



The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2026

10:15 a.m.



*For I am convinced that neither death,
nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come...
will be able to separate us from
the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Romans Ch. 8

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

"On Bended Knee"

1. On ___ bend - ed knee ___ I come, ___ with a
(2. On) _ bend - ed knee ___ we come, ___ with a

hum - ble heart _ I come, ___ bow - ing down be - fore ___ Your ho - ly throne. .
hum - ble heart _ we come, ___ bow - ing down be - fore ___ Your ho - ly throne. .

____ Lift - ing ho - ly hands _ to You ___ as I
Lift - ing ho - ly hands _ to You ___ as we

pledge my love _ a - new, ___ I wor - ship You _ in spir - it; I
pledge our love _ a - new, ___ we wor - ship You _ in spir - it; We

wor - ship You _ in truth, ___ make my life a ho - ly praise ___ un - to You. .
wor - ship You _ in truth, ___ make our lives a ho - ly, praise ___ un - to You. .

♣ Processional Song

Chorus:

Forever, God is faithful
Forever, God is strong
Forever, God is with us
Forever, Forever

1. Give thanks to the Lord, our God and King
His love endures forever
For He is good, He is above all things
His love endures forever
Sing praise, sing praise. Sing praise, sing praise

"Forever"

2. With a mighty hand and outstretched arm
His love endures forever
For the life that's been reborn
His love endures forever
Sing praise, sing praise. Sing praise, sing praise

3. From the rising to the setting sun
His love endures forever
By the grace of God, we will carry on
His love endures forever
Sing praise, sing praise. Sing praise, sing praise

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Opening Acclamation

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

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

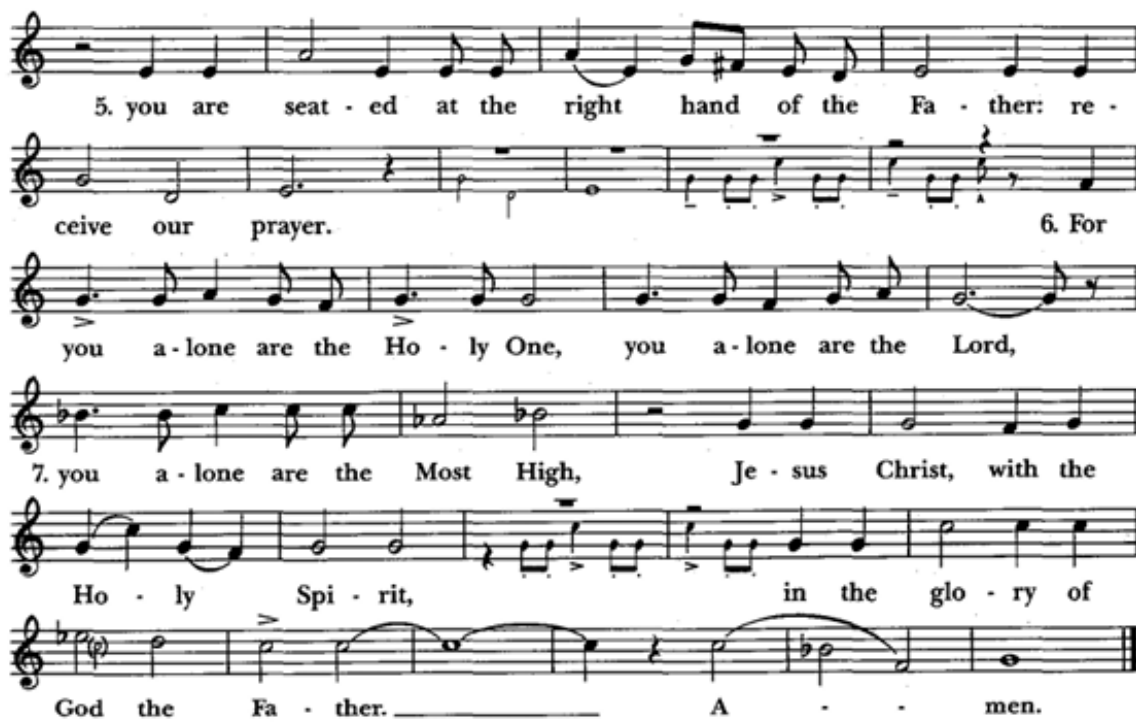
The Collect for Purity

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.**

Hymn of Praise

Hymnal #S278

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;



Setting: William Mathias (b. 1934)

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

The First Lesson: Genesis 29:15-28

A Reading from the Book of Genesis

Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" Laban said, "This is not done in

our country — giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years.” Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 105:1-11

- 1 Give thanks to the LORD and call upon his Name; *
make known his deeds among the peoples.
- 2 Sing to him, sing praises to him, *and speak of all his marvelous works.
- 3 Glory in his holy Name; * let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
- 4 Search for the LORD and his strength; *continually seek his face.
- 5 Remember the marvels he has done, *
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,
- 6 O offspring of Abraham his servant, *O children of Jacob his chosen.
- 7 He is the LORD our God; *his judgments prevail in all the world.
- 8 He has always been mindful of his covenant, *
the promise he made for a thousand generations:
- 9 The covenant he made with Abraham, *the oath that he swore to Isaac,
- 10 Which he established as a statute for Jacob, *an everlasting covenant for Israel,
- 11 Saying, "To you will I give the land of Canaan *to be your allotted inheritance."

