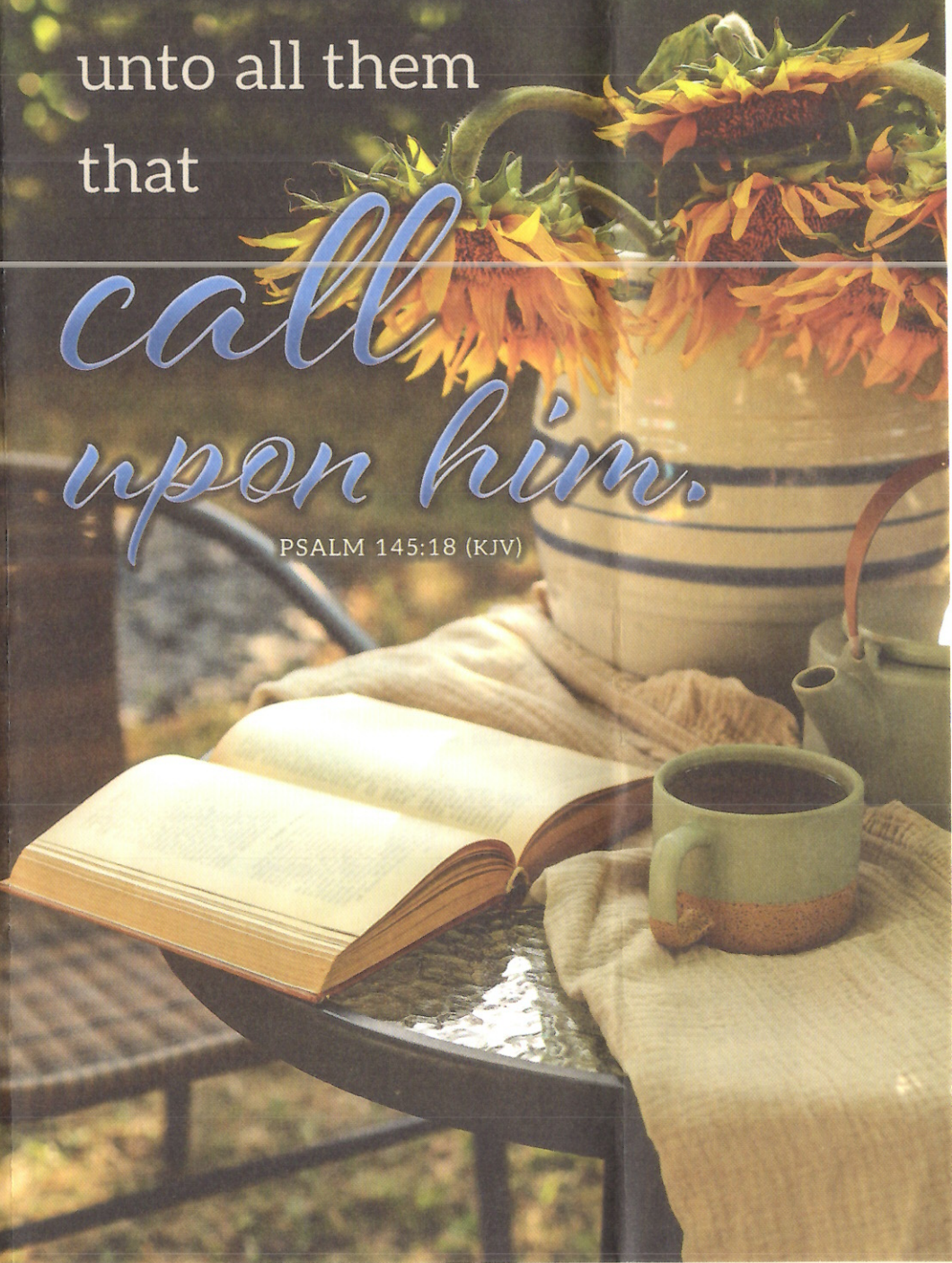


The LORD is nigh  
unto all them  
that

*call  
upon him.*

PSALM 145:18 (KJV)



# **St. Andrew's Episcopal Church**

*(Serving the Tuskegee Community since 1912)*

**Priest-in-Charge: The Rev. H. Mawande Mzongwana**

**701 West Montgomery Road**

**Tuskegee, Alabama 36088**

**Phone: 334-727-3210**

***www.standrewstuskegee.com***

**EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER  
PENTECOST  
(Proper 21)**

**September 27, 2026**

## **MORNING PRAYER – RITE 11**

**Self-Guided Prayer**

### **HYMNAL**

### **PRAYER BOOK**

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**THE WORD OF GOD**

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### **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**\*\***

