

First Reading: Ezekiel 17:22-24

Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. All the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the LORD have spoken; I will accomplish it.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 92:1-4, 11-14 *Standing and read responsively by half verse*

It is a good thing to give thanks to the LORD, *
and to sing praises to your Name, O Most High;

To tell of your loving-kindness early in the morning *
and of your faithfulness in the night season;

On the psaltery, and on the lyre, *
and to the melody of the harp.

For you have made me glad by your acts, O LORD; *
and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.

The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, *
and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.

Those who are planted in the house of the LORD *
shall flourish in the courts of our God;

They shall still bear fruit in old age; *
they shall be green and succulent;

That they may show how upright the LORD is, *
my Rock, in whom there is no fault.

The Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:6-17

We are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord-- for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil. Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

Reader: The Word of the Lord. All: **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn *I sing the almighty power of God* Hymnal 398

The Gospel: Mark 4:26-34

Reader: The Holy Gospel.... All: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.” He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it

grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.” With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

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

The Sermon *The Rev’d Jordan Hylden*

The Nicene Creed *Standing, said by all* BCP 358

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. *Amen.*

The Prayers of the People Form III

Kneeling, the Leader and People pray responsively

Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church; ***That we all may be one.***

Grant that every member of the church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for *Jake*, our bishop; for *Joseph, Jordan, Emily, and Jake*, our priests; for *Honey*, our deacon; and for all bishops, priests, and deacons.
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

The Confession of Sin

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. *Amen.*

The celebrant pronounces absolution.

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you. *People:* **And also with you.**

Welcome and Announcements

Offertory *organ solo*

The Presentation of the Gifts & Doxology vs.3 Hymnal 380

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Eucharistic Prayer A

Celebrant: The Lord be with you. All: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts. All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant Continues

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; but chiefly we are bound to praise you through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

The Sanctus *Said together in unison*

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

The people kneel. *Then the Celebrant continues*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.” Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *Amen.*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord's Prayer *Said by all*

BCP 364

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

At the Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
All: **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

The Invitation to Communion

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion Hymns *Let thy Blood in mercy poured* Hymnal 313
Humbly I adore thee Hymnal 314

Thanksgiving and Blessing *Kneeling and in unison*

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. *Amen.*

Recessional Hymn *"Thy Kingdom come!" on bended knee* Hymnal 615

Dismissal

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR: Our Vestry and Clergy- our brother, Joseph, Julian Christopher Buuck, Stephen, Sandie Jordan, Joyce McClellan, Christopher Anglin, Lynn, Charles Lutes, Gerald Delaunay, Mary McIntosh, Lisa Bordelon, Maggie Patin, Billy Hall, Hazel, Marvin, Mary Fay Freshley, Michael Reed, Nicholas Blonski, Margret DeLarue, Catherine Elizabeth, Alison Higginbotham, Renee Reina, Dr Kerri Rimmel, Rebecca Jayne, James Alan Vaughn, Sawyer Billeaud, Maddox, Louise Haddock, Father Gary Schexnayder, Miller, Nagham El Karhili, Kasey, Jack Larmier, David, Carlin Craig, Kasey, Sharon, Kristen, John Bateman, Arthur White, Lou Ann St. Julien, Sterling Lejeune, Sylvia Turner, Roxanne Myers, Andrew D., Mary Beth Tompkins, Donald Shaffer, Jack Seale, Noelle Freeland, Bart Freeland, Donna Hebert, Jim, Lazane Frost, Molly Zeringue, Jeanne Zeringue, Kevin Barry, Jan and Charles, Dusty Nassif, Emily Marie, Miller King, Pat Fontenot, Paige, Alex Martin, Alicia, Maggie Johnson, Tolley Odom, Karen Anderson, Aimee White, Marion, Betsy Vigorito, Albert Freeman, Becky Slagle, Alyssa Willson, Janet Limouze, Joe and Christina, Albert Davis, Susan Oglesbee, Ann Jacobs, David Snyder, Penny Immel, Janet Bernhardt, Morgan Rutledge, Jake Rushing and family, Jan Hamilton, Reese Forest, Fiona Chisholm, Ella Mitchell, Peezie Alfred, Eddie and Rebecca LeBlanc, Brooks Citron, Mary Connor, Wendy Ortego, Karen Lavalais, David, Connor, Mona Stagg, Lillie Hardy, Susan Davis, Nash, Perry Joseph, Gail White, Katrina Marlena McKinnis, Nicole Wynn, Richard Bessent, Tron Thomas, Randy Harelson, Ronnie and Larry Garric, Marianna Cooney, Pat, Sherrye, Courtney, Judy, Sasha, Kelly and Dave Domangue, Troy LeBouef, Kory Bowman, Gail White, Finn, Caroline and Eddie, John Michael, Lizzie, Zoe Guidry, Mary Domingue, Beau Domingue, Courtney and family, Harry Bruder, Katie Callais Novy, Malayna LaFleur, Lance, Pat Vallery, and friends and family serving in the armed services. Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Iglesia Episcopal La Esperanza D Familia Unidas in Monroe, Trinity in Natchitoches, St. Genevieve Catholic Church, and The Anglican Church of Chile. (Names stay on the prayers list for three weeks unless otherwise requested.)

