

SCRIPTURE READINGS

God expects us to pay our debts.
“The wicked borrow and do not repay,
but the righteous give generously.” (Psalm 37:21)

FIRST READING

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, “Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.” Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them. The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, “When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.” But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?” The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.” So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, “Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.” Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, “This must be one of the Hebrews’ children,” she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?” Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Yes.” So the girl went and called the child’s mother. Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.” So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, “because,” she said, “I drew him out of the water.”

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PSALM 124

If the Lord had not been on our side, *
let Israel now say;
If the Lord had not been on our side, *
when enemies rose up against us;
Then would they have swallowed us up alive *
in their fierce anger toward us;
Then would the waters have overwhelmed us *
and the torrent gone over us;
Then would the raging waters *
have gone right over us.
Blessed be the Lord! *
he has not given us over to be
a prey for their teeth.
We have escaped like a bird from
the snare of the fowler; *
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.
Our help is in the Name of the Lord, *
the maker of heaven and earth.

SECOND READING

Romans 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God— what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 16:13-20

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

**WE REMEMBER BEFORE GOD ALL PEOPLE
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD WHOSE LIVES HAVE BEEN
DISRUPTED BY VIOLENCE OR WAR.**

**WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO WORK FOR PEACE
AND FOR NEW BEGINNINGS.**

- ✧ As we pray, let us remember Fred; Ken; Jeff; Marge; Jenny; Lisa; Michael; Annette; Lacey & her family; Steve; Fred; Karley; Janet; James; Shannon; John; Lexi; Sheri; Steve; Roy; Michael; Eddie; Terri; Anthony; Lisa; Todd; Randall; Lori; Hollis & Denise; Helen; Keira
- ✧ We celebrate the birth of Gracen Lee Joa, son of Joel & Casey.

Our altar flowers are given
In celebration of Bob Crecca's birthday

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR MILITARY VETERANS MINISTRY meets Friday in the church kitchen at 10 AM to prepare & transport food, then serve approximately 80 veterans at the US Vets Center. We welcome all who would like to help.

TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY This Tuesday at 6 PM in the Parish Hall, we will be discussing the books of Habakkuk, Zephaniah, and Haggai. The study is open to all.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS There will be no class next Sunday, September 3RD (Labor Day weekend). We resume Sunday, September 10TH at 9:45 AM. Please see Peggy Diaz after the service in the Parish Hall to register your child for Sunday school!

YOUTH GROUP WILL BEGIN SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 10 with a special welcome class for all youth 7-12 grade and their parents at 9:45AM in Chilton Hall room 6. All children moving up from Sunday School are especially invited to attend. For more information, see Pastor Joel.

LADIES OF THE PARISH ARE INVITED TO ESCAPE TO THE COOL PINES OF PRESCOTT FOR A DAY TRIP, SEPTEMBER 16 HOSTED BY CHERYL BECK & PHYLLIS BROWN. Bring a sack lunch. Water, tea and dessert will be provided. We will carpool from the church. Sign-up sheet is in the Parish Hall.

TAMALES, TAMALES, TAMALES! *Today is the last day to order.* You can get these delicious, gluten free tamales in chicken or pork — only \$15 per dozen or six for \$8. (Checks or cash only) The tamales will be available for pickup the night of Saturday, September 16 when *The Baile Folklorico de Ninos Youth Dancers* perform in our sanctuary at 6 PM — a performance you don't want to miss. Order at the FTTA table after services TODAY!

FROM SHELLI ROMERO: MARK YOUR CALENDARS - THIS YEAR'S OKTOBERFEST AT ST JOHNS WILL BE ON SEPT 30TH. More info coming soon. Pre-Reserved tickets go on sale Sept 10th, \$10 per person.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT OUR REFUGEE MINISTRY we are gathering furniture and other household items needed to furnish an apartment for our next family. There is a list of items on the Vestry Table under the Refugee Ministry sign. If you are able to help, contact Kurt Gruenberg, azkurtgrue@q.com or 623-376-0776.

GARDEN MINISTRY/RAFFLE We continue selling tickets for the "The Pledge of Allegiance" wall hanging. Proceeds go to add an arbor with planters on each side of the walkway from Chilton Hall. Tickets are \$5/each or \$10/for 3. The drawing is Sunday, September 10.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Today	Nursery care	7:45–11:15 AM
	Holy Eucharist Rite I	8 AM
	DOK meeting (CH 4 & 5)	9 AM
	Sunday School (CH 2 & 8)	10 AM
	Youth Sunday / Serving the Church that Serves	
	Holy Eucharist Rite II	10 AM
	Praise Band Practice (C)	11:30 AM
Tue.	Faith Through the Arts (L)	4:30 PM
	Joyful Noise practice (C)	5 PM
	Old Testament in Review/Bible Study	6 PM
Wed.	Holy Eucharist Rite II	6:30 PM
	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7 PM
Thu.	Women's Bible Study (MR)	6 PM
Fri.	Military Veterans/Meal Prep (K)	10 AM
Sun.	Nursery care	7:45–11:15 AM
	Healing Litany / Holy Eucharist Rite I	8 AM
	Healing Litany / Holy Eucharist Rite II	10 AM
	Praise Band Practice (C)	11:30 AM

OFFICE CLOSED MONDAY SEPTEMBER 4

FOOD PANTRY

cereal; flour; sugar; Ramen; bath soap

BLESSING BAGS

Travel size or individually wrapped please

bottled water; candy (no chocolate);

Cheez-it crackers; chips;

cracker & cheese packets

Pop tarts