The Epistle: Romans 8:26-39

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

✠ **Sequence Song**

“Thy Word”

Chorus:

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light
unto my path. Thy Word is a lamp unto my
feet and a light unto my path

2. I will not forget your love for me and yet
My heart forever is wandering
Jesus be my guide and hold me to Your side
I will love You to the end. *Chorus*

1. When I feel afraid and I think I've lost my
way. Still you're there right beside me.
Nothing will I fear as long as You are near
Please be near me to the end. *Chorus*

CCLI Song # 14301 | Amy Grant | Michael W. Smith

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The Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

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

Celebrant: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church; **that we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you; **that your Name may be glorified by all people.**

We pray for Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Carrie, our Bishop, and all bishops, priests, and deacons; **that they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

We pray for Donald, President of the United States, and for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world; **that there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

We pray for an end to the wars that ravage so many nations, especially the Middle East and Ukraine; for the protection of the innocent, the care of refugees, and the courage of peacemakers; **that justice, mercy, and peace may prevail among the nations.**

We pray for all who serve in the armed forces and for their families; **that they may be kept safe, and return to those who love them.**

We pray for this parish family of Ascension, that God may grant us wisdom, courage, generosity, and faithfulness; **that we may be guided by the Holy Spirit in all things.**

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble, especially Nancy, Marion, Lianne, Stacy, Bill, Gail, Bobbie, Jerry, Heather, Jackie, Mark, Eva, Janet, John, Karen, Scott, Pat, Steve N., Steve P., Ryan, Betsy, Rick, Debbie, Jordan, Mary, Reed and Carrie T.; and those we now name silently or aloud. (*Silence*), and all the victims of natural catastrophes, **that they may be delivered from their distress.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake; **that our works may find favor in your sight.**

Give to the departed eternal rest, especially your servant Marsha Allen Burks, and those we remember before God. (*Silence*) O Lord, **let light perpetual shine upon them.**

We pray for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week, especially Nancy, Michael and Lynn, Lew and Mary, Ray and Dorothy; **may they know the fullness of your blessing.**

Celebrant: Lord, hear the prayers of your people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of your Name; 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 Peace: The Peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

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

"Seek Ye First"

Hymnal #711

1

Seek ye first the king - dom of God
Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you,

and its right-eous - ness, and all these things shall be
seek, and ye shall find, knock, and the door shall be

add - ed un - to you; Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
o - pened un - to you; Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

