

PRAYER SERVICE

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 26, 2021, 9:00 a.m.



Episcopal Church of All Saints and Ascension

Northwoods, MO

"ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP"

OPENING HYMN "In the Garden"

69

In the Garden

1 I come to the gar - den a lone — While the
2 He speaks and the sound of His voice — Is so
3 I'd stay in the gar - den with Him — Though the

1 dew is still on the ros - es. And the voice I hear, fall - ing
2 sweet the birds hush their sing - ing. And the me - lo - dy that He
3 night a - round me be fall - ing. But He bids me go through the

1 on my ear, The Son of God dis - clos - es
2 gave to me With in my heart is ring - ing
3 voice of woe, His voice t^o me is cal - ing

And He walks with me and He talks with me. And He

tells me I am His own, — And the joy we share as we

tar - ry there. No - one oth - er has ev - er — known —

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
People ***Glory to God for ever and ever.***

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

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: GLORIA (spoken)

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

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

A Reading from the Book of Esther

The king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me-- that is my petition-- and the lives of my people-- that is my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king." Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?" Esther said, "A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that." So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should

make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

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

THE PSALM **Psalm 124** *Nisi quia Dominus*

- 1 If the LORD had not been on our side, *
let Israel now say;
- 2 If the LORD had not been on our side, *
when enemies rose up against us;
- 3 Then would they have swallowed us up alive *
in their fierce anger toward us;
- 4 Then would the waters have overwhelmed us *
and the torrent gone over us;
- 5 Then would the raging waters *
have gone right over us.
- 6 Blessed be the LORD! *
he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.
- 7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; *
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.
- 8 Our help is in the Name of the LORD, *
the maker of heaven and earth.

THE SECOND LESSON

James 5:13-20

A Reading from the Letter of James.

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven.

Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

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

SEQUENCE HYMN *“Take My Hand, Precious Lord”*

Take My Hand, Precious Lord

1. Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me
 2. When my way grows — drear, pre - cious Lord, lin - ger
 3. When the dark - ness ap - pears and the night draws —

1. stand, — I am tired, I am weak, I am worn; _____
 2. near, — When my life is — al - most — gone; _____
 3. near, — And the day is — past and — gone; _____

1. — Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the
 2. — Hear my cry, hear my call, Hold my hand, lest I
 3. — At the riv - er I stand, Guide my feet, hold my

1. light, — Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, — Lead me on. _____
 2. fall, — Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, — Lead me on. _____
 3. hand, — Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, — Lead me on. _____

Words: Thomas A. Dorsey (1899-1993)

Music: Thomas A. Dorsey; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer (b. 1935)

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THE GOSPEL

Mark 9:38-50

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

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

John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

"If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

"For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

The Reverend Renee L. Fenner

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 FORM VI

The Worship Leader and People pray responsively

In peace, we pray to you, O 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 and Deon our Bishop. In our Diocese of Missouri, we pray for the people and ministry of All Saint's Episcopal Church (1979), Farmington, and Richard, their Vicar. We pray for Renee, our Rector, and Jamal, our Assisting Clergy; and for all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in God's Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation and those of others especially:

The Rev. E. Henry Adams	Cleo Anderson	Joey Beeker
Rose Marie Bell	Chazetta Bland	V. Lester Bond
Rickie Bradley	Harold Briggs	Juanita Carroll
Lorenzo Carter	Bessie Clemmons	Stephanie Curry-Edward
Keyanna Dorsey and Family	Aubrey Escoffery	Carman Gayden
Antonio Graves	Suzanne Harris	John & Sharon Jackson
Doug Jones	Mary K. Jones	Ruby Mathews
Diana Oliver	Helen Owens	Arvel Parker
Ezell Roberts	Marion Robinson	Florence Ross

Larry Sample
Rodney Weade

Sallie Simmons
Douglas Williams

Gerri Sleydin
Larry Williams

For all veterans and those who are currently serving in the military especially:

Sgt. Omar Fernandes (Brantley)-United States Air Force
Sr. Airman Matthew Heeter- United States Air Force
Captain Jovonny Carrion-United States Army
Staff Sgt. Ashley Cole-United States Air Force
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Keshar Miller-United States Army Reserve

A Prayer in This Time of Pandemic

Loving God, your desire is for our wholeness and well-being.
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 masking and 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

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Hear us, O God;

For your mercy is great.

