



# The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 1, 2024 8:00 a.m.



*Every perfect gift is from above.*

*James Ch. 1*

## **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**

**Prelude**

✠ **Opening Acclamation**

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

**And blessed is God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

**Collect for Purity**

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Hymn of Praise**

**Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men.**

**We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee,**

**we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,**

**O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.**

**O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.**

**Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.**

**Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.**

**For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ,**

**with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**The Collect**

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.** Let us pray.

Lord of all power and might, who art the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of thy Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**Collect for Labor Day**

Almighty God, who hast so linked our lives one with another that all we do affects, for good or ill, all other lives: So guide us in the work we do, that we may do it not for self alone, but for the common good; and, as we seek a proper return for our own labor, make us mindful of the rightful aspirations of other workers, and arouse our concern for those who are out of work; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**The First Lesson: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9**

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy.

Moses said: So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

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

### **Psalm 15**

- 1 LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? \*  
    who may abide upon your holy hill?
- 2 Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, \*  
    who speaks the truth from his heart.
- 3 There is no guile upon his tongue;  
    he does no evil to his friend; \*  
    he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.
- 4 In his sight the wicked is rejected, \*  
    but he honors those who fear the LORD.
- 5 He has sworn to do no wrong \*  
    and does not take back his word.
- 6 He does not give his money in hope of gain, \*  
    nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.
- 7 Whoever does these things \*  
    shall never be overthrown.

### **The Second Lesson: James 1:17-27**

A reading from the Letter of James

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid

yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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

### ✠ **The Gospel: Mark 7:1-8,14-15, 21-23**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark. **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

When the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.’ You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.” For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

### **The Sermon**

#### **The Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen 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.

**Prayers of the People:** Form II, *adapted*

With all our heart and with all our mind let us pray to the Lord.

For God's people throughout the world; for Michael our Presiding Bishop, Sean and Carrie our Bishops; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer.**

For peace in our country and in the world; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer.**

For the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, those in prison, and for those in any need or trouble, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer.**

For all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of God, that they may find and be found by God, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer.**

For the departed, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer.**

For those who suffer, for Joy, Sherry, Jenny, Pierre-Henry+, Linda, Katelyn, Ernest, Mary, Joanne, Rick, Kathy, Allan+, those in our prayer list, and those we name now silently or aloud. (*silence*) Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer.**

We give thanks and pray for the birthdays of Sylvie, Bud, and the anniversary of Steve and Deb. Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer.**

You may add your own thanksgivings and petitions, silently or aloud. (*silence*) Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer.**

*The Celebrant:* Gracious God: Grant that thy people may have in them the same mind that was in Christ Jesus, and guide us into harmony of relationship through loving-kindness and the wise use of all that thou have given; for thou art drawing all things into communion with thee and with each other by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**The Confession of Sin**

*Celebrant:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee 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 thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.**

*Celebrant:* Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

✠ **The Peace:** The Peace of the Lord be always with you. **And with thy spirit.**

### **Birthday and Anniversary Prayer**

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

### **Announcements**

### **The Celebration of the Holy Communion**

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

### **Offertory Music**



### ✠ **At the Presentation**

All things come of thee, O Lord, **and of thine own have we given thee.**

### **The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer II**

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.**

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

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God. **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts: Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.**

**Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say:

**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.**

### **Breaking of the Bread**

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, **Have mercy upon us.**

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, **Have mercy upon us.**

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, **Grant us thy peace.**

**We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.**

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.

## **Communion of the People**

All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion. When directed by an Usher, please come forward to receive Holy Communion kneeling or standing at the Communion Rail.

### **Communion Music**

**Communion Prayer:** Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thine everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

**The Blessing:** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you. The Lord lift his countenance upon you and give you peace. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you, and remain with you always. Amen.

✠ **The Dismissal:** Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

### **Postlude**

<b>Worship Assistants</b>	<b>September 1</b>	<b>September 8</b>
Organist	Mary Butler	
Usher	Cheryl Vecera	<i>1 needed</i>
Lector	David Kreider	David Kreider
Acolyte	<i>1 needed</i>	Jennie Grabill

### **September Altar Guild: Team 1:**

Karen Lance, Donna Hansen, Jenny Lui, Kathy Sullivan, Sandy White

**The Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God by Ted and Joanne Neil, in thanksgiving for 65 years of marriage, as well as the many other blessing received in their lives.

### **Attendance: August 25:**

8:00 am - 24 10:15 am In-person - 70 YouTube - 1 Facebook - 6 **Total: 101**

### **Readings for Next Sunday: The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost - B**

James 2:1-17 Mark 7:24-37

---

**Church of the Ascension | 23 North Court Street | Westminster, Maryland 21157**

The Reverend Pierre-Henry Buisson, Rector

**Church Office:** 410-848-3251 **Email:** office@ascension-westminster.com