



# THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SUNDAY 16 JULY 2023

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I  
8:00 A.M.

## THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation	The Book of Common Prayer, p. 323
The Collect for Purity	p. 323
Gloria	p. 324
The Collect of the Day	p. 179

O Lord, we beseech thee mercifully to receive the prayers of thy people who call upon thee, and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfill the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**The Lesson: Genesis 25:19–34** The Holy Bible; *NRSV*, p. 21

*Commentary: Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah. For twenty years the couple remained childless, until Rebekah bore twin sons. Before the birth of Rebekah's sons, God announced His foreordained choice of which son would be the promised heir. God's choice of the younger son, Jacob, instead of the elder, Esau, was contrary to Near Eastern custom, but was in accord with God's sovereign prerogative. Jacob and Esau may have been twins but in appearance, personality and priorities they could not have been more different. Jacob valued the birthright that Esau despised, but it was wrong for Jacob to exploit his brother's weakness to obtain it in this way. Additionally, Jacob's scheming was unnecessary, since God was wholly capable of fulfilling what He had promised.*

These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the LORD. And the LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger." When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them. When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob. Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called Edom.) Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

*People*            The Word of the Lord.  
                         **Thanks be to God.**

*People* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
**Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen! Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

*People* The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

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**THE HOLY COMMUNION**

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*Celebrant & Preacher: The Reverend Nancy Jose*

*The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of  
Dotty Weathersbee*

**ST. JAMES PARISH**

THE REVEREND C. PHILLIP CRAIG, JR., RECTOR

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