

## **Third Sunday after Pentecost, June 18**

The Old Testament, Epistle and Gospel will be read from the God's Word translation.

The Collect and Psalm will be read from The Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer.

**The Collect:** Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in your steadfast faith and love, that through your grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness, and minister your justice with compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **Track 1**

#### **Old Testament: Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7)**

18 The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oak trees belonging to Mamre as he was sitting at the entrance of his tent during the hottest part of the day. 2 Abraham looked up, and suddenly he saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran to meet them, and he bowed with his face touching the ground.

3 "Please, sir," Abraham said, "stop by to visit me for a while. 4 Why don't we let someone bring a little water? After you wash your feet, you can stretch out and rest under the tree. 5 Let me bring some bread so that you can regain your strength. After that you can leave, since this is why you stopped by to visit me."

They answered, "That's fine. Do as you say."

6 So Abraham hurried into the tent to find Sarah. "Quick," he said, "get three measures of flour, knead it, and make bread."

7 Then Abraham ran to the herd and took one of his best calves. He gave it to his servant, who prepared it quickly. 8 Abraham took cheese and milk, as well as the meat, and set these in front of them. Then he stood by them under the tree as they ate.

9 They asked him, "Where is your wife Sarah?"

He answered, "Over there, in the tent."

10 The Lord said, "I promise I'll come back to you next year at this time, and your wife Sarah will have a son."

Sarah happened to be listening at the entrance of the tent, which was behind him.

11 Abraham and Sarah were old. Sarah was past the age of childbearing. 12 And so Sarah laughed to herself, thinking, "Now that I've become old, will I enjoy myself again? What's more, my husband is old!"

13 The Lord asked Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Can I really have a child now that I'm old?' 14 Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will come back to you next year at this time, and Sarah will have a son."

15 Because she was afraid, Sarah denied that she had laughed.

21 The Lord came to help Sarah and did for her what he had promised. 2 So she became pregnant, and at the exact time God had promised, she gave birth to a son for Abraham in his old age. 3 Abraham named his newborn son Isaac. 4 When Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him as God had commanded. 5 Abraham was 100 years old when his son Isaac was born.

6 Sarah said, "God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me. 7 Who would have predicted to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet, I have given him a son in his old age."

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

**Psalm: Psalm 116:1,10-17**

1 I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, \*  
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

10 How shall I repay the Lord \*

for all the good things he has done for me?

11 I will lift up the cup of salvation \*

and call upon the Name of the Lord.

12 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord \*

in the presence of all his people.

13 Precious in the sight of the Lord \*

is the death of his servants.

14 O Lord, I am your servant; \*

I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;

you have freed me from my bonds.

15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving \*

and call upon the Name of the Lord.

16 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord \*

in the presence of all his people,

17 In the courts of the Lord'S house, \*

in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Hallelujah!

## Track 2

### Old Testament: Exodus 19:2-8a

2 Israel had moved from Rephidim and had come into the desert of Sinai. They had set up camp there in front of the mountain.

3 Then Moses went up the mountain to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, "This is what you must say to the descendants of Jacob. Tell the Israelites, 4 'You have seen for yourselves what I did to Egypt and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to my mountain. 5 If you carefully obey me and are faithful to the terms of my promise, then out of all the nations you will be my own special possession, even though the whole world is mine. 6 You will be my kingdom of priests and my holy nation.' These are the words you must speak to the Israelites."

7 So Moses went down and called for the leaders of the people. He repeated to them all the words that the Lord had commanded him. 8 All the people answered together, "We will do everything the Lord has said."

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

#### **Psalm: Psalm 100**

- 1 Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; \*  
    serve the Lord with gladness  
    and come before his presence with a song.
- 2 Know this: The Lord himself is God; \*  
    he himself has made us, and we are his;  
    we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
- 3 Enter his gates with thanksgiving;  
    go into his courts with praise; \*  
    give thanks to him and call upon his Name.
- 4 For the Lord is good;  
    his mercy is everlasting; \*  
    and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

#### **Epistle: Romans 5:1-8**

5 Now that we have God's approval by faith, we have peace with God because of what our Lord Jesus Christ has done. 2 Through Christ we can approach God and stand in his favor. So we brag because of our confidence that we will receive glory from God. 3 But that's not all. We also brag when we are suffering. We know that suffering creates endurance, 4 endurance creates character, and character creates confidence. 5 We're not ashamed to have this confidence, because God's love has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

6 Look at it this way: At the right time, while we were still helpless, Christ died for ungodly people. 7 Finding someone who would die for a godly person is rare. Maybe someone

would have the courage to die for a good person. 8 Christ died for us while we were still sinners. This demonstrates God's love for us.

