



**SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE  
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST**

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS AND ASCENSION**

4520 Lucas and Hunt Road  
Saint Louis, Missouri 63121  
314-367-2314 and 314-361-0105

*allsaintsascension.com*

**Sunday Prayer Service for September 13, 2020**  
**The Book of Common Prayer**

**Opening Acclamation**

**BCP page 355**

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

*People* *And blessed be his kingdom, now and for 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 Lord. *Amen.*

**Song of Praise**

**BCP page 356**

*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.*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

### **Collect of the Day**

*Celebrant* 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.*

### **First Reading**

### **Exodus 14:19-31**

A Reading from the Book of Exodus.

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.

*People*            The Word of the Lord.  
                          *Thanks be to God.*

### **Psalm 114**

### **BCP page 756**

- 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.

### **Second Reading**

### **Romans 14:1-12**

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans.

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.

*People*            The Word of the Lord.  
                         *Thanks be to God.*

## **The Gospel**

## **Matthew 18:21-35**

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."

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

**Sermon**

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

**The Nicene Creed**

**BCP page 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 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 III                    BCP page 387**

*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 Michael our Presiding Bishop, Deon our Bishop, and Renee our Priest. In our Diocese of Missouri, we pray for the people and ministry of St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Fulton, and their interim priest. We pray for our companions in the Diocese of Lui 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. 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	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, teachers, and school staffs as the new school year begins. We pray for those affected by wildfires, recent storms and hurricanes.

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

Loving God, your desire is for our wholeness and wellbeing.  
We hold in tenderness and prayer the collective suffering of our world at this time.  
We grieve precious lives lost and vulnerable lives threatened.  
We ache for ourselves and our neighbors, standing before an uncertain future.  
We pray: may love, not fear, go viral.

Inspire our leaders to discern and choose wisely, aligned with the common good.  
Help us to practice social distancing and reveal to us new and creative ways to  
come together in spirit and in solidarity.

Call us to profound trust in your faithful presence,  
You, the God who does not abandon. *Amen.*

*Sister Christine Koelhoeffer, IHM*

### **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 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.*

*Celebrant* Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and  
earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your  
will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **Confession of Sin**

**BCP page 360**

*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 Bishop, when present, or the Priest, stands and says*

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**

*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.*

## **Blessing and Dismissal**

*Celebrant* May God clothe you in love, strengthen you to live gently on this earth, give you humility to see all you encounter as precious, and teach you to walk with kindness and patience. And the blessing of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, accompany your journey today and always. Amen.

*Celebrant* Let us bless the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.