

## **Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 7**

The Collect and Psalm will be read from The Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer  
The Old Testament, Epistle and Gospel will be read from the Amplified Bible.

**Collect:** Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **Track 1 Old Testament: Jeremiah 18:1-11**

18 The word which came to Jeremiah from the Lord: 2 “Arise and go down to the potter’s house, and there I will make you hear My words.” 3 Then I went down to the potter’s house, and saw that he was working at the wheel. 4 But the vessel that he was making from clay was spoiled by the potter’s hand; so he made it over, reworking it and making it into another pot that seemed good to him.

5 Then the word of the Lord came to me: 6 “O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter does?” says the Lord. “Look carefully, as the clay is in the potter’s hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel. 7 At one moment I might speak concerning a nation or kingdom, that I will uproot and break down and destroy; 8 if that nation against which I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent and reverse My decision concerning the devastation that I intended to do. 9 Or at another time I might speak about a nation or kingdom that I will build up or establish; 10 and if they do evil in My sight by not obeying My voice, then I will reverse My decision concerning the good with which I had promised to bless them. 11 Now then, say to the men of Judah and to the citizens of Jerusalem, ‘Thus says the Lord, “Behold, I am shaping a disaster and working out a plan against you. Turn back, each of you from his evil way; correct your habits and change your actions for the better.”’

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

## **Track 1 Psalm Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17**

- 1 Lord, you have searched me out and known me; \*  
you know my sitting down and my rising up; Deu  
you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places \*  
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, \*  
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
- 4 You press upon me behind and before \*  
and lay your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; \*  
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
- 12 For you yourself created my inmost parts; \*  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- 13 I will thank you because I am marvelously made; \*  
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.
- 14 My body was not hidden from you, \*  
while I was being made in secret  
and woven in the depths of the earth.
- 15 Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;  
all of them were written in your book; \*  
they were fashioned day by day,  
when as yet there was none of them.
- 16 How deep I find your thoughts, O God! \*  
how great is the sum of them!
- 17 If I were to count them, they would be more in number  
than the sand; \*  
to count them all, my life span would need to  
be like yours.

## **Track 2 Old Testament: Deuteronomy 30:15-20**

15 "Listen closely, I have set before you today life and prosperity (good), and death and adversity (evil); 16 in that I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments (precepts), so that you will live and multiply, and that the Lord your God will bless you in the land which you are entering to possess. 17 But if your heart turns away and you will not hear and obey, but are drawn away and worship other gods and serve them, 18 I declare to you today that you will certainly perish. You will not live long in the land which you cross the Jordan to enter and possess. 19 I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse; therefore, you shall choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, 20 by loving the Lord your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding closely to Him; for He is your life and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which the Lord promised (swore) to give to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."

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

## **Track 2 Psalm: Psalm 1**

1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of  
the wicked, \*  
nor lingered in the way of sinners,  
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

2 Their delight is in the law of the Lord, \*  
and they meditate on his law day and night.

3 They are like trees planted by streams of water,  
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; \*  
everything they do shall prosper.

4 It is not so with the wicked; \*  
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when  
judgment comes, \*

nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

6 For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked is doomed.

### **Epistle: Philemon 1-21**

1 Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus (the Messiah, the Anointed), and our brother Timothy,

To Philemon our dearly beloved friend and fellow worker, 2 and to Apphia our sister, and to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church that meets in your house: 3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I thank my God always, making mention of you in my prayers, 5 because I hear of your love and of your faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints (God's people). 6 I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective and powerful because of your accurate knowledge of every good thing which is ours in Christ. 7 For I have had great joy and comfort and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints (God's people) have been refreshed through you, my brother.

8 Therefore , though I have enough confidence in Christ to order you to do what is appropriate, 9 yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—since I am such a person as Paul, an old man, and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus—

10 I appeal to you for my child Onesimus, whom I have fathered while a captive in these chains. 11 Once he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you as well as to me. 12 I have sent him back to you in person, that is, like sending my very heart. 13 I would have chosen to keep him with me, so that he might minister to me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel; 14 but I did not want to do anything without first getting your consent, so that your goodness would not be, in effect, by compulsion but of your own free will. 15 Perhaps it was for this reason that he was separated from you for a while, so that you would have him back forever, 16 no longer as a slave, but more than a slave, as a brother , especially dear to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord

[as a fellow believer].

17 So if you consider me a partner, welcome and accept him as you would me. 18 But if he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to my account; 19 I, Paul, write this with my own hand, I will repay it in full (not to mention to you that you owe to me even your own self as well). 20 Yes, brother, let me have some benefit and joy from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ.

21 I write to you confident of your obedient compliance, since I know that you will do even more than I ask.

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

#### **Gospel: Luke 14:25-33**

25 Now large crowds were going along with Jesus; and He turned and said to them, 26 “If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life—he cannot be My disciple.

27 Whoever does not carry his own cross a willingness to endure whatever may come] and follow after Me cannot be My disciple. 28 For which one of you, when he wants to build a watchtower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost, to see if he has enough to finish it? 29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is unable to finish all who see it will begin to ridicule him, 30 saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish!’ 31 Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and consider whether he is strong enough with ten thousand men to encounter the one who is coming against him with twenty thousand? 32 Or else, while the other is still a far distance away, he sends an envoy and asks for terms of peace. 33 So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.

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

**On September 11 we celebrate the life of Harry Thacker Burleigh, Composer. Read from A Great Cloud of Witnesses**

Henry Thacker Burleigh was an American singer, composer, and arranger who did more than anyone else up to his time to make available the riches of the American Negro spiritual to vast audiences.

Burleigh was born in Erie, Pennsylvania, in 1866. His grandfather, Hamilton Waters, had been a slave who had been blinded by a savage beating but passed along old songs by singing them to his grandson, Harry. Burleigh had a natural voice for singing and sang when and where he could. In 1892, with some difficulty, he won admission to the National Conservatory of Music, where he studied voice and music theory. Although never directly a pupil of Antonin Dvořák, the director of the Conservatory at the time, he worked for Dvořák copying orchestral parts. It was Burleigh who suggested to Dvořák some of the themes that would become Dvorak's Symphony No. 9: From the New World.

To support himself while at Conservatory, Burleigh became the baritone soloist at St. George's Episcopal Church in New York City. The presence of a black man in the choir initially caused dissension, but it died down when J. Pierpont Morgan, a member of the parish, took a clear stand on the matter. Even after gaining other employment and becoming a successful composer, Burleigh continued to sing in the choir at St. George's for many years and became a beloved part of the congregation.

Burleigh composed original music, mostly for voice, and was a wellrespected arranger and music editor in New York. His art songs were musical settings of the poetry of such great African American poets as Langston Hughes and James Weldon Johnson, among others. His greatest achievement, and that for which he will always be celebrated, was recovering and arranging many Negro spirituals for solo voice and piano so that they could be widely heard on the concert stage. Various choral versions of the spirituals had been well known in the black churches, but it was Burleigh's arrangements that made this distinctively American music available to the masses.

Burleigh died on September 12, 1949.

**Let us pray:** God, our strong deliverer: We bless your Name for the grace given to Harry

Thacker Burleigh, who lifted up in song the struggles of your people. Let that Spirit of love which spurred him draw us and your whole Church to raise our distinct voices into one great harmony of praise; through the same Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**