The Collect of the Day

**\*\***

The First Lesson: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

**\*\***

Psalm: 25:1-8

**\*\***

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

Sequence Hymn:

**\*\***

**THE GOSPEL:** Matthew 21:23-32

### **THE MEDITATION: 'Questions and Answers'**

**[www.episcopalchurch.org/sermons](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/sermons)**

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A Prayer of Chrysostom 101

Versicle and response 102

Closing Sentence and Scripture 102

**ANNOUNCEMENTS: see inside Bulletin**

Closing Hymn:

Dismissal



## FELLOWSHIP HOUR

The Christian Gathering continues after this service with fellowship and refreshments in the undercroft.

**PLEASE JOIN US!!!!**

**October 4 - Fall Picnic, Church Family**



# 18 PENTECOST

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 21



Revised Common Lectionary  
TRACK TWO

## COLLECT

Sunday, September 27, 2026

### *Traditional*

O GOD, who declarest thy almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Mercifully grant unto us such a measure of thy grace, that we, running to obtain thy promises, may be made partakers of thy heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### *Contemporary*

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.*

## **FIRST READING:** Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

THE WORD OF THE LORD came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die. Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness

they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

---

### Refrain

Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.

---

### **Psalm 25:1-8** from the Book of Common Prayer

- |                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 To you, O LORD, I lift up<br>my soul; my God, I put<br>my trust in you; * let me<br>not be humiliated, nor<br>let my enemies triumph<br>over me. | disappointed in their<br>schemes.                                                                                                |
| 2 Let none who look<br>to you be put to<br>shame; * let the<br>treacherous be                                                                      | 3 Show me your ways, O<br>LORD, * and teach me<br>your paths.                                                                    |
|                                                                                                                                                    | 4 Lead me in your truth<br>and teach me, * for<br>you are the God of my<br>salvation; in you have I<br>trusted all the day long. |

5 Remember, O LORD,  
your compassion and  
love, \* for they are from  
everlasting.

6 Remember not the  
sins of my youth and  
my transgressions; \*  
remember me according  
to your love and for the  
sake of your goodness,  
O LORD.

7 Gracious and upright  
is the LORD; \* therefore  
he teaches sinners in his  
way.

8 He guides the humble in  
doing right \* and teaches  
his way to the lowly.

### **SECOND READING:** Philippians 2:1-13

IF THERE IS ANY encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it

is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

### **GOSPEL:** Matthew 21:23-32

WHEN JESUS entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR THE WEEK:

Monday, September 28, 2026

Tuesday, September 29, 2026

Wednesday, September 30, 2026

Thursday, October 1, 2026

Friday, October 2, 2026

Saturday, October 3, 2026

Sunday, October 4, 2026

11 a.m.

- Holy Eucharist, Fall Picnic

## ***HAPPY BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY!!***

**September**

**27 - Carol L. Smith**

**October**

**7 - Tiffanne Bulls**

**8 - Lonnie & Carol Smith**

**9 - Levy & Shari Kelly**

**16 - Quentin E. Gaillard, Jr.**

**21 - Darryl & Yolanda Seawright**

**31 - Lonnie Smith**

## **NEWS FROM AROUND THE EPISCOPAL & ANGLICAN DIOCESES**

*Friday, October 20, 2026, 10am-3pm, A day of Faith & Justice in Scottsboro (Scottsboro Boys Pilgrimage and red Mass). A reflection and remembrance honoring the pursuit of equity, legal integrity and the enduring legacy of the 1931 trials. Free event, registration available on-line at [dioala.org](http://dioala.org)*

*November 16-19, 2026, Magnify: A Women's Justice Retreat, Alabama represents not only struggle but also the powerful witness of unsung saints. Join this group meeting at Camp McDowell, Nauvoo, AL See [www.anglicannews.org](http://www.anglicannews.org) for the latest Anglican Communion News*

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### **T.U. EVENTS** ([www.tuskegee.edu](http://www.tuskegee.edu))

Oct. 17 – Fall Open House Weekend

### **COMMUNITY EVENTS** (Auburn, Montgomery, Tuskegee)

*Saturday, September 26, 2026, 9am-9pm, Tuskegee Inaugural Showmanship Rodeo, 1200 W. Montgomery Rd., Tuskegee Inst., AL*

*Saturday, September 26, 2026, Free PSA Prostate Cancer Screening, Macon County Health Department, 812 Hospital Road Tuskegee, AL from 10 am – 2 pm.*

