



**SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE  
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST**

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS AND ASCENSION**

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Saint Louis, Missouri 63121  
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*[allsaintsascension.com](http://allsaintsascension.com)*

**Sunday Prayer Service for October 4, 2020**  
**“Enriching Our Worship”**

**Opening Acclamation**

*Celebrant* Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

*People* *Glory to God for ever and ever. Amen.*

**Collect for Purity**

*Celebrant* Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

**Song of Praise                      Canticle 12 “A Song of Creation”**

Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Let the earth glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
Glorify the Lord, O mountains and hills,  
and all that grows upon the earth, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O springs of water, seas, and streams, \*  
O whales and all that move in the waters.  
All birds of the air, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild, \*  
and all you flocks and herds.  
O men and women everywhere, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Let us glorify the Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

*Celebrant* God be with you.  
*People* And also with you.  
*Celebrant* Let us pray.

### **Collect of the Day**

*Celebrant* 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.*

### **First Reading**

**Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20**

A Reading from the Book of Exodus.

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die." Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People*      *Thanks be to God.*

## **Psalm 19**

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- 1 The heavens declare the glory of God, \*  
and the firmament shows his handiwork.
- 2 One day tells its tale to another, \*  
and one night imparts knowledge to another.
- 3 Although they have no words or language, \*  
and their voices are not heard,
- 4 Their sound has gone out into all lands, \*  
and their message to the ends of the world.

- 5 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.
- 6 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.
- 7 The law of the LORD is perfect  
and revives the soul; \*  
the testimony of the LORD is sure  
and gives wisdom to the innocent.
- 8 The statutes of the LORD are just  
and rejoice the heart; \*  
the commandment of the LORD is clear  
and gives light to the eyes.
- 9 The fear of the LORD is clean  
and endures for ever; \*  
the judgments of the LORD are true  
and righteous altogether.
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold,  
more than much fine gold, \*  
sweeter far than honey,  
than honey in the comb.
- 11 By them also is your servant enlightened, \*  
and in keeping them there is great reward.
- 12 Who can tell how often he offends? \*  
cleans me from my secret faults.
- 13 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.
- 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my  
heart be acceptable in your sight, \*  
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

## **Second Reading**

## **Philippians 3:4b-14**

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians.

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 toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People Thanks be to God.*

## **The Gospel**

## **Matthew 21: 33-46**

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

*People Glory to you, O Christ.*

Jesus said, "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 watchtower. 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.

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

**Sermon**

**The Rev. Renee L. Fenner**  
**(posted online)**

**The Nicene Creed**

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*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    Form VI                    BCP page 392**

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence*



For all people in their daily life and work;  
*For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.*

For this community, the nation, and the world;  
*For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.*

For the just and proper use of your creation;  
*For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.*

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;  
*For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.*

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;  
*For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.*

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, Deon our Bishop, and Renee our Priest. In our Diocese of Missouri, we pray for the people and ministry of the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration, and Lu-Anne, their Rector. We pray for our companions in the Diocese of Lui; and for all bishops and other ministers;  
*For all who serve God in his Church.*

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. *(pause)* We pray especially for:

Cleo Anderson	Kimberley Baker	Terry Baker
Joey Beeker	Rose Marie Bell	Jourice Bishop
Chazetta Bland	V. Lester Bond	Brandon Burgett
Juanita Carroll	Lorenzo Carter	Bessie Clemmons
Lola Crenshaw	Aubrey Escoffery	Evans Ford
Vivian Fox	Carman Gayden	Jim Goodwin
Antonio Graves	Suzanne Harris	The Harris/Fenner Families
The Henderson Family	Mary K. Jones	Drea Malone
Karen Mosley	Ezell Roberts	Larry Sample
Mary Stafford	Catherine Thrope	

We also pray for those serving in the military:  
Sgt. Omar Fernandes (Brantley)-United States Air Force  
Sr. Airman Matthew Heeter- United States Air Force

First Lt. Jovonny Carrion-United States Army  
Staff Sgt. Ashley Cole-United States Air Force  
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Keshar Miller-United States Army Reserve

We also pray for all students, parents, guardians, teachers, and school staffs. We pray for all those affected by wildfires, storms, flooding, and hurricanes.

### **A Prayer in Time of Pandemic**

God of healing, bring an end to this pandemic,  
And all illness and disease.  
Bless those who stand in service to humanity.  
Bless those who grieve.  
Bless the dead,  
So that their souls are bound up in the bond of life eternal.  
And grant those still afflicted  
With disease or trauma  
A completed and lasting healing,  
One-by-one,  
Until suffering ceases,  
And we can stop counting the dead,  
In heaven And on earth.

-written by Alden Solovy

### **A Prayer For Social Justice**

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

### **A Prayer for An End to Gun Violence**

Gracious God who loves us so perfectly, help us to better love you and each other. We weep for the gun violence that kills our children and so many others needlessly. Bless us with the wisdom and strength to put down our weapons and may violence cease in the nation and in our world. We ask all this in the Name of Jesus, your Son, and our Redeemer. *Amen.*

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions*

Hear us, Lord;  
*For your mercy is great.*

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own thanksgivings*

We will exalt you, O God our King;  
*And praise your Name for ever and ever.*

We pray for all who have died, especially Eric Henderson (son of Catherine and Charles Henderson and brother of Cheryl Henderson), that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;  
*Who put their trust in you.*

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

*Silence may be kept.*

*Leader and People*

*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 we may live and serve you in newness of life,  
to the honor and glory of your Name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## **Absolution**

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

## **The Peace**

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

*People* *And also with you.*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*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.*

## **A Prayer for those wishing Communion**

*In union, O God, with the faithful of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, we desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. We present to you our souls and bodies with the earnest wish that we may always be united to you. And since we cannot now receive you sacramentally, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. We unite ourselves with you and embrace you with all the love of our souls. Let nothing ever separate you from us. May we live in you, and may you live in us, both in this life and in the life to come. Amen.*

## **A Blessing of the Animals**

*Celebrant* Bless, O God, these animals and fill the hearts of their human companions with thanksgiving for their beings.

O God of the universe, we thank you for all your creation, and especially for the love and companionship of these your creations. Help us always to serve Christ as we serve them, and all of creation, loving them, as Christ loved us. *Amen.*

*Celebrant* Let us pray the Prayer of St. Francis together.

*Lord, make us instruments of God's 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.*

## **Announcements**

### **Blessing and Dismissal**

*Celebrant* May God who established the dance of creation, who marveled at the lilies of the field, who transforms chaos to order, lead us to transform our lives and the Church to reflect God's glory in creation. Amen.

*Celebrant* Let us go forth in the Name of Christ.

*People* *Thanks be to God.*