



The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 2026 10:15 a.m.



Moses stretched out his hand over the sea.
The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind,
and the waters were divided.

Exodus Chapter 14

Welcome to Church of the Ascension

Church of the Ascension provides opportunities to
Connect with God and one another,
Grow in faith and understanding, and
Serve the Lord, one another, and the world around us.

We are an active community of faith committed to welcoming all
and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Christ-centered + Spirit-filled + Mission-minded

The Liturgy of the Word of God

✠ *Please stand as you are able.*

Welcome

Organ Prelude

"God Himself is Present"

M. Burkhardt/J. Neander

✠ Processional Hymn

"Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart" vs. 1-5

Hymnal #556



1 Re - joice, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing! Your
2 With all the an - gel choirs, with all the saints of earth, pour
3 Your clear ho - san - nas raise, and al - le - lu - ias loud; while
4 Yes, on through life's long path, still chant - ing as ye go, from
5 Still lift your stand - ard high, still march in firm ar - ray, as



1 glo - rious ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.
2 out the strains of joy and bliss, true rap - ture, no - blest mirth.
3 an - swering ech - oes up - ward float, like wreaths of in - cense cloud.
4 youth to age, by night and day, in glad - ness and in woe.
5 war - riors through the dark - ness toil, till dawns the gold - en day.

Refrain



Re - joice, re - joice, re - joice, give thanks, and sing.

Words: Edward Hayes Plumptre Music: *Marion*, Arthur Henry Messiter

Opening Acclamation

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be God's Kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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 Lord. **Amen.**

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
 peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al -
 might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we
 praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,
 on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
 take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;
 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
 ceive our prayer. 6. For
 you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
 7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the
 Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of
 God the Fa - ther. A - - - men.

Setting: William Mathias (b. 1934)

The Collect of the Day: The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** 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.**

The Lessons

The First Lesson: Exodus 14:19-31

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. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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.

✠ Sequence Hymn

I will sing unto the LORD,
for he has triumphed gloriously,
the horse and rider thrown into
the sea.

I will sing unto the LORD,
for he has triumphed gloriously,
the horse and rider thrown into
the sea.

"I Will Sing unto the Lord"

The LORD, my God, my
strength and song,
has now become my victory.

The LORD, my God, my
strength and song,
has now become my victory.

The LORD is God, and I will
praise him, my Father's God,
and I will exalt him.

The LORD is God, and I will
praise him, my Father's God,
and I will exalt him.

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
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." The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

The Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson

✠ 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.

The Prayers of the People (*Adapted from Form II, Book of Common Prayer*)

Intercessor: Let us pray for God's people throughout the world; for Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Carrie, our Bishop; for this parish family, that God may grant us wisdom, courage, generosity, and faithfulness in our discernment; and for all ministers and people. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for our nation; for Donald, our President; for all in authority; for an end to all the wars, especially in the Middle East, Sudan, and Ukraine; for the protection of the innocent and the care of refugees; and for those who serve in the armed forces.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for all who labor; for those seeking work; for those whose work is difficult, dangerous, underpaid, or undervalued. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for those who died in the attacks of September 11, 2001; for their families and friends; for survivors, first responders, and all who continue to bear the wounds of that day; and for an end to terrorism and hatred, that peace and reconciliation may grow among all nations, faiths, and peoples. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the victims and survivors of natural disasters; for first responders, relief workers, medical personnel, and volunteers who come to their aid.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the aged and infirm, the widowed and orphans; for the poor, the hungry, and the oppressed; for prisoners and captives. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for all who are sick or in any trouble, especially Marion, Mary B., Jeanne, Lianne, Bill, Gail, Bobbie, Jerry, Sean, Heather, Jackie, Erin, Karen, Scott, Barry, Pat, Chris, Betsy, Rick, Dan, Gladys, Sharon, Debbie, Jordan, Mary S., Reed, and Diane.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for all who have died, and for those who mourn. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us give thanks for the blessings of this life; for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week, especially Lorraine, Doris, Mark, Nathaniel, David, Steve and Kirsten, Frank and Beverly. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us present to the Lord our own petitions and thanksgivings, silently or aloud.

You may add your own petitions or thanksgivings.

Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask: Hear the prayers of your people; bless the work of our hands; comfort those who suffer; and make us faithful servants of one another; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *A time of silence is kept.*

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.**

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

The Ending of the Pastoral Relationship

Rector: On August 15, 2023, I began serving the Church of the Ascension as your rector. With God's help and to the best of my abilities, I have exercised this trust, accepting its privileges and responsibilities. After prayer, discernment, and careful consideration, I now leave this charge. I publicly state that my tenure as rector of the Church of the Ascension ends this day.