### **2026 Football Schedule – Tuskegee U:**

October 3 – T.U. vs Morehouse, Cramton Bowl, Montgomery

October 17 – T.U. vs Albany State, HOME

November 7 – Homecoming, T.U. vs Miles, HOME

November 26 – Turkey Day Game, T.U. vs Alabama State, Cramton Bowl, Montgomery

### **2026 Football Schedule – Auburn U.**

September 26 – Homecoming, Auburn vs. Vanderbilt, HOME

October 24 – Auburn vs LSU, HOME

November 7 – Auburn vs Arkansas, HOME

## ***PRAYER LIST***

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CHRISTINA ANDERSON

STEPHANIE BOSWELL

THOMASINE BRAYE

THOMAS BRAYE\*

JAMES BRAYE

REBECCA LYN CARTER

CURT CARTER, SR\*

CHARLES M. CRANK, II

PRESTON CRAYTON

LUCENIA DUNN\*

SHANNON DIXON

TEDDY DOWDY\*

ANITRA FULLER

ROBERT FRAZIER

DIANE KENNEY\*

MARGARET 'KATIE' JONES

THERON JONES

\*Local Parishioners

\*\* Shut-In Parishioners

MARIAN GARMON\*

MARIO LIGHTFOOTE\*

JAY MCDONALD

CRAIG POWELL

JULIUS MYHAND, JR.

CLEMENT SCOTT

DAVID NGAWA\*\*

MARTHA OSGERBY

ANNA C. OWENS

TUNESHA SMITH

ANGELICA P. SNOWDEN

LIONEL B. RICHIE

YOLANDA P. SEAWRIGHT

DARRYL SEAWRIGHT

BRENDA D. ROBINSON\*

BRITTANI STETINA

LISA TECZAR

CHARLES THOMPSON\*\*

LLOYD WILLIAMS\*

E. DRAKE WHITELAW

## **THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER**

We pray for our Companion Diocese of Honduras and their bishop, Lloyd; Alabama Faith Council and its work; St. Michael and All Angels, Anniston; St. Michaels and All Angels, Millbrook; St. Michael's, Faunsdale; and St. Michael's, Fayette.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS!!**

- **ARMED FORCES:** Please pray for our service men and women stationed in the U.S. and overseas, especially, Elijah Barber, Sam and Margaret Gunn Bunton, and Shavon Marbory Hogan.
- **PRAYERS:** Continue to pray for those on the Prayer List, friends, family and all humankind afflicted by disease, war and famine. Pray for peace!
- **REMINDER:** Please continue to furnish our Food Basket with non-perishable food items (located on the ground floor of the Education Building).
- **REMINDER:** The link for the Sunday ZOOM Companion Service can be reached by dialing: 1-312-626-6799, Meeting ID: 882 671 9532, Passcode 008810 or click on your email invite. Mark your calendar for the next Holy Eucharist Service – in person on *Sunday, October 4, 2026, at 11 am.*
- **UPCOMING EVENTS:** *St. Andrew's Annual Fall Picnic*, will be *Sunday, October 4, 2026*. Dress will be picnic attire. Holy Eucharist and the picnic will be held in the undercroft.
- **REMINDER:** *St. Andrew's Annual Fall Parish Meeting* has been moved to the first Sunday in November; Check your mailbox for *2027 Pledge Letters*. If you wish to pledge the same amount in 2027 as your 2026 Pledge, please write on the Pledge Form SAME AMT. 2027 Pledge letters will be due in the church office no later than *Sunday, November 1, 2026*; If you are interested in joining the Vestry, Nominations for new members will be accepted at the Fall Meeting.

*Stay hydrated, Stay safe!!*



## SERMONS THAT WORK

### Proper 21 (A)

#### Questions and Answers

**[RCL] Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32**

Someone with a lot of time on their hands once estimated that during his ministry, Jesus asked 307 questions, was asked 183 questions by others, and gave direct answers to only three questions.

John the Baptist asks Jesus early on in his ministry, “Are you the one we’ve been waiting for, or should we keep looking?” Then the chief priests ask Jesus one question after another. They ask about divorce; they ask about taxes; they ask about the role of the 10 Commandments and on and on it goes until finally, Jesus is standing in the court of the governor himself, as Pilate asks him, “Are you the King of the Jews?”

Questions asked but seldom answered are one of the defining characteristics of Jesus’ ministry. Matthew chapter 21 is no different. The chief priests and the elders were shrewd politicians, and they knew how to spring a rhetorical trap. What mattered to them wasn’t the right answer, but whether the answer served their purposes. They couldn’t make up their minds about how to respond to Jesus’ question, so they said, “We don’t know,” at which point Jesus launches into a parable.