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

Silence

The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

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

Pause

Celebrant Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

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.*

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

We thank you, O God, for gathering us as your people. We call to remembrance the many times we have been fed at your table and we lament our distance now. Be present, O Jesus, as you were present with your disciples, be known to us in the breaking of the bread, and may your Holy Spirit sustain us and all your Church until we can gather together again face-to-face. We ask this for the sake of your love. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BLESSING

Celebrant Life is short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those whom we love or those who walk this way with us. So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind and may the Divine Mystery that is beyond our ability to know be your companion along the way. And may the blessing of God Almighty, the grace of Christ the Son and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
People ***Thanks be to God.***

Today's Liturgical Leaders

Celebrant

The Rev. Renee L. Fenner, Rector

Assisting Clergy

The Rev. Jamal Scarlett

Worship Leader

Betty Brown

Reader

Walter Fox

Minister of Music

Rick Earley

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUT OF OFFICE

Karen will be out of the office tomorrow, September 27th. The office will re-open on Tuesday, September 28th.

OUTDOOR EUCHARIST

Plans are being made to have an outdoor Eucharist next Sunday, October 3rd at 9:00 a.m. Please bring a lawn chair.



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

The Feast of St. Francis will be celebrated in-person at our outdoor service next Sunday, October 3rd during the 9:00 a.m. Eucharist. You are welcome to bring your dog, cat, rabbit, gerbil, bird, fish and other creatures to be blessed. All animals should be secured on a leash or in a carrier or crate.

ECW ANNUAL MEETING

The Missouri Episcopal Church Women (ECW) will hold its Retreat and Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 9th via Zoom, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. All women in the diocese are invited to join a presentation on “The Questions of Jesus” by guest facilitator, the Rev. Canon Whitney Rice, Canon for Evangelism & Discipleship Development in the Diocese of Missouri. There will also be time for small group discussion, reflection and prayer. The event is free and open to all women in the diocese, but advance registration is required. For more information regarding registration contact:

Deborah Caby, 314-606-7577 (voice/text), debbiecaby@yahoo.com.

182nd MEETING OF THE CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MISSOURI

The 182nd meeting of the Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri will be held November 18-20, 2021. Nominations for elected diocesan offices and resolutions are being accepted for consideration at the Convention. All nominations and resolutions should be submitted by September 30, 2021. Lay and clergy members from all areas of our diocese are encouraged to participate in diocesan committees. The positions that will be elected are:

- Standing Committee: 1 clergy and 2 lay members for 4-year terms
- Diocesan Council: 2 lay members for 3-year terms

- Disciplinary Board: 1 clergy member for 3-year term

Email your nominations to the Nominations Committee at nominations@diocesemo.org, or mail your nominations to:

*The Rev. Todd McDowell,
Chair of the Committee on Nominations and Election Procedures
Offices of the Bishop
1210 Locust St.
St. Louis, Missouri 63103*

OFFERINGS/PLEDGES/CONTRIBUTIONS

As we are fasting from in-person worship service, please remember to mail or drop off your contributions to the church. Thanks for your continued financial support during this time of pandemic.

EPISCOPAL CITY MISSION MOMENT IN TIME

Please register for the Virtual Episcopal City Mission (ECM) Moment in Time Gala and Auction to be held Thursday, October 14, 2021, 6:00 p.m. You will enjoy a fun evening of live and silent auctions, raffles and more. Proceeds will directly benefit ECM's mission to provide hope and healing for children in the juvenile system. For more information contact the ECM Executive Director, Beth Goad, at ecmdirectorstl@gmail.com or call 314-436-3545.

North County Episcopal Communal
Gardeners

Invite you to a
Harvest Celebration!



When: Saturday, October 9th at 5 p.m.

Where: 2900 St. Catherine St, Florissant

Who: All Saints and Ascension, St. Barnabas', St. Stephen's Episcopal Churches and family, friends, and neighbors. All are welcome!

Come for a prayer service of Thanksgiving for a successful harvest. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and a picnic dinner to enjoy together in the garden. Bring friends and family and neighbors for a fun evening of celebration and thanksgiving.

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