Voluntary: Prière  
J.-N. Lemmens

Processional Hymn: 423. Immortal, Invisible  
St. Denio

The Word of God

Opening Acclamation  
BCP 355

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
And blessed be his Kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity  
BCP 355

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn of Praise  
BCP 356

8:30  Gloria
10:30  S 280 Gloria (see pew card)

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The children aged 3–11 are invited to process out for Christian Formation time.
The First Lesson  
Genesis 45:1–15

Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, “Send everyone away from me.” So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’ And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 133

8:30  Spoken responsively, beginning with the Narthex side.

1 Oh, how good and pleasant it is, *  
 when brethren live together in unity!

2 It is like fine oil upon the head *  
 that runs down upon the beard,

3 Upon the beard of Aaron, *  
 and runs down upon the collar of his robe.
4 It is like the dew of Hermon *  
that falls upon the hills of Zion.

5 For there the Lord has ordained the blessing: *  
life for evermore.

10:30 Sung by all  

Franconia

1. When breth-ren live at peace,  
At peace in u-ni-ty,

2. It is like fra-grant oil  
Which glis-tens and runs down

3. It is like Her-mon's dew  
That falls on Zi-on's hill,

Be - hold how good a thing it is,  
A plea-sant thing to see.

On head and beard, on  
Aa-ron's beard And

col-lar of his gown.

For there the Lord has  
pro-mised life And

gives his bless-ing still.

THE SECOND LESSON  

Romans 11:1–2a, 29–32

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN: 470. There's a wideness in God's mercy  

Beecher

THE HOLY GOSPEL  

Matthew 15:21–28

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” But he did not
answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

The Gospel of the Lord.
**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Sermon**

The Rev. Marion Thullbery

We welcome The Rev. Marion Thullbery as our guest preacher and celebrant today. Marion recently retired from her ministry training clergy at the Durham VA and for the Diocese. She currently serves as chaplain for retired clergy and clergy spouses and surviving spouses in the Durham Convocation.

**The Nicene Creed**

BCP 358

**The Prayers of the People**

Bound together in Christ in the communion of the Holy Spirit, let us pray with one heart and mind to our God, saying: Lord, have mercy.

That the love which passes ceaselessly between the Father and the Son in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit may renew and deepen the life of each Christian and draw us all gathered here into your unending life, we pray: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the church, and its leaders, and in the Anglican and Diocesan cycles of prayer—especially for The Church of England; St. Paul’s, Smithfield; and San Jose Mission, Smithfield—that our lives may be for the glory of God alone, we pray: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the leaders of nations, that they may discern the ways to overcome division and mistrust, and may reflect your unity in every aspect of common life, we pray: **Lord, have mercy.**

For our families, our households, and our communities, that they may be places of communion and mutual support, which build us up and strengthen us in grace and truth, we pray: **Lord, have mercy.**

Thankful for our world which you made through Christ, and renewed in the power of his resurrection, that we may be wise and careful stewards of creation, we pray: **Lord, have mercy.**
In the power of the Spirit, we pray for the sick, the suffering, and all who stand in need, especially those we name now. *(Names are read from the Nativity prayer list.)* We pray, Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died, especially James Christiansen, we pray: Lord, have mercy.

Holy One of Israel, covenant-keeper, you restore what is lost, heal what is wounded, and gather in those who have been rejected. Give us the faith to speak as steadfastly as did the Canaanite woman, that the outcast may be welcomed and all people may be blessed. Amen.

**The Confession**

**The Peace**

**The Holy Communion**

**Offertory Hymn:** 516. Come down O Love Divine  
*Down Ampney*

**The Great Thanksgiving:** Eucharistic Prayer C  
*BCP 369*

**Sanctus**

8:30  BCP 362  
10:30  S 129 (see pew card)

**The Lord’s Prayer**  
*BCP 364*

**Fraction Anthem**

8:30  Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia*

10:30  S 154 Christ our Passover (see pew card)

**The Post-communion Prayer**  
*BCP 365*

**Benediction**

**Final Hymn:** 598. Lord Christ when first thou cam'st  
*Mit Freuden zart*
Dismissal

Thanks be to God.

Voluntary: Finale

J.-N. Lemmens

Nativity Prayer List

For the sick in our community: Alice, Barbara, Betty, Bill, Carol, Dee, Diane, Don, Jack, Jane, Karen, Kelly, Marion, Maxine, Nancy, Stephen, Steve

For our friends, family, and neighbors: Anna, Arybella, Bob, Caroline, Danielle, Danny, Dave, Emma, Gabe, Gemma, Henry, Jackson, John, John, Kelvin, Licia, Michelle, Roy, Roy, Sara, Sissy, Vivian

For those who are expecting a child: Annelise and Lennox, James and Emily. We celebrate the birth of Hunter Alexander Sopko, son of Adam and Sarah and great nephew of Ailsa Tessier.

For those who are preparing for marriage: Taylor and Drew

For those who have died: James Christiansen
Reflection Questions
from *Drawn to the* Gospels, by Jay Sidebotham

1. In your experience, how much of religious life is about rules? Have you ever encountered leaders, religious or otherwise, who seem to be blind guides?

2. What do you think of the way Jesus responded to the Canaanite woman? Was he harsh? Was he testing her?

3. What does she teach us about encounters with Jesus? What does she model for us as disciples? What if we didn’t have this story in the gospels?

4. Do you think Jesus changed his mind? Do you think he was initially wrong? If Jesus did indeed change his mind, how does that fit with your understanding of who he was?
Your Giving
Week of 8/8–8/14

$9,549.09 operating income

– $10,450.00 operating expenses (2023 budget)

($900.91) net loss

Quick Links
Scan this QR code to fill out a welcome card, give online, and more.

We thank the following people for their service today:

Vestry Representative Allison Martin
Gail Till

Altar Flowers Robin Rhaney, Mary Kingsley, Brian Fentress

Altar Guild Carol Smith (8:30)
Andrew Miller and Lloyd Childers (10:30)

Lectors Rene Garces (8:30)
Helen Armstrong and David Nason (10:30)

Acolytes Logan Lee and Raylan Neece (10:30)

Crucifer Alicia Lester-Bodford (10:30)

Video Alfred Christensen, Rick Burts, Ken Tessier, and Duff McAdams

Church of the Nativity
A Parish of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina
8849 Ray Road, Raleigh, NC 27613 919-846-8338

🌐 nativityonline.org  📲 @nativityonline

Clergy and Staff

The Rev. Stephanie L. Allen Rector
The Rev. Phillip Bass Associate Rector
Helen Moses Priest Intern
Jeremy Clos Lay Associate for Christian Formation
Bradley Burgess Lay Associate for Music, Communications, and Administration
Nancy Reed Business Manager
Robert Krahel Sexton