

## **Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 3**

The Collect and Psalms will be read from The Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer. The Old Testament, Epistle and Gospel will be read from the New Living Translation Bible.

**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**

3 One day Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian. He led the flock far into the wilderness and came to Sinai, the mountain of God. 2 There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire from the middle of a bush. Moses stared in amazement. Though the bush was engulfed in flames, it didn't burn up. 3 "This is amazing," Moses said to himself. "Why isn't that bush burning up? I must go see it."

4 When the Lord saw Moses coming to take a closer look, God called to him from the middle of the bush, "Moses! Moses!"

"Here I am!" Moses replied.

5 "Do not come any closer," the Lord warned. "Take off your sandals, for you are standing on holy ground. 6 I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." When Moses heard this, he covered his face because he was afraid to look at God.

7 Then the Lord told him, "I have certainly seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their cries of distress because of their harsh slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering. 8 So I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians and

lead them out of Egypt into their own fertile and spacious land. It is a land flowing with milk and honey—the land where the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites now live. 9 Look! The cry of the people of Israel has reached me, and I have seen how harshly the Egyptians abuse them. 10 Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt.”

11 But Moses protested to God, “Who am I to appear before Pharaoh? Who am I to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt?”

12 God answered, “I will be with you. And this is your sign that I am the one who has sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God at this very mountain.”

13 But Moses protested, “If I go to the people of Israel and tell them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ they will ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what should I tell them?”

14 God replied to Moses, “I am who I am. Say this to the people of Israel: I am has sent me to you.” 15 God also said to Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel: Yahweh, the God of your ancestors—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.

This is my eternal name,  
my name to remember for all generations.

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

### **Track 1 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c**

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 Old Testament: Jeremiah 15:15-21**

15 Then I said,

“Lord, you know what’s happening to me.

Please step in and help me. Punish my persecutors!

Please give me time; don’t let me die young.

It’s for your sake that I am suffering.

16 When I discovered your words, I devoured them.

They are my joy and my heart’s delight,

for I bear your name,

O Lord God of Heaven’s Armies.

17 I never joined the people in their merry feasts.

I sat alone because your hand was on me.

I was filled with indignation at their sins.

18 Why then does my suffering continue?

Why is my wound so incurable?

Your help seems as uncertain as a seasonal brook,  
like a spring that has gone dry.”

19 This is how the Lord responds:

“If you return to me, I will restore you  
so you can continue to serve me.

If you speak good words rather than worthless ones,  
you will be my spokesman.

You must influence them;  
do not let them influence you!

20 They will fight against you like an attacking army,  
but I will make you as secure as a fortified wall of bronze.

They will not conquer you,  
for I am with you to protect and rescue you.

I, the Lord, have spoken!

21 Yes, I will certainly keep you safe from these wicked men.  
I will rescue you from their cruel hands.”

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

## **Track 2 Psalm: Psalm 26:1-8**

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.

### **The Epistle: Romans 12:9-21**

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.

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

### **The Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28**

21 From then on Jesus began to tell his disciples plainly that it was necessary for him to go to Jerusalem, and that he would suffer many terrible things at the hands of the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but on the third day he would be raised from the dead.

22 But Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things. “Heaven forbid, Lord,” he said. “This will never happen to you!”

23 Jesus turned to Peter and said, “Get away from me, Satan! You are a dangerous trap to me. You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God's.”

24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. 25 If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. 26 And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul? 27 For the Son of Man will come with his angels in the glory of his Father and will judge all people according to their deeds. 28 And I tell you the truth, some standing here right now will not die before they see the Son of Man coming in his Kingdom.”

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

**Closing Prayer: On September 7 we celebrate the life of Elie Naud, Huguenot Witness to the Faith. Read from A Great Cloud of Witnesses.**

Elie Naud (also known as Elias Neau) was a French Huguenot born in 1661. It was an era when French Roman Catholicism was increasingly dominant and the persecution of Protestants was becoming more violent. Naud fled France and landed in England, where he sojourned briefly before settling permanently in New York City. During his early years in New York, he traveled frequently to Europe to raise money for Huguenot causes, having to take passage in steerage because he was not a Roman Catholic. His unwillingness to renounce his French Reformed faith resulted in his imprisonment for nearly two years in the infamous Chateau d'If.

In New York City, Naud became a member of L'Eglise du Saint-Esprit, a French-speaking parish which eventually joined The Episcopal Church, and later of Trinity Church, Wall Street, where he served for fifteen years as a catechist among slaves and Native Americans, preparing them for baptism.

Naud founded a school for the children of the poor and for the children of slaves. Upon the recommendation of the Rector of Trinity Church, the Bishop of London, acting for the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (SPG), licensed Naud as a missionary "to slaves and ragged people in the New World." Naud also worked to influence Parliament for the passage of British laws that would demand Christian instruction for the children of slaves and Native Americans and schools for their education. Only through these means, he believed, could an equal and free society be created. During the New York City slave riot of 1712, Naud remained faithful to his vision despite threats of death from those who believed education of slaves fueled such uprisings.

Naud continued to write hymns and poetry in his native French throughout his life. He died on September 7, 1722, and was buried in the churchyard at Trinity Church, Wall Street.

**Let us pray:** Blessed God, whose Son Jesus knelt to serve his disciples: We honor you for the witness of your servant Elie Naud; and pray that we, with him, may proclaim Christ in service to those deemed by the world to be littlest and least, following Jesus, who came not to be ministered to but to minister; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, to whom be honor and glory for ever and ever. **Amen.**