

# Church of the Ascension

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**Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

*Episcopal Church of the Ascension*

**September 13, 2020**

**Follow Christ + Develop and Deepen Faith + Love and Serve**

If you wish to make online donations to the congregation, you may do so here: [Giving Link](#)

## Prelude

*Allegretto, from Suite in D Major - Vinci*

## Welcome

**Please stand when the bell is rung, signaling the beginning of worship.**

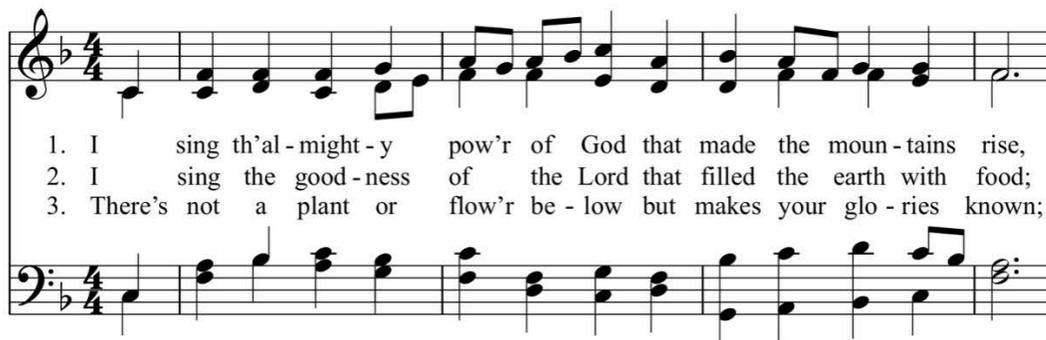
## Opening Acclamation

*Presider* Blessed be God: One, Holy and Undivided Trinity.

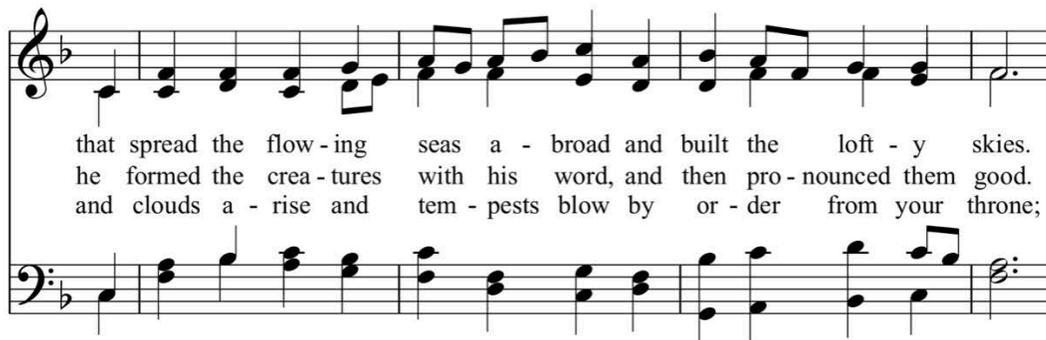
*People* **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

## Opening Hymn #398

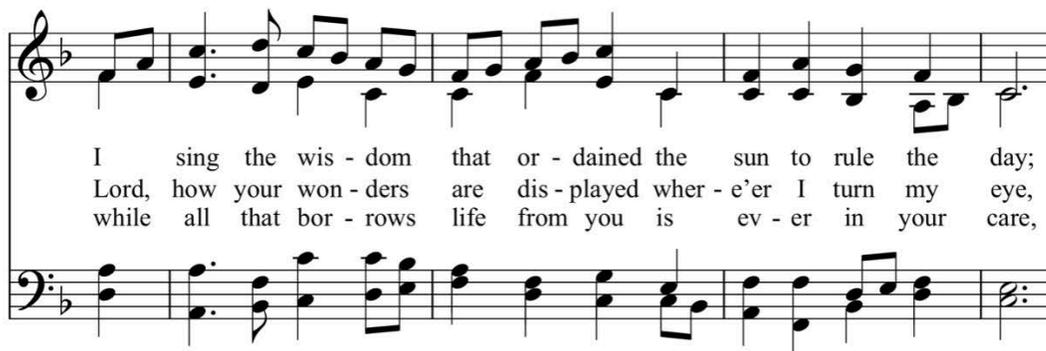
*I Sing the Almighty Power of God, vv. 1, 2*