Refrain

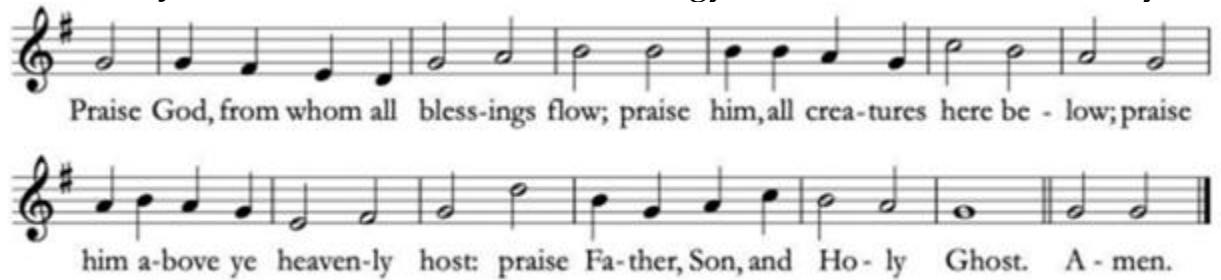
2

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

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

Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

Words: Karen Lafferty Music: *Seek Ye First*, Karen Lafferty



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.**

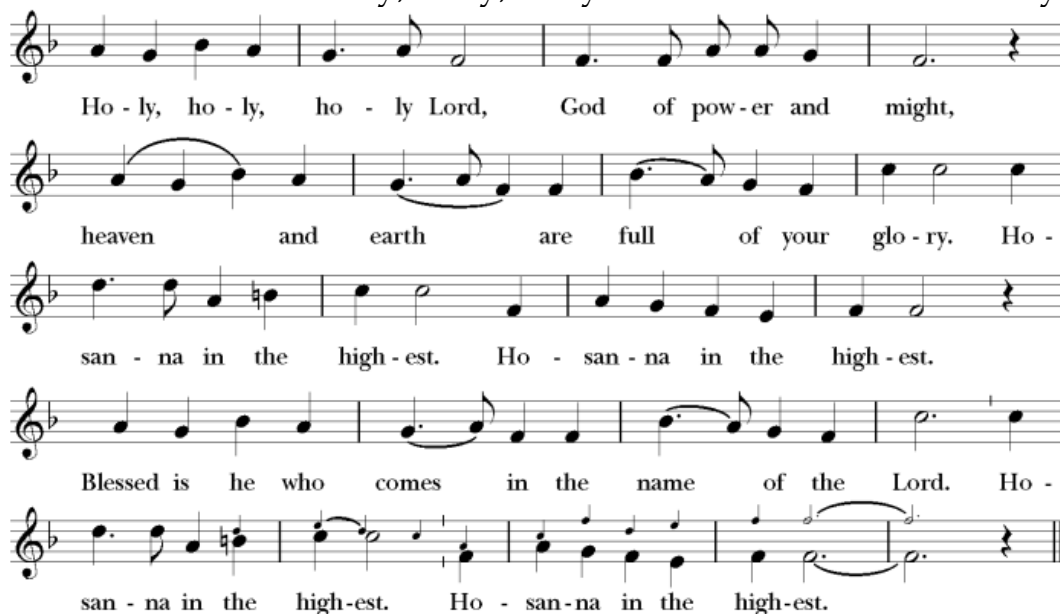
It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish 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



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.

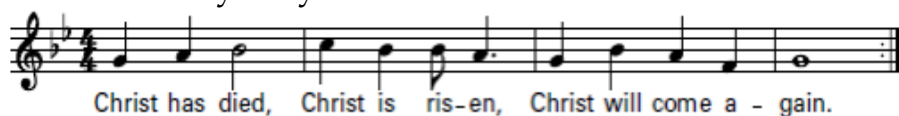
On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

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

Lyrical

Our Fa-ther in hea-ven, hal-low-ed be your
Name, your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in hea-ven. _
Give us to-day our dai-ly bread. For - give us our
sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of trial, _
and de-liv-er us from e-vil. For the king-dom, the pow-er, and the glo-ry are
yours, now and for ev - er. A - men. A - men. _____

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.**

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

"One Bread, One Body"

Fr. John Foley

Chorus: One bread, one body, one Lord of all

One cup of blessing which we bless. And we, though many, throughout the earth.
We are one body in this one Lord.

1. Gentile or Jew, servant or free
Woman or man, no more.

Chorus

2. Many the gifts, many the
works. One in the Lord, Of all.

Chorus

3. Grain for the fields, scattered
and grown. Gathered to one, for
all. *Chorus*

"Spirit of the Living God"

Spirit of the Living God fall fresh on me. Spirit of the Living God fall fresh on me
Melt me mold me fill me use me. Spirit of the Living God fall fresh on me

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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 Blessing

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn

"Be Thou My Vision"

Hymnal #488



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 High King of hea - ven, when vic - tory is won,
all else be nought to me, save that thou art—
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
may I reach hea - ven's joys, bright hea - ven's Sun!
thou my best thought,— by day or by night,
thou my great Fa - ther; thine own may I be;
Heart of my heart,— what - ev - er be - fall,
wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
thou in me dwell - ing, and I one with thee.
still be my vis - ion, O Ru - ler of all.

Words: Mary Elizabeth Byrne Music: *Slane*, Irish ballad melody

The Dismissal:

Celebrant: Let us bless the Lord! *People:* **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

Worship Assistants	July 26	August 2
Organist	Mary Butler	Mary Butler
Musicians	Choir	Choir
Ushers	<i>2 needed</i>	<i>2 needed</i>
Lector	John Holbert	Olivia Carpenter
Acolyte(s)	Kat Dittrich	Kat Dittrich
Chalicians	John Holbert, Sandy White, Melissa Leahy, <i>1 needed</i>	John Holbert, Sandy White, <i>2 needed</i>
Worship Slides	Karen Lance	Jeanne Cox
Audio Visual	Allison Lord	Allison Lord

July Altar Guild: Ellen Anderson, Dorothy Carpenter, Jennie Grabill, Lisa Jamison, Melissa Leahy

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Sandy White, in thanksgiving for a wonderful Church Family who stays together with God's help.

The Bread and Wine are given to the glory of God by Tom and Sharon Schwartz, in celebration of their grandson's birthday.

Attendance July 19

8:00 am - 55 10:15 am In-person - 58 YouTube - 12 Facebook - 2 Total: 127

Readings for Next Sunday: The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 32:22-31 Psalm 17 Romans 9:1-5 Matthew 14:13-21