

Episcopal Church of the Incarnation
16th Sunday After Pentecost
September 17th 2023

The Processional Hymn

[H] 411

The Collect

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.

The First Reading

Exodus 14:19-31

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.

The Response

Psalm 114

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.

The Second Reading

Romans 14:1-12

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.

The Children's Sermon

The Rev. Jenny Gettys

The Gradual Hymn

[H] 516, stanzas 1 -2

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 18:21-35

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.”

The Sermon Hymn

[H] 516, stanza 3

The Sermon

The Rev. Jenny Gettys

The Offertory

“Before Thy Throne, O God, We Kneel”

1 Before thy throne, O God, we kneel:
give us a conscience quick to feel,
a ready mind to understand
the meaning of thy chastening hand;
whate'er the pain and shame may be,
bring us, O Father, nearer thee.

2 Search out our hearts and make us true;
help us to give to all their due.
From love of pleasure, lust of gold,
from sins which make the heart grow cold,
wean us and train us with thy rod;
teach us to know our faults, O God.

3 For sins of heedless word and deed,
for pride ambitious to succeed,
for crafty trade and subtle snare
to catch the simple unaware,
for lives bereft of purpose high,
forgive, forgive, O Lord, we cry.

4 Let the fierce fires which burn and try,
our inmost spirits purify:
consume the ill; purge out the shame;
O God, be with us in the flame;
a newborn people may we rise,
more pure, more true, more nobly wise.

Music: (H638) traditional melody. Words: (H575) William Boyd Carpenter (1841-1918)
alt.

The Communion Hymns

[H] 323
[H] 324

The Processional Hymn

[H] 347

CALENDAR

Sunday, September 17	8:30 Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:30 All-Ages Sunday School 10:30 Holy Eucharist Rite II 3:00 Bells Across America
Monday, September 18	8:00 Livestreamed Morning Prayer 5:30 Sewcialize
Tuesday, September 19	8:00 Livestreamed Morning Prayer
Wednesday, September 20	8:00 Livestreamed Morning Prayer
Thursday, September 21	8:00 Livestreamed Morning Prayer 5:30 Sewcialize
Friday, September 22	8:00 Pre-recorded Morning Prayer
Sunday, September 24	8:30 Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:30 Coffee Hour 10:30 Holy Eucharist Rite II 11:45 Youth Group

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers

The flowers this Sunday are given by Ed Hoffman to the glory of God and in celebration of Jackie's birthday!

Free Yoga Classes

Come to Limestone Presbyterian Church at 4:00 today for free yoga classes taught by Mimi McCully. Bring your own mat and wear clothes you can move in.

Bells across America

Today is the anniversary of the signing of the Constitution and we'll be joining churches and individuals all across the nation in

ringing bells to commemorate that. Join us on the lawn at 3:00 to participate.

Youth Group

The youth will gather next Sunday, September 24 from 11:45-1:30. We'll make pizzas, play games, and talk about being noticed and noticing others. Would you rather stand out or blend in? We'll discuss!

St. Frank's Blessing of the Animals

On Sunday, October 1, we'll gather from 1-5pm for a festival celebrating our pets. There will be a bouncy house for kids, lots of vendors with pet-themed items for sale and hot dog plates available for purchase. Dogs will be free to play off leash in the playground, with supervision. Then at 5:00 we'll have our Blessing of the Animals service. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us for this fun event!

Donations

To make an online contribution to Incarnation, go to our web site www.Incarnation-Gaffney.org and go to "Giving" under the "About" tab. You can also text "Give" to (833)537-0569 to donate by text message. To cover the fees associated with either of these ways of giving, check the "cover fees" box. And thank you!

Next Week's Readings: Exodus 16:2-15, Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45, Philippians 1:21-30, Matthew 20:1-6

THOSE WHO SERVE

	September 17 16 th Pentecost 10:30	September 24 17 th Pentecost 10:30
Altar Guild	Dawn Bridges Jennie Hamrick	Becky Vassy Niccie Dearing Cathy Roberts
Coffee Hour	Dawn Bridges Jennie Hamrick	Joette Johnson
Greeters	Jennie Hamrick Carla Winter	Gena Poovey Noah Lindemann
Digital Greet.	Morgan Johnson	Angharad Torres
Camera	Ellie Bird	Angharad Torres
Nursery	Cathy Roberts	Angharad Torres
Crucifer	Niccie Dearing	Cora Torres
Euch. Min.	Don Bird	David Cornmesser
Lector	Bobbi Albert	Ben Torres
Intercessor	Ellie Bird	Scott Glidden
Flowers	Ed Hoffman	Available
Counters	Ellie Bird Nancy Fowler	Scott Glidden Niccie Dearing
Pews	Available	Asher Torres