

The 18th Sunday After

Pentecost

September 26, 2021

We Gather for Worship

Opening Hymn: #545

Lo! What a cloud of witnesses

Please stand & sing as you are able.

Opening Sentences:

BCP Page 78

Officiant: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:2

The hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks to worship him.

John 4:23

Confession

BCP Page 79

Please sit or kneel.

Officiant: Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth his praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

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.**

Officiant: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

Invitatory

BCP Page 80

Please stand as you are able.

Officiant: O Lord, open our lips;

People: **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise. Alleluia!**

Officiant & People: **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Venite: Psalm 95:1-7

Officiant: Come, let us sing to the Lord; *

People: **let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.**

Officiant: Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *

People: **and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.**

Officiant: For the Lord is a great God, *

People: **and a great King above all gods.**

Officiant: In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *

People: **and the heights of the hills are his also.**

Officiant: The sea is his, for he made it, *

People: **and his hands have molded the dry land.**

Officiant: Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *
People: **and kneel before the Lord our Maker.**
Officiant: For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *
People: **Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!**

Antiphon 2

Officiant: Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:
People: **Come let us adore him.**
Officiant: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
People: **as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

We Hear God's Word

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

Please be seated

Reader: 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.

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

Psalms 124

Officiant: If the LORD had not been on our side, *
People: **let Israel now say;**
Officiant: If the LORD had not been on our side, *
People: **when enemies rose up against us;**
Officiant: Then would they have swallowed us up alive *
People: **in their fierce anger toward us;**
Officiant: Then would the waters have overwhelmed us *
People: **and the torrent gone over us;**

Officiant: Then would the raging waters *
People: **have gone right over us.**
Officiant: Blessed be the LORD! *
People: **he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.**
Officiant: We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; *
People: **the snare is broken, and we have escaped.**
Officiant: Our help is in the Name of the LORD, *
People: **the maker of heaven and earth.**

Second Lesson: James 5:13-20

Reader: A reading from the Letter of James.
Reader: 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.
Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn: #552 ***Fight the good fight with all thy might*** *Please stand and sing.*

Gospel: Mark 9:38-50 *Please remain standing as you are able.*

Reader: A reading from the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
People: **Glory to you, Lord 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."
Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Video: Invite

<https://www.invitewelcomeconnect.com/invite>

Invite Welcome Connect is a ministry of transformation that equips and empowers individuals and congregations to cultivate intentional practices of evangelism, hospitality, and belonging. Rooted in the Gospel directive to "Go and make disciples of all nations" this ministry provides a practical theological framework and comprehensive process for engaging communities of faith to move from a maintenance culture to a gospel driven mission culture.

Invite Welcome Connect crosses all social and economic boundaries and explores the ways creativity and relational ministry go hand in hand in effecting cultural change. Invite Welcome Connect relies on the collaborative creativity of clergy and laity who choose to actively and intentionally embody the principles of hospitality, making this method adaptable to any parish, age group, or location.

*Invite Welcome Connect has circulated throughout The Episcopal Church and has been presented in 60+ dioceses, three seminaries, three universities, the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe, and the Anglican Church in Canada. The award-winning book, *Invite Welcome Connect: Stories & Tools to Transform Your Church*, was published by Forward Movement in 2018.*

Apostles' Creed

BCP Page 96

Please stand as you are able.

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

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. Amen.

We Pray

Lord's Prayer

BCP Page 97

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Officiant: Let us pray.

Officiant & 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.**

Suffrages: Set A

BCP Page 97-98 *Please be seated*

Officiant: Show us your mercy, O Lord;

People: **And grant us your salvation.**

Officiant: Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

People: **Let your people sing with joy.**

Officiant: Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

People: **For only in you can we live in safety.**

Officiant: Lord, keep this nation under your care;

People: **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

Officiant: Let your way be known upon earth;

People: **Your saving health among all nations.**

Officiant: Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

People: **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

Officiant: Create in us clean hearts, O God;

People: **And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

Collect of the Day

The collect prayer "collects" the themes from the various readings for the day.

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Officiant: Let us pray. 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 Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Collect for Guidance

Officiant: Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect for Mission

Officiant: Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. Amen. **Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Please sit or kneel.

