

saying, "Where is the Lord, the God of Eli'jah?" And when he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other; and Eli'sha went over.

**Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people**

**Track 2 Old Testament 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21 read from the Revised Standard Version Bible**

15 And the Lord said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; and when you arrive, you shall anoint Haz'ael to be king over Syria; 16 and Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel; and Eli'sha the son of Shaphat of A'bel-meho'lah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place.

19 So he departed from there, and found Eli'sha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing, with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he was with the twelfth. Eli'jah passed by him and cast his mantle upon him. 20 And he left the oxen, and ran after Eli'jah, and said, "Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." And he said to him, "Go back again; for what have I done to you?" 21 And he returned from following him, and took the yoke of oxen, and slew them, and boiled their flesh with the yokes of the oxen, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and went after Eli'jah, and ministered to him.

**Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people**

**Track 1 Psalm Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20 read from The Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer**

1 I will cry aloud to God; \*

I will cry aloud, and he will hear me.

2 In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord; \*

my hands were stretched out by night and did not tire;

I refused to be comforted.

11 I will remember the works of the Lord, \*

and call to mind your wonders of old time.

12 I will meditate on all your acts \*

and ponder your mighty deeds.

13 Your way, O God, is holy; \*

who is so great a god as our God?

14 You are the God who works wonders \*

and have declared your power among the peoples.

15 By your strength you have redeemed your people, \*

the children of Jacob and Joseph.

16 The waters saw you, O God;

the waters saw you and trembled; \*

the very depths were shaken.

17 The clouds poured out water;

the skies thundered; \*

your arrows flashed to and fro;

18 The sound of your thunder was in the whirlwind;

your lightnings lit up the world; \*

the earth trembled and shook.

19 Your way was in the sea,

and your paths in the great waters, \*

yet your footsteps were not seen.

20 You led your people like a flock \*

by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

## **Track 2 Psalm Psalm 16 read from The Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer**

1 Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; \*

I have said to the Lord, "You are my Lord,  
my good above all other."

2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, \*

upon those who are noble among the people.

3 But those who run after other gods \*

shall have their troubles multiplied.

4 Their libations of blood I will not offer, \*

nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.

5 O Lord, you are my portion and my cup; \*

it is you who uphold my lot.

6 My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; \*

indeed, I have a goodly heritage.

7 I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; \*

my heart teaches me, night after night.

8 I have set the Lord always before me; \*

because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.

9 My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; \*

my body also shall rest in hope.

10 For you will not abandon me to the grave, \*

nor let your holy one see the Pit.

11 You will show me the path of life; \*

in your presence there is fullness of joy,

and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

### **The Epistle: Galatians 5:1, 13-25 read from the Amplified Bible**

5 It was for this freedom that Christ set us free [completely liberating us]; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery [which you once removed].

13 For you, my brothers, were called to freedom; only do not let your freedom become an opportunity for the sinful nature (worldliness, selfishness), but through love serve and seek the best for one another. 14 For the whole Law [concerning human relationships] is fulfilled in one precept, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself [that is, you shall have an unselfish concern for others and do things for their benefit]." 15 But if you bite and devour one another [in bickering and strife], watch out that you [along with your entire fellowship] are not consumed by one another.

16 But I say, walk habitually in the [Holy] Spirit [seek Him and be responsive to His guidance], and then you will certainly not carry out the desire of the sinful nature [which responds impulsively without regard for God and His precepts]. 17 For the sinful nature has

its desire which is opposed to the Spirit, and the [desire of the] Spirit opposes the sinful nature; for these [two, the sinful nature and the Spirit] are in direct opposition to each other [continually in conflict], so that you [as believers] do not [always] do whatever [good things] you want to do. 18 But if you are guided and led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the Law. 19 Now the practices of the sinful nature are clearly evident: they are sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality (total irresponsibility, lack of self-control), 20 idolatry, sorcery, hostility, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions [that promote heresies], 21 envy, drunkenness, riotous behavior, and other things like these. I warn you beforehand, just as I did previously, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit [the result of His presence within us] is love [unselfish concern for others], joy, [inner] peace, patience [not the ability to wait, but how we act while waiting], kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature together with its passions and appetites.

25 If we [claim to] live by the [Holy] Spirit, we must also walk by the Spirit [with personal integrity, godly character, and moral courage—our conduct empowered by the Holy Spirit]. 26 We must not become conceited, challenging or provoking one another, envying one another.

### **Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people**

#### **The Gospel: Luke 9:51-62 read from the Christian Standard Bible**

51 When the days were coming to a close for him to be taken up, he determined to journey to Jerusalem. 52 He sent messengers ahead of himself, and on the way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make preparations for him. 53 But they did not welcome him, because he determined to journey to Jerusalem. 54 When the disciples James and John saw this, they said, “Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to consume them?” 55 But he turned and rebuked them, 56 and they went to another village.

Following Jesus

57 As they were traveling on the road someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.”

58 Jesus told him, “Foxes have dens, and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man

has no place to lay his head.” 59 Then he said to another, “Follow me.”

“Lord,” he said, “first let me go bury my father.”

60 But he told him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and spread the news of the kingdom of God.”

61 Another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but first let me go and say good-bye to those at my house.”

62 But Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

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

**Closing Prayer: On June 26 we celebrate the life of Isabel Florence Hapgood, Translator, Ecumenist, and Journalist. Read from *A Great Cloud of Witnesses*.**

Isabel Hapgood, a lifelong and faithful Episcopalian, was a force behind ecumenical relations between Episcopalians and Russian Orthodoxy in the United States around the turn of the twentieth century. Born in Massachusetts on November 21, 1851, of a wealthy family, Hapgood was educated in private schools. She was a superior student with a particular talent for the study of languages. In addition to the standard fare of the time—Latin and French—she also mastered most of the Romance and Germanic languages of Europe and most notably Russian, Polish, and Church Slavonic. She possessed the particular gift of being able to translate the subtleties of Russian into equally subtle English. Her translations made the works of Dostoyevsky, Tolstoy, Gorky, and Chekov, among others, available to English readers. She was also a prolific journalist, writing regularly for *The Nation* and *The New York Evening Post*, and was a contributor to *The New York Times*, *Harper’s Weekly*, *The Century*, and *The Atlantic Monthly*.

Between 1887-1889, Hapgood traveled extensively through Russia. That visit cemented a lifelong love of Russia, its language and culture, and particularly the Russian Orthodox Church. She would make return visits to Russia almost every year for the rest of her life.

Her love of Russian Orthodoxy and its great Divine Liturgy led her to seek the permission of

the hierarchy to translate the rites into English. Hapgood's already established reputation as a sensitive translator certainly contributed, but in the meantime she had developed close relationships with Russian clergy and musicians at all levels of the hierarchy. The work, *Service Book of the Holy-Orthodox Catholic Church*, took eleven years to complete. It received support of the Russian Orthodox bishops in North America, particularly Archbishop Tikhon, who was later to give Hapgood's work a second blessing when he became Patriarch of Moscow.

Isabel Florence Hapgood is faithfully recalled among the Russian Orthodox in North America for her contribution to their common life, her desire for closer relations between Russian Orthodox and Episcopalians, and for her making the liturgical treasures of their tradition available to the English-speaking world.

She died on June 26, 1928.

**Let us pray:** Loving God, we thank you for the work and witness of Isabel Florence Hapgood: Guide us as we persevere in the reconciliation of all people, that all may be one in Christ; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, unto the ages of ages.  
**Amen.**