

Old Testament Exodus 14:19-31

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh’s horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, “Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.” Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, up-on their chariots and chariot drivers.” So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the char-iots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

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

Psalm 114 Sung, the People remaining seated. Antiphon [ANT] is sung by all.

Antiphon: Tremble, O earth at the presence of the Lord.

- 1 Hallelujah! When Israel came out of Egypt, *
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,
- 2 Judah became God's sanctuary *
and Israel his dominion. [ANT]
- 3 The sea beheld it and fled; *
Jordan turned and went back.
- 4 The mountains skipped like rams, *
and the little hills like young sheep. [ANT]
- 5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? *
O Jordan, that you turned back?
- 6 You mountains, that you skipped like rams? *
you little hills like young sheep? [ANT]
- 7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, *
at the presence of the God of Jacob,
- 8 Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water *
and flint-stone into a flowing spring. [ANT]

The Epistle Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are

the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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

Sequence Hymn Come with us, O blessed Jesus Hymnal 336

The Gospel Matthew 18: 21-35

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

Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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

The Sermon The Rev’d Fr. Matthew Ainsley

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

Deacon or other leader

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 *Matt 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.

Silence
The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

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 concludes with the absolution.

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

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Anthem Surely The Presence arr. Schrader
Pete Folse and Jennifer Andrews, soloist

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.

The Great Thanksgiving | Eucharistic Prayer A BCP 361

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Altar, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said.

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:

Celebrant and People

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. Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues with Eucharistic Prayer A.

...Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

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

The Celebrant continues.

...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,

People and Celebrant

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: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

All: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Invitation to Communion

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion Hymns	Come down, O Love divine	Hymnal 516
	Let thy Blood in mercy poured	Hymnal 313

Postcommunion Prayer Said by all BCP 366

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.

Final Blessing

Dismissal Hymn	Praise, my soul, the King of heaven	Hymnal 410
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Dismissal	Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
	People: Thanks be to God

Bishop
The Right Reverend Jacob W. Owensby, Ph.D.
Rector
The Reverend Father Matthew Ainsley
Chaplain and Associate for Youth
The Reverend Jacob Schlossberg
Deacon
The Reverend Honey Becker

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR: Our Vestry and Clergy- Alison Higginbotham, Arthur White, Sterling Lejeune, Betsy Vigorito, Becky Slagle, Janet Limouze, Joe and Christina, Susan Oglesbee, Ann Jacobs, David Snyder, Janet Bernhardt, Jan Hamilton, Reese Forest, Fiona Chisholm, Peezie Alfred, Wendy Ortego, Perry Joseph, Gail White, Troy LeBouef, Ashlynn Broussard, Rick Onks, Lynette Newchurch, Neil Joseph, Rachelle Morgan, Ed Keller, William Keller, Gili Menashe Robinson, Donny, Elliot, Emily Chapin, Kelly, Carol Hamilton Hunt, Brenda Privat, James, Evie, and Malaina, Margaret DeGruy, Mark Weems, Lara McKinnis, Kit Gumbs, Carolyn Barker, Pat Vallery, Amber, Pauline, Donald Leger, Jr., Charles Lewis, Mike Comeaux, Carol Jane, Renee, Marc, Carolyn, Virginia Morrison, Graison Louviere, Landon Romero, Kate Graciana, Kathleen David, Mac Camille, Ann Shower, Steve Baker, Pete Peters, Luke Heggy, Remi and Joseph, Melissa Keane, Guy Ellison, Jr., Archie Ganucheau, David Mills, Susan Davis, Nick Domino, Charles Swett, John Perkins, Mona Fitzgerald Stephan, Sasha, Rita Driggers, Mike Immel, Phil Swift, Tom Bryant, Mona Coulter, Anna Catherine, Marc Powell, The Family of Steven Miller, Dumas, Brooke Bercier, Joan Broussard, Rita Winski, Pam and Michael, Mike, The Family of Mark Broussard, Sr., Donny, Todd Wessinger, Claudia Beard, Lois Henry, and friends and family serving in the armed services. Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: St. Andrew’s Mer Rouge and Redeemer in Oak Ridge, Trinity in Tallulah, Grace in Lake Providence, The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia. St. Barnabas Episcopal Church. (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 Barbara and Beechie Henshaw

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Youth confirmation class this fall! All youth fourth grade and up are invited to join the confirmation class, select Sundays at 9:45 am. The Bishop will visit on December 20th to administer the sacrament of confirmation. For more information, contact Fr. Jake.

