

## Tenth Sunday after Pentecost, July 28

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 Revised Standard  
Version Bible Anglicized

**The Collect:** O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; 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 Samuel 11:1-15

11 In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab with his officers and all Israel with him; they ravaged the Ammonites, and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

2 It happened, late one afternoon, when David rose from his couch and was walking about on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; the woman was very beautiful. 3 David sent someone to inquire about the woman. It was reported, 'This is Bathsheba daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite.' 4 So David sent messengers to fetch her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she was purifying herself after her period.) Then she returned to her house. 5 The woman conceived; and she sent and told David, 'I am pregnant.'

6 So David sent word to Joab, 'Send me Uriah the Hittite.' And Joab sent Uriah to David.

7 When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab and the people fared, and how the war was going. 8 Then David said to Uriah, 'Go down to your house, and wash your feet.' Uriah went out of the king's house, and there followed him a present from the king. 9 But Uriah slept at the entrance of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house. 10 When they told David, 'Uriah did not go down to his house', David

said to Uriah, 'You have just come from a journey. Why did you not go down to your house?'  
11 Uriah said to David, 'The ark and Israel and Judah remain in booths; and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field; shall I then go to my house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do such a thing.' 12 Then David said to Uriah, 'Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will send you back.' So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day. On the next day, 13 David invited him to eat and drink in his presence and made him drunk; and in the evening he went out to lie on his couch with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.

14 In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah. 15 In the letter he wrote, 'Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, so that he may be struck down and die.'

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

#### **Track 1 Psalm: Psalm 14**

1 The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." \*

All are corrupt and commit abominable acts;  
there is none who does any good.

2 The Lord looks down from heaven upon us all, \*

to see if there is any who is wise,  
if there is one who seeks after God.

3 Every one has proved faithless;

all alike have turned bad; \*  
there is none who does good; no, not one.

4 Have they no knowledge, all those evildoers \*

who eat up my people like bread  
and do not call upon the Lord?

5 See how they tremble with fear, \*

because God is in the company of the righteous.

6 Their aim is to confound the plans of the afflicted, \*

but the Lord is their refuge.

7 Oh, that Israel's deliverance would come out of Zion! \*  
when the Lord restores the fortunes of his people,  
Jacob will rejoice and Israel be glad.

### **Track 2 Old Testament: 2 Kings 4:42-44**

42 A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, 'Give it to the people and let them eat.' 43 But his servant said, 'How can I set this before a hundred people?' So he repeated, 'Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the Lord, "They shall eat and have some left."' 44 He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the Lord.

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

### **Track 2 Psalm: 145:10-19**

10 All your works praise you, O Lord, \*  
and your faithful servants bless you.  
11 They make known the glory of your kingdom \*  
and speak of your power;  
12 That the peoples may know of your power \*  
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.  
13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; \*  
your dominion endures throughout all ages.  
14 The Lord is faithful in all his words \*  
and merciful in all his deeds.  
15 The Lord upholds all those who fall; \*  
he lifts up those who are bowed down.  
16 The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord, \*  
and you give them their food in due season.  
17 You open wide your hand \*  
and satisfy the needs of every living creature.

18 The Lord is righteous in all his ways \*

and loving in all his works.

19 The Lord is near to those who call upon him, \*

to all who call upon him faithfully.

### **Epistle: Ephesians 3:14-21**

14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. 16 I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, 17 and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. 18 I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

20 Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

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

### **Gospel: John 6:1-21**

6 After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. 2 A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. 3 Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. 4 Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. 5 When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming towards him, Jesus said to Philip, 'Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?' 6 He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. 7 Philip answered him, 'Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.' 8 One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, 9 'There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?' 10 Jesus said, 'Make the people sit down.' Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. 11 Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he

had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. 12 When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, 'Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.' 13 So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. 14 When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, 'This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.'

15 When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

16 When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, 17 got into a boat, and started across the lake to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them.

18 The lake became rough because a strong wind was blowing. 19 When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the lake and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. 20 But he said to them, 'It is I; do not be afraid.' 21 Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land towards which they were going.

## **The Gospel of the Lord**

**On August 3 we celebrate the life of George Freeman Bragg, Jr. Priest. Read from *A Great Cloud of Witnesses***

George Freeman Bragg served for 35 years as the secretary of the Conference for Church Workers Among the Colored People and authored important studies, such as *A History of the Afro-American Group of The Episcopal Church* and *Richard Allen and Absalom Jones*, documenting the early history of African Americans in The Episcopal Church.

Bragg was born to slaves of an Episcopal family in Warrenton, North Carolina, in 1863. As a young man he campaigned for the Readjuster Party in Virginia, which advocated for voting rights and state supported higher education for African Americans. He was the editor of the influential black weekly paper *The Lancet*, which he renamed the *Afro-American*

Churchman upon his entrance into divinity school in 1885. Through this paper, Bragg called attention to the fact that African Americans were treated as recipients of mission work but were not supported in raising up self-sustaining institutions that would have fostered their presence in the Church.

Ordained a deacon in 1887 in Norfolk, Virginia, Bragg challenged the diocese's policy of requiring black men to remain in deacon's orders for five or more years, much longer than their white counterparts, and in 1888 he was ordained a priest. He served as the rector of St. James' First African Church in Baltimore for 49 years, from 1891 until his death in 1940. He helped establish the Maryland Home for Friendless Colored Children, and did not cease in his advocacy for black Episcopalians and their full inclusion in the larger life of the church, vehemently challenging the exclusion of African Americans from the church's society for mission work. He was instrumental in fostering over twenty priestly vocations in an environment in which black Episcopalians were often left to fend for themselves without the support and resources of the larger Church.

**Let us pray:** O God, whose mighty hand freed your servant George Freeman Bragg from bondage and blessed him with perseverance and courage: Deliver your Church from its ignorance and injustice, that, through his example and prayers, all the baptized may share in the work of ministry and, at the last, attain to the perfect freedom of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**