



Church of the Ascension

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~ Episcopal Diocese of Lexington ~

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: PROPER 21 September 20, 2020

9:30 AM

(online only, via Facebook and YouTube)



LOOK TO THE
LORD AND HIS
STRENGTH; SEEK
HIS FACE ALWAYS.

-PSALM 105:4

THE HOLY EUCHARIST • RITE II

Presider: The Rev. Dr. William G. Brown, *Priest*
Deacons: The Rev. Deacon Rebecca A. Saager **Organist:** John B. Martin

Voluntary Crusaders' hymn (*St. Elizabeth*) *Frederick Swann*
Hymn Fairest Lord Jesus *St. Elizabeth* Hymnal 383

1 Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Ru - ler of all na - ture, O thou of
2 Fair are the mea - dows, fair - er still the wood - lands, robed in the
3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair - er still the moon - light, and all the

God and man the Son; thee will I cher - ish,
Je - sus is fair - er,
Je - sus shines bright - er,
twink - ling, garb of spring: host: Je - sus shines bright - er,
star - ry host: Je - sus shines bright - er,

thee will I hon - or, thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.
Je - sus is pur - er, who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.
Je - sus shines pur - er, than all the an - gels heaven can boast.

Words: German composite; tr. pub. New York, 1850, alt.
Music: *St. Elizabeth*, melody from *Schlechte Volkslieder*, 1842; harm. Thomas Tertius Noble (1867-1953)

Opening Acclamation BCP 355

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

Collect for Purity

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

The Word of God

First Lesson

Exodus 16:2-15

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

Then the Lord said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?” And Moses said, “When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord.”

Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.'" And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.'" "

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.

Gradual Psalm

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 *Confitemini Domino*

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name; *
make known his deeds among the peoples.

Sing to him, sing praises to him, *
and speak of all his marvelous works.

Glory in his holy Name; *
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Search for the Lord and his strength; *
continually seek his face.

Remember the marvels he has done, *
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,

O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
O children of Jacob his chosen.

He led out his people with silver and gold; *
in all their tribes there was not one that stumbled.

Egypt was glad of their going, *
because they were afraid of them.

He spread out a cloud for a covering *
and a fire to give light in the night season.

They asked, and quails appeared, *
and he satisfied them with bread from heaven.

He opened the rock, and water flowed, *
so the river ran in the dry places.

For God remembered his holy word *
and Abraham his servant.

So he led forth his people with gladness, *
his chosen with shouts of joy.

He gave his people the lands of the nations, *
and they took the fruit of others' toil,

That they might keep his statutes *
and observe his laws.

Hallelujah!

Second Lesson

Philippians 1:21-30

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well-- since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said

to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

The Sermon

The Rev. Deacon Rebecca A. Saager

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

The Prayers of the People

Leader: In peace let us pray to the Lord saying,

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: We lift up the Church and all her members. For Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Mark, our Bishop; Peter and Bill, our Priests; Rebecca and Sue, our Deacons; and for all the holy people of God. Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: We hold up to you our nation and all in authority. For Donald, the President; Andy, the Governor; William, the Mayor; and also the members of our armed forces, remembering especially _____. That they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of our world. Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. We remember especially our farmers. May they remind us of the beauty and joy arising from your good creation. Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord: you bless us with many good and perfect gifts. Make us increasingly aware of your presence in our lives and of your unceasing goodness to us. Please help us to spread civility, decency, and respect in our community. At this time, I invite your thanksgivings, either silently or aloud. (pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: We stand before you, Lord, as people living in the midst of COVID-tide. Our hearts are heavy with anxiety, fear, restlessness, and a longing for “normal.” We lay our very real concerns before you and also lift up the most vulnerable in our community: for the working poor, the homeless, and the elderly. For our sisters and brothers of color, often at heightened risk because of systemic racism. Come among us: grant us rest from our fears, strength for the work you call us to, and above all may your grace guide us through issues that we not competent to solve. At this time, I invite you to name your cares and concerns, either silently or aloud. (pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for those traveling. That they return safely and that their journey be spiritual as well as physical.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: We bring before you the specific needs of this congregation gathered here today, remembering especially those who are ill _____. I invite you to name those people and needs now, either silently or aloud. (pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: We remember those who have gone before us, giving thanks for their lives, presence, and influence on us. I invite you at this time to name them, either silently or aloud. (pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

All: Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Holy Communion

Offertory I need thee every hour *Dale Wood*

At the Presentation *Presider* All things come of Thee, O God.
All **And of Thine Own have we given Thee.**

The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer A) BCP 361

Sanctus Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, BCP 362
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The Great Amen

The Lord's Prayer BCP 364

Fraction Anthem Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.

Communion Hymn

O Master, let me walk with thee

Maryton

Hymn 660

1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with thee in low - ly;
 2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
 3 Teach me thy pa - tience; still with thee in clos - er,
 4 in hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the

paths of ser - vice free; tell me thy se - cret;
 win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
 dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
 fu - ture's broad - ening way, in peace that on - ly

help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
 feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
 sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,
 thou canst give, with thee, O Mas - ter, let me live.

Words: Washington Gladden (1836-1918) Music: *Maryton*, Henry Percy Smith (1825-1898)

Post Communion Prayer

BCP 365

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
 you have graciously accepted us as living members
 of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
 and you have fed us with spiritual food
 in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
 Send us now into the world in peace,
 and grant us strength and courage
 to love and serve you
 with gladness and singleness of heart;
 through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Benediction

Hymn

Rock of ages, cleft for me

Toplady

Hymnal 685

1 Rock of a - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
2 Should my tears for ev - er flow, should my zeal no lan - guor know,
3 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,

let the wa - ter and the blood from thy wound - ed side that flowed,
all for sin could not a - tone: thou must save, and thou a - lone;
when I rise to worlds un - known and be - hold thee on thy throne,

be of sin the dou - ble cure, cleanse me from its guilt and power.
in my hand no price I bring, sim - ply to thy cross I cling.
Rock of a - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Dismissal

BCP 366

Voluntary

Recessional fanfare

David Luna

DAILY OFFICE LECTIONARY:

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 21, Year Two - BCP 987
