



²My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.
 - John 14:2-3, NIV

When I first heard the stewardship campaign theme was “plenty good room,” I had no idea what that meant. So, like any good Episcopalian, I went to Google. That led me to YouTube where I listened to a rousing gospel version of the hymn. I realized that in God’s kingdom, there is no earning the seat; it’s just there for my choosing. I believe that’s true at Ascension as well. There’s always room for one more - in a pew, on a committee, at the altar rail. But we do have to choose it, and we do have to support it.

Stewardship is also about choice. Giving my time, talent and financial support are outward signs of my faith in action. Stewardship is a joyous act of appreciation for all my blessings. How could I not give when I have been given so much? And when we give together, our gifts are multiplied so that we can mentor a dozen kids, feed 30 families once a month, or provide a safe space for numerous community groups to meet.

Stewardship is an act of faith that encourages me to trust God’s provision and participate in building a church where everyone is welcomed, valued, and invited to share in God’s abundant grace together where there is “plenty good room.”

-Ellen Brooks



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We believe in sharing love and grace
 by seeking relationship with God and one another

The Episcopal Church of the Ascension

The Nineteenth Sunday of Pentecost
 The Feast of St. Francis

Sunday, October 5, 2025

The Rt. Rev. Richard Lawson, Bishop of the Diocese of Alabama

The Reverend Candice B. Frazer, Rector
 The Rev. David Hall, Interim Associate Rector

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE ONE, 10:30 AM LIVESTREAM

The Word of God

Officiant Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. BCP 323
People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.

The Celebrant says,
Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Trisagion

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

Collect of the Day BCP 325
Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And with thy spirit.
Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who art always more ready to hear than we to pray, and art wont to give more than either we desire or deserve: Pour down upon us the abundance of thy mercy, forgiving us those things whereof our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask, but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE 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.

This week at Ascension

Sunday, October 4 The Nineteenth Sunday of Pentecost

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I (Nave)
8:30 AM Breakfast (Ascension Hall)
9:15 AM Christian Education for All Ages
10:30 AM Blessing of the Animals (Front Lawn)

Monday, October 5

8:00 AM Morning Prayer (Facebook Live)

Tuesday, October 6 William Tyndale, Priest, 1536

8:00 AM Morning Prayer (Facebook Live)

Wednesday, October 7 Birgitta of Sweden, Mystic, 1373

8:00 AM Morning Prayer (Facebook Live)
6:00 PM EfM (Library)
6:00 PM Wednesday Night Live will not meet

Thursday, October 8

7:00 AM Men’s Prayer Breakfast (will not meet)
8:00 AM Morning Prayer (Facebook Live)
9:00 AM ADS Chapel (Nave)
12 Noon Women’s Bible Study (will not meet)
5:00 PM LobsterFest

Friday, October 9 Robert Grosseteste, Bishop, 1253

8:00 AM Morning Prayer (Facebook Live)

Saturday, October 10 Vida Dutton Scudder, Educator, 1954

8:30 Beans & Rice (The Commons Parking Lot)

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR
ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN MEMORY OF:
Mr. & Mrs. Watson Robins Taylor. Miss Lucinda Bolling Taylor, Mr. & Mrs. George Lewis Jenkins,
Mr. & Mrs. Wallace Lama Taylor, Mr. & Mrs. Henry Watson Taylor,
Mr. & Mrs. Ben Hammett, Mr. Walter Sanderson Turner, William Andrew Turner
AND IN HONOR OF: George Lewis Taylor III, Lindie Brice Cochran, Taylor Hackett Sellers,
Thomas Rutherford Seller, Jr., Miriam Elizabeth Taylor, Watson Robbins Taylor IV,
Philip Lightfoot Sellers II, Abigale Jane Sellers, Crawford Christian Sellers

PRAYERS FOR ASCENSION
Parishioners: Lavonne Dubose, Margaret Hunt, Neal Brantley, Tina Harstad, Billy Blake Dan Morris, Julia Markham, Bo Henderson, Brett Hall, Paul Davis, Kenneth Mullinax, Violet Monson and Family, Andi Silberman, George Thomas, Ann Lewis, Sue & Bill Hicks, Betty Godbold, Hugh Alsabrook, Ginny White, Ann Longshore.