Reader: Bound together in Christ in the communion of the Holy Spirit, let us pray with one heart and mind to God our Father.

Reader: For peace from things that separate us from one another and for our salvation.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Reader: For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy churches of God, especially...

People: **St Martin's, Pryor; St. Paul's, Claremore; Posada de Belen, shelter for children living on the street, Diocese of Uruguay; Diocese of Pennsylvania; The Church in the Province of West Africa.**

Reader: For this holy gathering and for those who enter with faith, reverence, and fear of God.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Reader: For...

People: **Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Poulson, our Bishop; Tom, our clergy; Tim & Pat, our wardens; vestry, delegates, all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God. Lord, have mercy.**

Reader: For the world and its leaders, our nation and its people. We pray for our leaders, especially...

People: **Joe, our President; Kamala, our Vice-president; Markwayne, our Congressman; James & Jim, our Senators; Kevin, our Governor; and Marlon, our Mayor. Lord, have mercy.**

Reader: For prisoners, the oppressed, all those in need or suffering, especially...

People: **Barbara & Family, Blackwell Family, Brad, Brewer Family, James & Shirley, Michael, Mike & Betty, Rogers Family, Lubin Family, Kenneth, Quinn & Nancy Diddle and Family, Prisca, all emergency responders, United States Military, and those whose suffering is known only to God.**

Reader: We pray for those who have died, (especially...)

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Reader: For ourselves, our families, and those we love. We pray for those in our parish, especially...

People: **Betty, Tom, Cliff, Nedda.**

Reader: Also those who are traveling, (*especially...*)

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Reader: Remembering our most blessed Mary and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

People: **To you, O Lord.**

Reader: Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Peace

Please stand as you are able.

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Greet one another in the name of Christ. Please return to your seats when you hear the bell.

Announcements, Birthdays & Anniversary Prayers

BCP Page 830

Please be seated.

Welcome to our guests today. If you are new to Grace for the first time or even if you have been here once or twice before, please fill out a visitor card and put it in the plate. We promise not to harass you, but we would like to include you on our weekly email broadcasts and other event notifications. Thank you for the blessing of your presence today.

For a Birthday

BCP Page 830

Officiant: Let us pray. O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant N. as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Offertory Hymn: #410

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven

Everyone please sing.

We Go Out To Do Our Work

Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Officiant: Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Sending

BCP Page 102

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Officiant: Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Ephesians 3:20-21

Closing Hymn: #551

Rise up, ye saints of God

Please stand and sing.



ON THE ALTAR 9/26:

Flowers today are given in loving memory of Sandy Odom & Dr. & Mrs. Ray Odom by Marlene & Van Odom.

Communion Wine for 2021 is given by Mike Alberty in loving memory of his parents.

Bread today is given in loving memory of Eddie & Bernice Edwards and Emil & Marion Stratton by David Edwards.

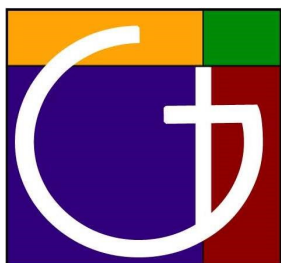
THANKS TO THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK:

Officiant.....Lance Scott
 1st Reader.....Van Odom
 2nd Reader.....Katherine Coburn
 Head Usher/Greeter.....Pete Schrader
 Altar Guild.....Renee Tyrrell & Peggy Jones
 1st Cross.....B.J. Charbonneau

SEPTEMBER VESTRY PERSON OF THE MONTH:

Peggy Jones





Grace Episcopal

218 North 6th Street Muskogee, OK 74401

Phone: (918) 687-5416; **Email:** Office@GraceMuskogee.org;

Website: www.GraceMuskogee.org; **YouTube Channel:** Grace Muskogee

Social Media: [Facebook.com/GraceMuskogee](https://www.facebook.com/GraceMuskogee) & [Twitter.com/GraceMuskogee](https://twitter.com/GraceMuskogee)

Ministers: All the People of God (BCP p. 855)

Sr. Warden: Tim Holder

Jr. Warden: Pat Wilcox

Deacon Emeritus: The Rev. Thomas A. Harrington

Music Director: Ken Yadon

Youth & Children's Director: Nancy Scott