Safe Church In-Person Training: Saturday, September 26, 10 am—12 pm in Coughlin Hall, light breakfast included. Please RSVP to the church 337-232-2732 or church.ascension@ascensionlafayette.com. Required participants: clergy, paid staff, vestry members, lay leaders, key holders, and volunteers working with vulnerable groups must complete the online curriculum with Praesidium Academy at our group training or independently.

MomCo meets select Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. in the Owen Room (childcare provided) and select Fridays at 8:00 a.m. in the Robson Room. Come connect with other moms, grow in faith, and remember you don’t have to do this alone. To learn more about Ascension Momco, please visit: canva.link/ascensionmomco

Day by Days: Get you copy of the Forward Day by Day (Daily Devotions for Disciples) in the Church office, Church Narthex, or in Coughlin Hall.

Sunday Morning Bible Study: Gospel of John - Sundays, 10:00 to 10:45 am in the Owen Room Teachers: Fr Matt Ainsley, Laurie Godshall, John Griffin, Elizabeth Hesterly

Tuesday Evening Bible Study: Genesis - Tuesdays 6:00 - 7:00 pm in the Owen Room Teachers: Fr Matt Ainsley, Doug Driggers, Laurie Godshall, Elizabeth Hesterly, Sarah McNamara

Children's Church: Children's Church is on Sundays at the 11am service.

Lector: Sterling LeJeune Greeter: Carol Goings Ushers: Jeff Straub and Kirk Headley Acolytes: Wells Randall, Rex Randall, Julia Ziegler, Emilia Strohm Music: Stacy Shumaker, Minister of Music and John Moore, Organist Church Office Hours: Monday -Friday: 9:00am –2:30pm

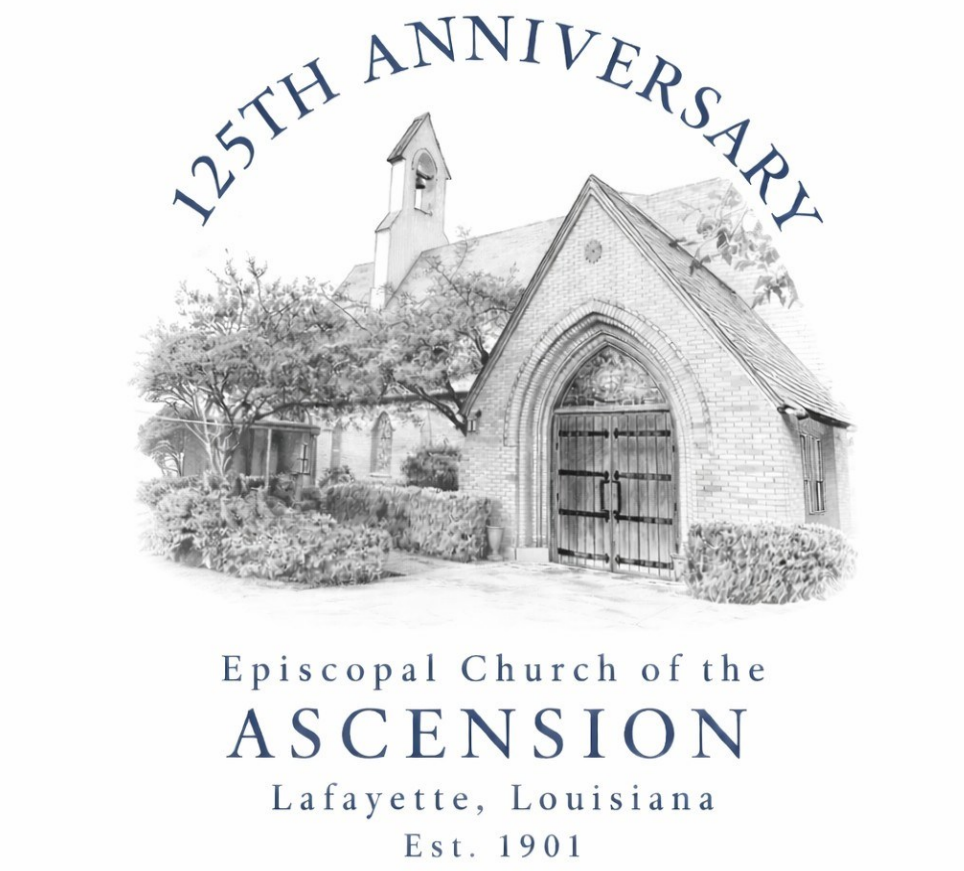
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The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 2026
11:00 AM

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 for ever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity BCP 355

The Gloria Glory to God sung 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 the People remain standing
Celebrant: The Lord be with you. People: And also with you.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.