

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 13, 2026 ♦ 8:00 am

Celebrant and Preacher: The Rev. Jason Shelby

Deacon: The Rev. Celeste Stump



We warmly welcome you if you are here with us for the first time today. We joyfully welcome all people into our community without exception. Whoever you are, and whatever the status of your relationship with God, you will find fellow travelers here. Please join us for coffee and fellowship after the service.

St. Francis Episcopal Church welcomes all people to receive Holy Communion. If you have not been baptized but would like to be, please talk to Father Jason after the service.

Flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God by Dick Briggs and Sara Schulz in loving memory of Sara's parents, Fr. Smith and Mary.

Please take a moment to silence your cellphone. Thank you.

This Week at St. Francis

Sunday, September 13

Get Connected Sunday and Luncheon

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist (Rite I, Chapel)
- 9:10 am "Who is Jesus?" Formation Class
- 10:00 am Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

Tuesday, September 15

- 6:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting
- 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, September 16

- 10:00 am Healing Service
- 11:00 am Good Grief Group Meeting

Thursday, September 17

- 1:00 pm Quilting and Knitting Group

Friday, September 18

- 4:00 pm St. Luke's Breakfast Prep (Parish Kitchen)

Saturday, September 19

- 7:15 am St. Luke's Breakfast (St. Luke's Long Beach)

Sunday, September 20

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist (Rite I, Chapel)
- 10:00 am Holy Eucharist (Rite II)
- 5:30 pm Liturgy Lab



Online Giving

To make a one-time donation to St. Francis, scan this QR code or visit <https://bit.ly/STFGIVING1>

The Processional Hymn: All Creatures of Our God and King..... Hymnal #400



All Great Swift Let crea - tures of our God and King, lift up your voic - es, let us clouds that ride the heavens a - mus - ic for your Lord to wor - ship him in hum - ble -

4 sing; Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia! Bright burn-ing sun with gold-en beams, pale loft, O__ praise him, Al-le - lu - ia, Fair ris - ing morn, with praise re - joice, stars hear, Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia! Fire, so in - tense and fierce-ly bright, you ness, O__ praise him, Al-le - lu - ia! Praise God the Fa - ther, praisethe Son, and

9 sil - ver moon that gent - ly gleams, O__ praise him, O__ praise him, Al - le - night - ly shin - ing, find a voice,____ give to us both warmth and light,____ praise the Spi - rit, Three in One:____

13 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Words: Francis of Assisi (1182-1226), tr. William H. Draper (1855-1933), alt. Music: "Lasst uns erfreuen," melody from "Auserlesene Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesang," 1623; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). By permission of Oxford University Press.

The Opening AcclamationBook of Common Prayer p. 323
 The Collect for PurityBook of Common Prayer p. 323
 The Summary of the Law.....Book of Common Prayer p. 324
 The Gloria.....Book of Common Prayer p. 324
 The Collect of the Day: Proper 19.....Book of Common Prayer p. 182

The First Lesson..... Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The Response Psalm 103:8-13 (Book of Common Prayer p. 733)

The Epistle..... Romans 14:1-12

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions.
²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those 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. ⁴Who 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.
⁵Some 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. ⁶Those 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.
⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If 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. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.
¹⁰Why 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. ¹¹For it is written,
 "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
 and every tongue shall give praise to God."
¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The Holy Gospel Matthew 18:21-35

²¹Peter 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?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.
²³"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, 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. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But 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.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.'
³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So 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.....The Rev. Jason Shelby
The Nicene CreedBook of Common Prayer p. 327
The Prayers of the PeopleBook of Common Prayer p. 328
The Confession.....Book of Common Prayer p. 331
The PeaceBook of Common Prayer p. 332

The Welcome and Announcements

Anyone who has a birthday or anniversary in the next week is invited to come forward for a blessing:

Watch over your child(ren), O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may the peace which passes all understanding abide all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving.....Book of Common Prayer p. 333

The Post-Communion Prayer.....Book of Common Prayer p. 339

The Blessing and Sending Forth.....Book of Common Prayer p. 339

The Recessional Hymn: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty Hymnal #390

Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
Praise to the Lord: o - ver all things he glo - rious - ly reign - eth:
Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy way and de - fend thee;
Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a - dore him!

O my soul praise him, for he is thy health and sal - va - tion!
borne as on ea - gle - wings, safe - ly his saints he sus - stain - eth.
sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall ev - er at - tend thee;
All that hath life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!

join the great throng, psal - ter - y, or - gan, and song. sound - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
Hastthou not seen how all thou need - est hath been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?
pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do, who with his love doth be - friend thee.
Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for ev - er a - dore him.