Senior Warden: Do you, the people of the Church of the Ascension, recognize the conclusion of this pastoral relationship? *People:* **We do.**

Senior Warden: Let us pray.

All: O God, you have bound us together for a time as priest and people to share in the ministry of your Church in this place. We thank you for the joys and sorrows we have shared, for your mercy in our failures, and for your presence among us. Be with those who leave and with those who remain; and grant that, by drawing ever nearer to you, we may always remain united in the communion of your saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace: The Peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Blessing of the Backpacks:

All children, teens, and college students are invited to come forward with their backpacks.

Lord of love and wonder, bless these backpacks and the students who carry them into a new school year. Fill their minds with curiosity and wisdom, their hearts with kindness and courage. Protect them from harm and from fear. Remind them always that their names are written on the palm of your hand, and that they are your beloved children wherever they go. May they grow in body, mind, and spirit, upheld by your love and by the care of this community. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Birthday and Anniversary Prayer

O God, our times are in your hands: look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace. Send your blessings upon them, that their homes may be a haven of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Announcements

Thank you for your financial support! To make an online offering, please scan the QR code.



The Celebration of the Holy Communion

Offertory

“We See the Lord/He Is Lord”

arr. B. Pulkingham

We see the Lord. We see the Lord.
And he is high and lifted up
And his train fills the temple

He is high and lifted up
And his train fills the temple
The angels cry holy. The angels cry holy.
The angels cry holy is the Lord.

“He Is Lord”

He Is Lord. He Is Lord.
He is risen from the dead and he is Lord.
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord.

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✠ Presentation Hymn

“The Doxology”

Hymn 380 v.3

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be - low; praise
him a-bove ye heaven-ly host: praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.
Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748) Music: Old 100th

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer 1 from *Enriching Our Worship*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life. Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

Sanctus

"Holy, Holy, Holy Lord"

Hymnal #S125

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

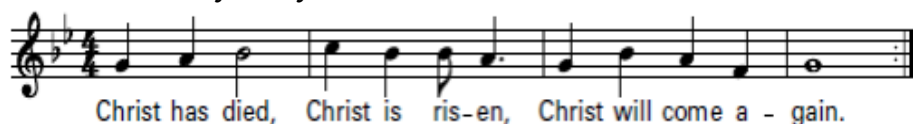
As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant,

which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Memorial Acclamation

Setting: Mass of Creation

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:



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Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

The Great "AMEN"

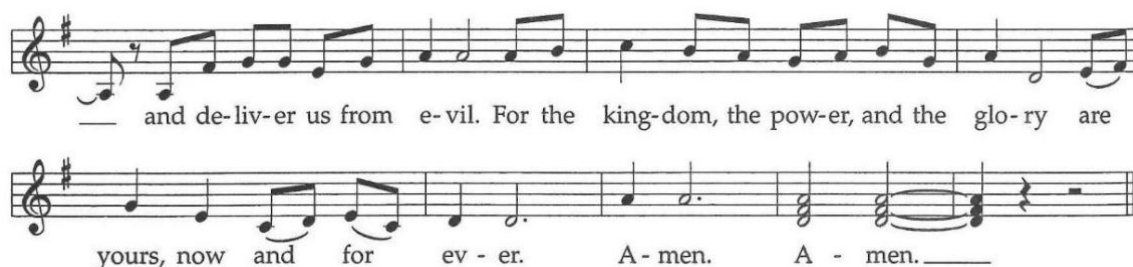
Setting: Mass of Creation



And now as our Savior Christ has taught us we are bold to sing:

The Lord's Prayer





Words: Book of Common Prayer
 Music: *King of Glory Mass*, Betty Carr Pulkingham
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The Breaking of Bread

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia

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. **Amen.**

Fraction Anthem

“Jesus Lamb of God”

Setting: Mass of Creation



The Communion of the People: *All baptized are welcome to receive Holy Communion. When directed by an Usher, please come forward to receive Holy Communion. If you would prefer a blessing, please indicate by crossing your arms over your chest. To receive the wine you can either drink from the common cup or dip your host held by the second Eucharistic minister on both sides of the priest.*

Communion Music

“I Am the Bread of Life

Hymnal #335

1. I am the bread of life;
 they who come to me shall not hunger;
 they who believe in me shall not thirst.
 No one can come to me, unless the Father
 draw them. *Chorus*

Chorus

And I will raise them up,
 and I will raise them up,
 and I will raise them up on the last day.

