



CONFIRMATION AND HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II
Sunday, September 13, 2020

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION
Montgomery, Alabama

The Reverend Candice B. Frazer, Rector
The Reverend Andrew S. Brislin, Associate Rector

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Hymn: *Bless the Lord, O My Soul* (A. Crouch)

The people standing, the Bishop says

Bishop Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.
Amen.

Bishop There is one Body and one Spirit;
People There is one hope in God's call to us;
Bishop One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
People One God and Father of all.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

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

All sit.

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.

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

Psalm 114 *In exitu Israel*

- 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.

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

Holy Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

All stand.

Celebrant 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."

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

Sermon

The Right Reverend Glenda Curry

PRESENTATION AND EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATES

The Bishop says

The Candidate(s) will now be presented.

Presenters I present these persons for Confirmation.

I present these persons to be received into this Communion.

The Bishop asks the candidates

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

Candidate I do.

Bishop Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

Candidate I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.

After all have been presented, the Bishop addresses the congregation, saying
Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support this person in *his* life in Christ?

People We will.

The Bishop then says

Let us join with *those* who *are* committing *themselves* to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Bishop Do you believe in God the Father?

People I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.

Bishop Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
 and born of the Virgin Mary.
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.
 He descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again.
 He ascended into heaven,
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Bishop Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting.

Bishop Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of
bread, and in the prayers?

People I will, with God's help.

Bishop Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and
return to the Lord?

People I will, with God's help.

Bishop Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People I will, with God's help.

Bishop Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as
yourself?

People I will, with God's help.

Bishop Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?
People I will, with God's help.

Prayers for the Candidates

The Bishop then says to the people

Let us now pray for these people who have renewed *their* commitment to Christ.

A Person appointed leads the following petitions

People Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Open their heart to your grace and truth.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Send them into the world in witness to your love.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

A period of silence follows.

Then the Bishop says

Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in these your servants the covenant you made with them at their Baptism. Send them forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

For Confirmation

The Bishop lays hands upon each one and says

Strengthen, O Lord, your servant *N.* with your Holy Spirit; empower *him* for your service; and sustain *him* all the days of *his* life. *Amen.*

Or this

Defend, O Lord, your servant *N.* with your heavenly grace, that *he* may continue yours forever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more, until *he* comes to your everlasting kingdom. *Amen.*

For Reception

N., we recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and we receive you into the fellowship of this Communion. God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you. *Amen.*

The Bishop concludes with this prayer

Almighty and everliving God, let your fatherly hand ever be over this your servant; let your Holy Spirit ever be with *him*; and so lead *him* in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that *he* may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Peace

All stand.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Announcements

Please look on pages 10-12 for the prayer list and more offerings to you from Church of the Ascension.

Giving is available online by going to our website “www.coascension.org” and click on the “Give” link, or text the word “GIVE” to (833)901-2138 and follow as prompted.

The Celebrant says

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal, for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Offertory Anthem: *Down to the River to Pray* (Spiritual, arr. Taylor)

HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharist Prayer A

The people remain standing.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever say this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

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.

The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ has risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

The Celebrant then continues

And now, as our Savior

Christ has taught us,

We are bold to say

Officiant and People

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.

The Breaking of the Bread

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread,
A period of silence is kept.*

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

You may be seated.

To receive Communion, one person from each household should come forward, sanitize their hands, and take enough communion for their family. Then, return to your spot and your family can take the communion together.

The Bread and the Cup are taken with these words:

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen.

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. Amen.

Communion Anthems: *Total Praise* (R. Smallwood), *Taste and See* (J. E. Moore, Jr.)

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and people, standing

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage

to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

The Bishop blesses the people, saying

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

Hymn: Down by the Riverside (Spiritual, arr. C. C. White)

We recognize that everyone's comfort and security level is different. We wish to honor all those who join us for worship. So as you leave please refrain from shaking hands, or touching in any way. Feel free to converse at appropriate and safe physical distances. We are very much looking forward to the return of handshakes, hugs and fist-bumps.

YOUTH RECEIVING CONFIRMATION

Kayla Bledsoe, Lucy Calhoun, Ryan Coker, Collins Liveoak, Davis Dickertt, Grayson Dickertt, Harper Mielke, Lily Mielke, Margie Anne Prescott, Erin Waggoner

ADULTS RECEIVING CONFIRMATION

Cristina Cadden, Spencer Cadden, Christopher Dudley, Alyssa Eaton, Morgan Gunter, Stephen Gunter, Amy Jenkins, Gary Johnson, Jody McCormick, April McKay, Walt McKay, Bryan Reeves, Mary Daniel Rives, Caitlin Talbot, Bill Talbot, Clark Waggoner.

THOSE WHO ARE BEING RECEIVED

Karen Swanson, Tina Waggoner

ALTAR FLOWERS

Today's altar flowers are given in memory of Mr. & Mrs. William Patrick Vogtle,
Mr. & Mrs. Germer Petesch, Mr. & Mrs. Alvin Ward Vogtle,
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Stone Weatherly, Mr. & Mrs. Borden Burr, and Mr. Robert Stone Weatherly, Jr.