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

### **Gospel: Matthew 9:35-10:23**

35 Jesus went to all the towns and villages. He taught in the synagogues and spread the Good News of the kingdom. He also cured every disease and sickness.

36 When he saw the crowds, he felt sorry for them. They were troubled and helpless like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is large, but the workers are few. 38 So ask the Lord who gives this harvest to send workers to harvest his crops."

10 Jesus called his twelve disciples and gave them authority to force evil spirits out of people and to cure every disease and sickness.

2 These are the names of the twelve apostles: first and foremost, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James and his brother John, the sons of Zebedee; 3 Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James (son of Alphaeus), and Thaddaeus; 4 Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who later betrayed Jesus.

5 Jesus sent these twelve out with the following instructions: "Don't go among people who are not Jewish or into any Samaritan city. 6 Instead, go to the lost sheep of the nation of Israel. 7 As you go, spread this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' 8 Cure the sick, bring the dead back to life, cleanse those with skin diseases, and force demons out of people. Give these things without charging, since you received them without paying.

9 "Don't take any gold, silver, or even copper coins in your pockets. 10 Don't take a traveling bag for the trip, a change of clothes, sandals, or a walking stick. After all, the worker deserves to have his needs met.

11 “When you go into a city or village, look for people who will listen to you there. Stay with them until you leave that place.” 12 When you go into a house, greet the family. 13 If it is a family that listens to you, allow your greeting to stand. But if it is not receptive, take back your greeting. 14 If anyone doesn’t welcome you or listen to what you say, leave that house or city, and shake its dust off your feet. 15 I can guarantee this truth: Judgment day will be better for Sodom and Gomorrah than for that city.

16 “I’m sending you out like sheep among wolves. So be as cunning as snakes but as innocent as doves. 17 Watch out for people who will hand you over to the Jewish courts and whip you in their synagogues. 18 Because of me you will even be brought in front of governors and kings to testify to them and to everyone in the world. 19 When they hand you over to the authorities, don’t worry about what to say or how to say it. When the time comes, you will be given what to say. 20 Indeed, you’re not the ones who will be speaking. The Spirit of your Father will be speaking through you.

21 “Brother will hand over brother to death; a father will hand over his child. Children will rebel against their parents and kill them. 22 Everyone will hate you because you are committed to me. But the person who patiently endures to the end will be saved. 23 So when they persecute you in one city, flee to another. I can guarantee this truth: Before you have gone through every city in Israel, the Son of Man will come.

### **The gospel of the Lord**

**On June 18 we celebrate the life of Bernard Mizeki, Catechist and Martyr in Mashonaland. Read from A Great Cloud of Witnesses.**

Bernard Mizeki was born about the year 1861 in Portuguese East Africa (now Mozambique). In his early teens, he escaped from his native land and arrived in Cape Town, South Africa, where he was befriended and converted by Anglican missionaries. He was baptized on March 9, 1886.

In 1891, Bernard Mizeki volunteered as a catechist for the pioneer mission in Mashonaland

(a region in what is now northern Zimbabwe) and was stationed at Nhowe. On June 18, 1896, during an uprising of the native people against the Europeans and their African friends, Bernard was marked out especially. Though warned to flee, he would not desert his converts at the mission station. He was stabbed to death, but his body was never found, and the exact site of his burial is unknown.

A shrine near Bernard's place of martyrdom attracts many pilgrims today, and the Anglican Churches of Central and of Southern Africa honor him as their primary native martyr and witness.

**Let us pray:** Almighty and everlasting God, who kindled the flame of your love in the heart of your holy martyr Bernard Mizeki: Grant to us, your humble servants, a like faith and power of love, that we, who rejoice in his triumph, may profit by his example; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**