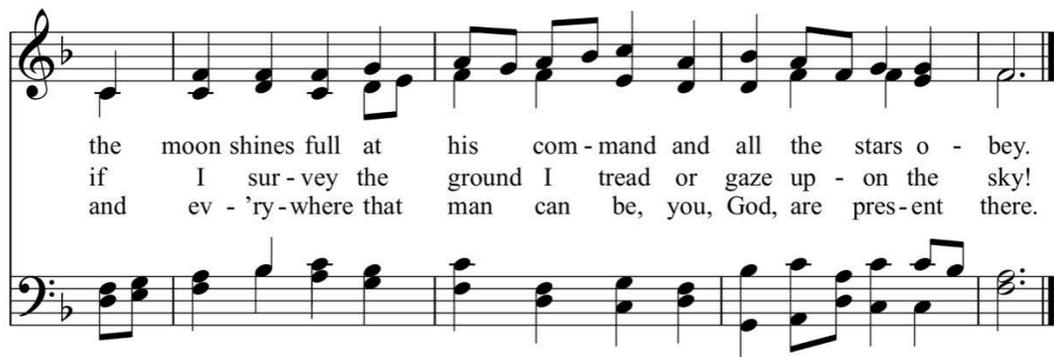
1. I sing th'al-might-y pow'r of God that made the moun-tains rise,  
2. I sing the good-ness of the Lord that filled the earth with food;  
3. There's not a plant or flow'r be-low but makes your glo-ries known;



that spread the flow-ing seas a-broad and built the loft-y skies.  
he formed the crea-tures with his word, and then pro-nounced them good.  
and clouds a-rise and tem-pests blow by or-der from your throne;



I sing the wis-dom that or-dained the sun to rule the day;  
Lord, how your won-ders are dis-played wher-e'er I turn my eye,  
while all that bor-rows life from you is ev-er in your care,



the moon shines full at his com-mand and all the stars o - bey.  
 if I sur-vey the ground I tread or gaze up - on the sky!  
 and ev - 'ry-where that man can be, you, God, are pres-ent there.

## Collect of the Day

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Let us pray.

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Word

*All are seated for the reading.*

### 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, upon 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 chariots 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* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 114

*The Psalm is read responsively.*

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.**

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.**

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?**

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.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**Silence and stillness follows the Psalm, then all stand for:**

## The Gospel Acclamation

*Festal Gospel Acclamation. Calvary Service  
Thomas Pavlechko*

The image shows a musical score for a Gospel Acclamation. It consists of two staves of music. The top staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 6/8 time signature. The bottom staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes. The top staff has the lyrics: "Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!" and "Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!". The bottom staff has the lyrics: "lu-ia!" and "Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!".

## Holy Gospel Matthew 18:21-35

*Presider* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
*People* **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.”

*Presider* The Gospel of the Lord

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## The Gospel Acclamation

*Festal Gospel Acclamation. Calvary Service*

*Thomas Pavlechko*

The image shows a musical score for the Gospel Acclamation. It consists of two staves of music. The top staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 6/8 time signature. The bottom staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has three measures of music with the lyrics "Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le - lu - ia!". The second staff has four measures of music with the lyrics "lu - ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!".

## Homily

The Rev. Heather Wenrick, Rector

*Silence and stillness follow.*

*Said in unison*

## The Nicene Creed

**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 worshiped 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.**

## **Prayers of the People**

**Intercessor** Come now, and let us pray together, says the Lord. Therefore, in unity, fellowship, and harmony, let us do Christ's will and share our prayers, saying, "Lord, please hear us."