Families and Friends: Carolyn Hvolboll, Patrick Aiken, Adele Walter, George Dennis, Steve Schwartz, Ginger Hawk, Wiley White, Sherry Knight, Roy Singleton, Kristina Abernathy, Anne Melton, Hayden Borland, Will Roberts, Katie Dickson, Margaret Bok, Frank Gitchier, The Lewis Johnson Family, Magdalena Hanson-Hutto, Laura Woerner, Bettie Rosato, Lori Atchison, Shari Harrison, Ian Becker, Cathey Smith, Debbie Steindorff, Mary Benedict Steindorff, Brenda Davis Roehm, The Grantham Family

of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

The Blessing

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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.”

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

PSALM 19

- 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? *
cleanse 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.

THE EPISTLE: 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.

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

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW21:33-46
Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
People: *Glory be to thee, O Lord*

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.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: *Praise be to thee, O Christ.*

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.

Breaking of the Bread
A period of silence is kept.

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

The following prayer may be said. The People may join in saying this prayer

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. *Amen.*

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.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life. Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for thee, and feed on him in thy heart by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life. Drink this in remembrance that Christ's Blood was shed for thee, and be thankful.

Lay Eucharistic Commission
In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ’s body and blood.
All: We who are many, are one body because we all share in one bread, one cup.

After Communion, the Celebrant says
Let us pray.

The People may join in saying this prayer
Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby

Creator of the light and source of life, who hast made us in thine image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying.

Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.
Here may be added
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The people kneel or stand.

Then the Celebrant continues

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. *AMEN.*

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

The Sermon

The Rev. Candice B. Frazer

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.

The Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.
[Pause for a slow count of three.]

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers especially for Sarah the Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Richard our bishop; and Candice and David our clergy that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land especially Donald our President; Kay, our Governor; and Steven, our Mayor, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor Lavonne, Margaret, Neal, Tina, Dan, Julia, Bo, Brett, Paul, Chris, Kenneth, Bob, Brittney, Violet and Family, Andi, Janet, George, Sue & Bill, Ann, Betty, Hugh, Ginny, Lila, Ann, and all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

We pray for the safety of our armed forces both here and abroad and for peace...in the world...in our country...in our homes...and in our hearts.

We give thanks for Ascension Day School.

We pray for The Way, The Truth, and The Life, our capital campaign.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, especially Mr. & Mrs. Watson Robbins Taylor, Lucinda Bolling Taylor, Mr. & Mrs. George Lewis Jenkins, Mr. & Mrs. Wallace, Lamar Taylor, Mr. & Mrs. Henry Watson Taylor, Mr. & Mrs. Ben Hammett, Walter Sanderson Turner, William Andrew Turner, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

Confession of Sin

Celebrant: Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Almighty God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
maker of all things, judge of all men:
We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins
And wickedness,
which we from time to time most grievously have committed,
by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty,
provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us.
We do earnestly repent,
and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings;
the remembrance of them is grievous unto us,
the burden of them is intolerable.
Have mercy upon us,
have mercy upon us, most merciful father;
for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ’s sake,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may ever hereafter
serve and please thee in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of thy Name;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Absolution and Comfortable Words

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A minister may then say one or more of the following sentences, first saying
Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and
I will refresh you. *Matthew 11:28*

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son,
to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but
have everlasting life. *John 3:16*

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received,
that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. *1 Timothy 1:15*

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus
Christ the righteous; and he is the perfect offering for our
sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole
world. *1 John 2:1-2*

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People *And with thy spirit.*

Announcements

Giving is available on-line by going to www.coascension.org and click on the “Give” link
Or, *VENMO @churchoftheascension Montgomery, Alabama* (look for our logo)

Presentation

*All things come of thee, O Lord,
And of thine own have we given thee. Amen.*

HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving Prayer II

The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says

The Lord be with you.
People *And with thy spirit.*
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People *We lift them up unto the Lord.*
Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
People *It is meet and right so to do.*

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds
It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.