2. The Bread that I will give
 is my Flesh for the life of the world,
 and they who eat of this bread,
 they shall live for ever,
 they shall live for ever. *Chorus*

3. Unless you eat of the Flesh of the Son of Man
 and drink of his Blood,
 you shall not have life within you,
 you shall not have life within you. *Chorus*

4. I am the resurrection; I am the life.
 They who believe in me, even if they die,
 they shall live for ever. *Chorus*

5. Yes, Lord we believe that you are the Christ,
 the Son of God who has come into the world.
Chorus

Words: Suzanne Toolan
 Music: *I Am the Bread of Life*, Suzanne Toolan

“Here is Bread, Here is Wine”

1. Here is bread, here is wine
Christ is with us. He is with us.
Break the bread. Drink the wine.
Christ is with us here. *Chorus*
Chorus

In this bread there is healing
In this cup there's life forever
In this moment by the Spirit
Christ is with us here

2. Here is grace. Here is peace.
Christ is with us. He is with us,
Know His grace. Find His peace.
Feast on Jesus here. *Chorus*

3. Here we are joined in one
Christ is with us He is with us
We'll proclaim 'til He comes
Jesus crucified *Chorus*

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✠ **Prayer of Thanksgiving:** Let us pray. **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.**

The Sending of Lay Eucharistic Visitors: *Celebrant:* With whom will you share this communion? *Lay Eucharistic Visitor answers.* In the name of this congregation, I 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. **We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup. Amen.**

The Sending Forth:

Senior Warden: Pierre-Henry and Sophie, we give thanks for the life you have shared with us. Sophie, we are especially grateful for your presence, friendship, service, and love, and for the ways you have been part of this congregation's life.

As you leave Ascension and begin a new chapter of your lives and ministries, we bid you:

People: **Go in peace.**

Senior Warden: Carry with you the friendship, wisdom, and love we have shared.

People: **Go in peace.**

Senior Warden: With our gratitude for you, our prayers for your future, and our love for you both. *People:* **Go in peace.**

Rector: People of the Church of the Ascension, continue faithfully in the worship and service of God. Care for one another, welcome those whom God sends among you, and continue to be a blessing to this community.

People: **With God's help, we will.**

Rector: As you have been a blessing to Sophie and me, continue to be a blessing to one another. *People:* **As you have been a blessing to us, go forth to be a blessing to others.**

The Blessing:

Rector: May God, who has led us in the paths of justice and truth, lead us still and keep us in peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn

"O God Our Help in Ages Past"

Hymnal #680



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 un - der the sha - dow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived her frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are like an eve - ning gone;
5 Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream, bears all our years a - way;



1 our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
2 suf - fi - cient is thine arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
3 from ev - er - last - ing thou art God, to end - less years the same.
4 short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.
5 they fly, for - got - ten, as a dream dies at the o - pen - ing day.

6 O God, our help in ages past, be thou our guide while life shall last,
our hope for years to come, and our eternal home.

Words: Isaac Watts Music: St. Anne, Melody attributed to William Croft

✠ The Dismissal

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God! Alleluia, alleluia.**

Organ Postlude

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

M. Burkhardt – Old 100th

Worship Assistants	September 13	September 20
Organist	David and JoAnne Kreider	David and JoAnne Kreider
Musicians	Choir	Choir
Ushers	David and Ellen Anderson	<i>2 needed</i>
Lector	Buck Lyon-Vaiden	John Holbert
Acolyte(s)	Kat Dittrich	Kat Dittrich
Chalicians	Helen Lang, Betsy Reinders, Kim Tompkins, Jill Horn	John Holbert, Kim Tompkins <i>2 needed</i>
Worship Slides	John Holbert	<i>1 needed</i>
Audio Visual	Gabriel Hoff	Allison Lord

September Altar Guild: Susan Considine, Debbie Linard, Liz Lowe, Patty O'Brien

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Pat Weiss, Carrie Goff, and family, in the celebration of Doris Detorie's birthday.

The Bread and Wine are given to the glory of God by Roger and Donna, in celebration of their grandchildren's birthdays.

Attendance September 6

8:00 am - 31 10:15 am In-person - 56 YouTube - 6 Facebook - 3 Total: 96

Readings for Next Sunday: The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 16 :2-15 Psalm 105 Philippians 1 :21-30 Matthew 20:1-16



May the Lord hold you in the palm of His hand.

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