*The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of
Raymond St Hilaire and Harry Meyers*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our **Rector's Forum** is now on summer break. For June and July, we will have one service at 10am.

Children's Sunday school, youth group, and children's church are now on summer break, to return this fall. See the e-news, Tidings, or flyers in the narthex for a summer schedule.

Our children and youth are **gathering school supplies** for our summer day of service with the United Way! Needed supplies are: construction paper, dry erase supplies, loose-leaf paper, binders, crayons, scissors, glue, pencils, ink pens, and notebooks. Our **day of service is coming up Sat., June 29 (8:30-11:30am)** at United Way (215 E Pinhook). You can bring supplies each Sunday to drop off in the yellow box in the narthex, or during the week to the box in the church office. Contact Susen Brown with any questions, and to sign up for the service day.

Ascension Youth: Rising middle and high school students are invited to TopGolf on Tues., June 18th from 1-3pm! Contact Fr. Jake to sign up or with questions. We'll also have a **movie night** on Sun., June 30th.

Ascension Men: Join us for lunch the 1st and 3rd Thursdays (noon, church) and breakfast the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays (7:45am, Hub City Diner). *This week: Lunch at church.* Each month (roughly!), we serve a meal to the homeless at St. Joseph's Diner: to sign up to serve June 21 or July 18, contact Louis Simon (louissimon221@gmail.com)

Lector: George Arceneaux

Greeter: Penny Immel

Usher: Bryan Groves and Doug Goings

Acolyte: Connor Edmund, Campbell Womack, Martha Odom, Margaret Odom

Music: Tom Lyles, Minister of Music and John Moore, Organist

Office Hours: Monday—Friday: 9:00 am—1:00 pm



The Episcopal Church of the Ascension

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Bishop

The Right Reverend Jacob W. Owensby, Ph.D.

Rector

The Reverend Joseph Daly

Vice Rector

The Reverend Jordan Hylden, Th.D.

Clergy Associate

The Reverend Emily Hylden

Chaplain and Associate for Youth

The Reverend Jacob Schlossberg

Deacon

The Reverend Honey Becker

Welcome

We welcome all those who have come to worship with us today, and please come back often. If you are searching for a church home, we invite you to join us in our worshiping and celebration of God's love. Please fill out a "Communication Card" in the pew and drop it in the offering plate so that we can extend our hospitality to you beyond our doors.

All children are welcome in Church. The nursery is available for infants and toddlers. Please remember to silence your cell phone.

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 16, 2024
10:00 AM

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* Hymnal 390

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

The Collect for Purity *Standing*

The Gloria *Glory to God* Hymnal S-280
The "S" indicates Service Music found in the front section of the Hymnal

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 *kneeling*

Celebrant: *The Lord be with you.* People: **And also with you.**

Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in your steadfast faith and love, that through your grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness, and minister your justice with compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*



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