*Silence may be kept.*

**Intercessor** Let us come together in support and blessing for our church and communion in the world; for Michael our presiding bishop, Greg our Bishop, Heather our priest, for ministers and ministries both global and personal, we pray:

**People** **Lord, please hear us.**

**Intercessor** Let us join together as one people and one planet, without petty quarrels and divisions, as we are all truly in and of God's creation. With respect and care for others, we pray:

**People** **Lord, please hear us.**

**Intercessor** Let us consider those among us who are selected to lead. Grant them the wisdom to remember that leadership is first and foremost service, and the moral strength to bear this responsibility. We pray:

**People** **Lord, please hear us.**

**Intercessor** Let us remember our fellow humans who have chosen other paths. Jews, Muslims, and Christians, we all worship the same God, and we should serve together in unity and mutual respect and love, we pray:

**Lord, please hear us.**

**Intercessor** Let us come together as one united humanity, and put a final end to racism, violence and oppression. Let us house the homeless, clothe the naked, and feed the hungry. We have the vast resources of God's earth and our intelligence; we can ease so much suffering. Release us from our greed, we pray:

**Lord, please hear us.**

**People**

**Intercessor** Let us focus our thoughts on those among us who are ill or in pain, especially \_\_\_\_\_, and those I ask you to name either silently or aloud. May we come to their aid as they would come to ours. We pray:

**People** **Lord, please hear us.**

**Intercessor** Let us count our uncountable blessings and pray for those with birthdays. Pray for those with a birthday this week:

## Prayer for a Birthday

*People* Watch over thy child(ren), O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their heart may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Intercessor* We include other thanksgivings \_\_\_\_\_, naming them silently or aloud. At the beginning of the school year, we ask God's blessing on our computer devices. (Mtr. Heather blesses school devices). We pray:

*People* Lord, please hear us.

*Intercessor* Let us carry a light in our hearts for the dead, who have passed on, but who yet live in our thoughts and prayers. We especially remember Kay Walker, and those I now ask you to name silently or aloud, \_\_\_\_\_. In the hope of a heavenly reunion someday, we pray:

*People* Lord, please hear us.

*Intercessor* Bind us together in unity, faithful community, and harmony, as we go forth in the world to do your work. Amen.

## The Peace

*Presider* The peace of Christ be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Please share a sign of Peace with those around you.*

## Announcements

### Offertory Hymn

*Forgive Us, Lord, as We Forgive*

“Forgive our sins as we forgive” you taught us, Lord, to pray; but you alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.

## Eucharistic Prayer C

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Presider* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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*Presider*

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

**Glory to you for ever and ever.**

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

**By your will they were created and have their being.**

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

**Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

**By his blood, he reconciled us.**

**By his wounds, we are healed.**

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

**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**

And so, Father we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

**We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver

us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

**Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

*Presider* And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever.  
Amen.**

## **The Fraction**

*Presider* God of promise, you have prepared a banquet for us.

*People* **Happy are those who are called to the Supper of the Lamb.**

Making A Spiritual Communion - For Those Watching From Home

*St. Thomas Aquinas says that all who have "an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Holy Sacrament and a loving embrace as though we had already received Him" receive communion spiritually. Following this tradition, the Book of Common Prayer, p. 457, says that any who are unable to eat and drink the Bread and Wine for reason of extreme sickness are assured all benefits of communion. You are invited to offer this prayer from where you are watching:*

Grant, O Lord Jesus Christ, that as the hem of your garment, touched in faith, healed the woman who could not touch your Body, so the soul of your servant may be healed by like faith in you, whom I cannot now sacramentally receive; through your tender mercy, who lives and reigns with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit ever one God. **Amen.**

*Adapted from "A Form of Spiritual Communion" from the Anglican Diocese of Malaita*

## **Post-Communion Prayer**

*Presider and People*

**Let us pray:**

**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 for ever. Amen.**

## The Blessing

## Dismissal

*Presider* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

*Voluntary in G - Heron*

**Coffee Hour** follows this Prayer Service on Zoom. A time to be together virtually, pray together and share in this blessed day. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83946950580>

Music Permissions:

TBA



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We **acknowledge** that the land upon which we are gathering is the traditional ancestral and unceded territory of the first people of Seattle, the Duwamish People.