Words: Joachim Neander (1650-1680); tr. "Hymnal 1940, alt. Music: "Lobe den Herren," melody from "Erneuerten Gesangbuch," 1665; harm. "The Chorale Book for England," 1863; desc. Craig Sellar Lang (1891-1971); Descant, © 1953, Novello and Company Limited. Used by permission.

The Postlude

Prelude and Fugue in C Major (BWV 553)

J.S. Bach

Announcements

TODAY: Get Connected Sunday

Join us today following the 10:00 am service under the arches for food, fun, and fellowship! Everyone is welcome, whether you're a longtime parishioner, a new face, or simply curious about St. Francis.

Enjoy a delicious lunch and sample a variety of chilis prepared by our St. Francis Friars and members of the congregation. You'll also have a chance to meet our clergy and ministry leaders and discover ways to grow, serve, and connect with our community.

There will be fun for all ages, including chili tasting, church trivia, a bouncy house for the kids, and a scavenger hunt around the church grounds

Bring a friend and come see what makes St. Francis such a vibrant community of faith. We can't wait to see you there!

Veronica Mejia: A Story of Grit and Perseverance

I'm happy to share that I recently reconnected with Veronica Mejia, a student whom the St. Francis Outreach Scholarship Fund (SFOSF) supported from 2017–2019. We lost touch during the pandemic, and I often wondered whether she had achieved her dream of becoming a nurse. I'm delighted to say that she never gave up.

In 2017, Veronica was living with her great-grandmother, aunt, and uncle in West Hills while attending Pierce College. SFOSF provided her with a Verizon Jetpack so she could access Wi-Fi at home and helped pay the \$1,500 fee for the American Red Cross Nursing Assistant Training Program. Veronica passed her certification exam and became a Certified Nursing Assistant.

While continuing her studies, Veronica faced a difficult change in her living situation. After standing up for her great-grandmother, she was asked to leave the family home. For a brief time, she was homeless—even during finals—but because she was working, she was able to rent a room with a local family. SFOSF later helped with a portion of her rent until she completed her studies at Pierce College and earned her associate degree.

Veronica then began pursuing her nursing degree while working at a post-acute rehabilitation center. Eventually, she transitioned to the UCLA Emergency Room and Trauma Center, where she continues to work today. She is also pursuing her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Stanbridge University's Alhambra campus and expects to graduate in 2028.

When Veronica told me, "I never gave up," I immediately thought of Fr. Jason's August 30 sermon about grit. Veronica's story is a wonderful example of perseverance in the face of adversity.

Please make a point of welcoming Veronica when she visits St. Francis for Get Connected Sunday on September 13. When I asked how we could support her now, she simply asked for our prayers. She is balancing demanding work at UCLA with her nursing studies and, at times, the challenges of working with people who are not always kind.

Let's keep Veronica in our prayers as she continues pursuing her dream—and never giving up.

— Cheryl Gutierrez, *St. Francis Outreach Scholarship*

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Subscribe to our weekly email newsletter, *Bellringer Weekly*, and receive all the news and events in your inbox each week! *Bellringer Weekly* goes out on Thursday evenings (usually). Subscribe today at stfrancispalosverdes.org/subscribe

Prayers this Week

We pray for all those who serve in the armed and foreign services, and for their families, especially Alyssa Capellino Baxter, Barry Witt, Drew Deley, Jonathan Zimmerman, Joseph Leahy, Mark Kappelmann, Michael Strong, Michael Valiquette, Scott Ruston, Steve, Thomas Dawson, TJ Malzahn, and Will Piepenbring.

Those who are ill, recovering from surgery, or in any other kind of need or trouble: Amy Clute, Andrea, Angel Lara Gonzalez, Anne Sharp, Barbara Shelby, Billy Whelan, Bob, Bruce Schaefer, Carlos, Celeste Stump and her family, Chris, Colette Furbush, Connie, Dana Genzel-Diaz, Irena Dybeic, Jeff, Jerry Pinkston, Joseph and Danielle Diestel, Kathy Falk, Kerry Myers, Kristen, Krystal, KT Martyniak, Liz, Marilyn and Dale Ghare, Mary Sharp, Miguel Diaz, Patt Parker, Phyllis Niski, Rex Claytor, Rob Ramsay, Roxanne Wall, Roz Hadley, Sally Hill, Sofia, Susan Crouse, Tess Jones, Tommy, the people of the Middle East, and for victims of violence everywhere.

We pray for all who have died that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

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