Jesus tells of a father and his two sons. The father asks both of his sons to go to work in the family vineyard. The first son says something like, “Sure! I’ll get right on that!” But in the end, he doesn’t follow through.

We know what that’s like: we ask our spouse or child to take out the trash or empty the dishwasher, and they say, “Sure! I’ll get right on that, just as soon as halftime gets here...” or “Let me finish this chapter and then...” or “There’s only one episode left, but after that...”

If we’re honest, more than a few of us have surely been guilty of that response ourselves. We all know the first son because we’ve all made promises or commitments that, for whatever reason, we fail to keep.

But then there is the other son. This is the son who gets most of Jesus’ attention. Unlike his brother, he initially says he won’t help out in the vineyard but winds up doing so in the end. Now, we can ask all sorts of questions about why the second son changed his mind—preachers and Biblical scholars have been

doing it for centuries. But just for now, let's side-step that bit of homiletical quicksand and stay with the text that is before us.

The truth that this parable brings to bear has nothing to do with the second son's hesitation and everything to do with the fact that in the end, he showed up. In fact, the pattern of this parable is the pattern of our life with God. No matter what we've done, or what may have initially prevented us, God is always extending an invitation to us. We are constantly being drawn into a new place—to new depths of faith; to a new plane of divine discovery.

No matter if this is the first time we've ever heard the Gospel, or if we've been faithful Christians for decades, this parable lays bare one incontrovertible fact: God isn't finished with us yet! Although we might wish for God to say to us, "Okay, you've gone far enough; you can retire now and spend the rest of your days ensuring that the back pew doesn't float away," the truth is that the baptized life has no *emeritus* status.

In order to live into God's invitation, we must be willing to leave the past behind—no matter how comfortable or familiar or profitable—and turn toward the future, complete with all of its uncertainties and questions and anxieties.

And make no mistake: That's hard!

Consider, for example, the chief priests and the elders of Jesus' day. They had quite a bit invested in the *status quo*. Leaving the past behind meant forfeiting their claims to power and position, which had become their entire identity. Stepping into life with Jesus meant leaving all of that behind in favor of a future they couldn't predict and couldn't control.

One can't help but wonder if the first son had similar thoughts. After all, saying "yes" is the easy part—particularly when we don't pause to consider the costs. But actually doing the work? Actually showing up? That's a different story. God isn't satisfied with just letting things stay the way they are. There's always more work to do; more kingdom to build. And we hear that and we get excited, and we say, "Yes!" "Sign me up!" "That's what I want!"

But then reality sets in and we look around and we think, "Hmm. The *status quo* really isn't all bad... I make a decent wage—of course, I'm always ready to make more—but I make enough. My family has what they need to get by. My life is okay the way it is now. Besides, who knows if I'm going to like the work that God is calling me to? And more importantly, who knows if I'm going to get along with the other people who show up to work in God's vineyard? So, I know I said 'yes,' but I've had some time to think on it, and well..."

Then there's the other son. And for as much as preachers and scholars have wondered why he changed his mind, I can't help but wonder what made him say "no" in the first place. Could it be that he himself had been told "no" so many times that he thought himself unworthy?

When all you've ever known is oppression, why in the world would you trust that this time will be any different?

But God isn't like you and me. God doesn't take no for an answer.

Although institutions and structures and people do their best to wall off and box in, God is always breaking barriers and crossing lines and pushing boundaries to invite us to new and abundant life! The parable that Jesus tells is universal because at one time or another, every single one of us has found ourselves in that thin place between the relative ease and comfort of saying "yes" to God, and actually putting one foot in front of the other and walking along the rocky and dirt-paved path to the vineyard.

We're all caught somewhere between the excited "yes" of the first son and the slow conversion of the second son.

Much like the first son, we've all been fed one of the biggest lies ever told in the name of Christianity: That following Jesus would be easy.

And much like the second, we all know what it's like to feel as if too much has been asked and that it's too far to go.

But at the end of the day, one thing remains true: There's more kingdom to build, and God has put out the call to all who dare to join.

So I'm headed to the vineyard...

...I'll see you there.

Amen.

***The Reverend Dr. Marshall Jolly** is rector-elect of St. Thaddeus Episcopal Church & School in Aiken, South Carolina (Diocese of Upper South Carolina) and is currently packing boxes and boxes (and boxes!) of books to begin his move, alongside his wife and their nine-pound little Himalayan cat with a big personality, Hambrick.*