

Church of the Ascension

October 4, 2020

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Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Episcopal Church of the Ascension

The Church honors St. Francis on the first Sunday in October. Francis, by the age of 28, founded a simple Rule for an Order called the Friars Minor. Francis became identified with Christ's poverty and suffering, enduring physical ailments, including the wounds of Christ or stigmata, on his own hands, feet and side. He was deeply connected to all of God's creation. He believed that, as a creature of God, he and all of us are part of that creation.

In his *Canticle of the Sun*, Francis wrote,
"Most High, omnipotent, good Lord,
To thee be ceaseless praise outpoured,
And blessing without measure.
Let creatures all give thanks to thee
And serve in great humility."

Francis teaches us that, because we were created by the One who created all things, we are intended by God to be faithful by loving each other, every creature, and all of creation. At a time when our world is dividing, may we be drawn to the simple creed of respect for everyone, blessings for all. May you and your loved pets and stuffed animals be part of today's Blessing of the Animals, encouraged to use that blessing entrusted to you to be co-creative with God.

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

Let All Things Now Living - arr. Sanborn

Welcome to Ascension!

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 #405

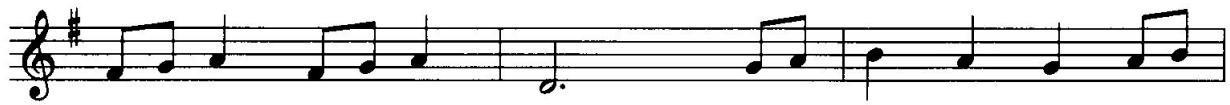
All Things Bright and Beautiful, vv. 1, 4

Refrain

All things bright and beau - ti - ful, All
crea - tures great and small, All things wise and
won - der - ful, The Lord God made them all.

Verses

1. Each lit - tle flow'r that o - pens, Each
2. The pur - ple - head - ed moun - tain, The
3. The cold wind in the win - ter, The
4. God gave us eyes to see them, And



lit - tle bird that sings, God made their glow - ing
riv - er run - ning by, The sun - set, and the
pleas - ant sum - mer sun, The ripe fruits in the
lips that we might tell How great is God Al -



col - ors, God made their ti - ny wings.
morn - ing That bright - ens up the sky.
gar - den, God made them ev - 'ry one.
might - y, Who has made all things well.

Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; 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.

A Reading from Paul to the Philippians

Philippians 3:4-14

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power

of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm is read responsively.

Psalm 19

The heavens declare the glory of God, *
and the firmament shows his handiwork.

One day tells its tale to another, *
and one night imparts knowledge to another.

Although they have no words or language, *
and their voices are not heard,

Their sound has gone out into all lands, *
and their message to the ends of the world.

In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; *
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again; *
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

The law of the Lord is perfect
and revives the soul; *
the testimony of the Lord is sure
and gives wisdom to the innocent.

The statutes of the Lord are just
and rejoice the heart; *
the commandment of the Lord is clear
and gives light to the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is clean
and endures for ever; *
the judgments of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold,
more than much fine gold, *
sweeter far than honey,
than honey in the comb.

By them also is your servant enlightened, *
and in keeping them there is great reward.

Who can tell how often he offends? *
cleanse me from my secret faults.

Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
let them not get dominion over me; *
then shall I be whole and sound,
and innocent of a great offense.

**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my
heart be acceptable in your sight, ***
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

**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.**

Gospel Acclamation

Festal Gospel Acclamation. Calvary Service - Thomas Pavlechko

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le - lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le

lu - ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le - lu-ia, Al-le - lu - ia! Al - le-lu - ia!

Holy Gospel Matthew 21:33-46

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

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

‘Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, “They will respect my son.” But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, “This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.” So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?’ They said to him, ‘He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.’

Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read in the scriptures:

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes”?

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.’

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

Presider The Gospel of the Lord
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Gospel Acclamation *Festal Gospel Acclamation. Calvary Service - Thomas Pavlechko*



Homily

The Rt. Rev. Gregory H. Rickel, Bishop of Olympia

Prayers of the People

Intercessor Beloved God, we thank you for giving us Christ, who found joy in releasing, giving, and showing us how to live eternity in our lives. Strengthen, bless and guide us to make you known by word and example. We are your church, O God.

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor We thank you for your creation, and pray for the earth you have given us to cherish and protect: nourish in us your love for all you have made. We are your stewards, O God:

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Guide and bless us in our work and in our play, and shape the patterns of our political and economic life, that all people may share in the fulfillment of your creative work. We are your workers, O God:

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor Embrace with your mercy all those who have died. Comfort those who mourn, encourage those who labor still and deliver us, and those who persecute us, from hatred and cruelty. We are all one family, O God:

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor We thank you for the gift of life, with all its sorrows and blessings. We seek healing prayers, especially for _____, and we count our blessings, especially for _____, seeking prayers for those with a birthday, we pray:

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.

Presider Shield the joyous, comfort and strength those in any need or trouble. Bless those who will be born today and those who will die, that joining with the company of all your saints we may rejoice in one unending song of praise. In you alone we have eternal life, O God;

People Hear our prayer.

Presider We offer these our prayers and thanksgiving to you, O God, the source of all that is true and holy, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Confession

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence is kept.

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.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **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

Lord, Make Us Servants of Thy Peace

Eucharistic Prayer C

Presider God 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.**

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 and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob, Leah and Rachel; 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 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:

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. *Amen.* *-prayer attributed to St. Francis*

The Blessing

Dismissal

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude **Psalm 19: The Heavens Declare the Glory of God - Marcello**

Coffee Hour follows this Prayer Service on Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83946950580>

Blessing of Animals occurs curbside, Viewmont St, 11:30am-12:30pm.

Music Permissions:

Let All Things Now Living - arr. Sanborn (c. 2000, Fred Bock Music)

Lord, Make Us Servants of Thy Peace - Text: attributed to Francis of Assisi; music: L. H. Bristol, Jr (FYI, #593)



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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.