PRAYERS FOR ASCENSION

PARISHIONERS: Celia Huff Porea, Eric Kidwell, Russ Dean, Brad Sharpe, Ron Wright, The Garrett Family, Tim Lewis, Sandy Akin, Jane McConnell, Phil Murkett, Dr. Pamela Gay, Edith Crook, Al Cantrell, Bill Wall, Andrea Cathey, Violet Monson, Betty Godbold, Sophie Xides, Joyce Hobbs, Frances Hill, Dan Hackett, Charles and Henrietta Hubbard, The Lewis Family, Caroline James, Sue Hicks

FAMILIES AND FRIENDS: Tom Cathey, Brett Cowden, Barney & Dianne Capps, The Morris Family, The Lindahl Family, Otis James, Crawford Kennedy, Rob McLendon, Tracey Larkin, Ronald Smith, Joseph Perry, Ceil, Jennie Lindsey, Jimmy Eubanks, Tom Moore, Hammy Davis, Sherrill Peeler, Rev. James Elliott, Brad Sharpe, Paula Brandt, Helen Phillips, George Hutto, PeeWee Kohn, Rev. Robert Graetz, Chandra Porter, John Little, Geoffrey Wrigley, Frances Fuller, Lisa Cutler, Richard Burk, Paula Hamm, Billy Bruce, Jules Hobbie, Lynn Clark, The Hardin Family, Janie Hudspeth, Helen Trawick, John B. Williams, Gloria Walker, The Rives Family, The Konrath Family, John Forsley, Anita Wilmoth, Margaret Wilkerson, James Thwaite, Elliott Norton, Carole McGuire, David Moss, Pamela Reid, Gianna Nicolosi

Guthrie, Oliver Haynes, Callaway Jones, The Caldwell Family, The Weston Family, The Moss Family, Jamison Taylor, Mary Benedict Steindorff, Christopher Knight

HEALTHCARE WORKERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS: Janet Hall, Jill Coker, Peggy Porterfield, Peyton Mathis IV, Dr. David Drennen, Debra Waters West, Sam Waters, Devin and Samantha Adams, Eola Davis, Vivian Hamlett, Willie Smith, Becky Grove, Joe Stubbs, Laura Fay, Clifton Fay, Kris Marquardt, Lucas



Stewardship is an invitation to shared ministry. This year’s campaign will look a little different due to the pandemic—canvassers will deliver your packet to you and stay in touch with you through the campaign. You will have a church-addressed, stamped envelope to return your pledge card in so that you don’t have to come to Consecration Sunday if you are not comfortable doing so. We are also starting our campaign a little early. Each Sunday starting September 13, there will be a reflection and a video released of various ministries that we are spotlighting in the midst of the COVID crisis. During this year’s “Faith Filled Generosity” Stewardship Campaign, discern how you might partner with God and Ascension to do God’s work of kingdom building.



PREACHING SERIES THIS FALL

Exit Stage Right

August 23 – October 18

It’s hard to be faithful to God. Try as we might, we too often come up short. The Good News is that was true of a lot of people in Scripture. Those we hold up as heroes often struggled with their own shortcomings. Moses was one of us. He tried to be faithful but he couldn’t be perfect. This fall we will read the story of Moses and the Hebrew people as they “exit stage right” in the great Exodus that leads them to the Promised Land. We will take time to explore who Moses was, how his on-the-job training

taught him leadership skills, and what it means to be faithful and a failure for God. Whether you attend on line or in-person, listen to the story of Moses each week on Sunday mornings starting August 23 through October 18. You’ll laugh, you’ll cry, you’ll hang on to the edge of your seat in the sheer wonder of God’s triumphal Exodus as we grow in grace and understanding of what it means to be Moses.

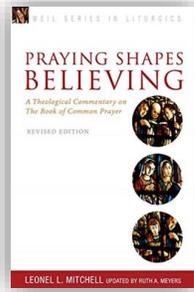


Text-to-Give is now available. Text the word “give” to 833-901-2138. You will receive prompts to set up your text-to-give and can even choose to absorb the fee if you so desire. Also see our “Give” page on our website. Simply click the green “GIVE HERE” button to continue your pledge or as a one-time gift to the church. You can also contact Tracy Hinton, our Parish Administrator, at thinton@coascension.org or at 334-263-5520 to set up a bank draft. Or you can mail your contribution to us at Church of the Ascension; c/o Tracy Hinton; 315 Clanton Ave; Montgomery, AL 36104.



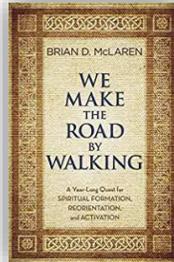
TO Ascension Sunday FORMATION!!!!

Sundays at 10:30 on Zoom. See e-news and Sunday updates for links



Praying Shapes Believing

Drew will lead this class though the next six weeks exploring our liturgy and our Book of Common Prayer and the theology that gives it shape. Contact Drew to join to class via email drew@coascension.org



Bread of Life

What difference can an honest, living, growing faith make in our world today? Bread of Life will explore these questions using Brian D. McLaren's We Make the Road by Walking. The link to join will be in Friday's email.



Youth Confirmation

Next week our new Confirmation class begins for 5th and 6th graders, and any youth interested in being confirmed, who have not yet completed the class. Please contact Tiffany for more information. tiffany@coascension.org



Children's Formation: Brown Bags for Kids!

THIS IS THE WEEK TO RESERVE YOUR BROWN BAGS! The next brown bag will go out on September 20 and lead us up to the Celebration of St. Francis and the Blessing of the Animals at Morning Prayer on October 4 at the 9AM service. Check emails and FB for how-to videos and demonstrations of activities! tiffany@coascension.org



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