



The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 2026 10:15 a.m.

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

Celebrant: The Rev. Kristin Krantz

Canon for Transitions, Diocese of Maryland

✠ *Please stand as you are able.*

Welcome

Organ Prelude

"Idylle"

Denis Bedard

✠ Processional Hymn

"Before the Lord's Eternal Throne"

Hymnal #391

1. Before the Lord's eternal throne,
ye nations, bow with sacred joy;
know that the Lord is God alone;
he can create, and he destroy.

2. His sovereign power without our aid
formed us of clay and gave us breath;
and when like wandering sheep we strayed,
he saved us from the power of death.

3. We are his people, we his care,
our souls, and all our mortal frame:
what lasting honors shall we rear,
almighty Maker, to thy Name?

4. We'll crowd thy gates with thankful songs,
high as the heavens our voices raise;
and earth, with her ten thousand tongues,
shall fill thy courts with sounding praise.

5. Wide as the world is thy command,
vast as eternity thy love;
firm as a rock thy truth must stand,
when rolling years shall cease to move.

Words: Isaac Watts

Music: *Winchester New*, William Henry Monk

✠ 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, 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.**

The Lessons

The First Lesson: Exodus 17:1-7

A Reading from the Book of Exodus

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?" The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

- 1 Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
- 2 I will open my mouth in a parable; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.
- 3 That which we have heard and known, and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.
- 4 We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, *
and the wonderful works he has done.
- 12 He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, *
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.
- 13 He split open the sea and let them pass through; *
he made the waters stand up like walls.
- 14 He led them with a cloud by day, * and all the night through with a glow of fire.
- 15 He split the hard rocks in the wilderness *
and gave them drink as from the great deep.
- 16 He brought streams out of the cliff, *and the waters gushed out like rivers.

The Epistle: Philippians 2:1-13

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians

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

✦ **Sequence Song** "Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord/ Awesome God"

Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord
Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord
And He shall lift you up higher and higher
And He shall lift you up.

Our God is an awesome God.
He reigns in heaven above with wisdom power
and love. Our God is an awesome God.

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✦ **The Holy Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32**

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

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."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

The Rev. Kristin Krantz
Canon for Transitions, Diocese of Maryland

✠ 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 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, Jeanne, Lianne, Bill, Gail, Bobbie, Jerry, Sean, Heather, Jackie, Erin, Gary, Karen, Scott, Barry, Chris, Dan, Gladys, Sharon, Debbie, Jordan, Reed, and Diane.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for all who have died, especially Pat Nevada, 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 Jane, Max, Tom, Steve, Tom and Sharon, Jim and Michele. **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 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

"On Eagle's Wings"

1. You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord
Who abide in His shadow for life
Say to the Lord, "My refuge, my rock in whom I
trust!" *Chorus*

2. The snare of the fowler will never capture you
And famine will bring you no fear
Under His wings your refuge, his faithfulness
your shield *Chorus*

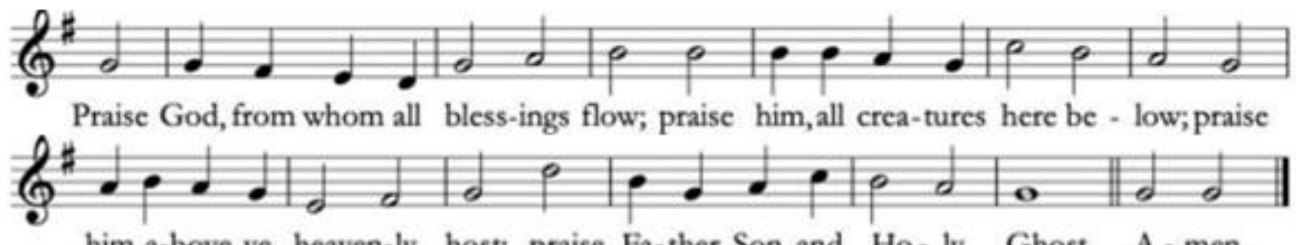
Chorus:

And he will raise you up on eagles' wings
Bear you on the breath of dawn
Make you to shine like the sun
And hold you in the palm of his hand

3. You need not fear the terror of the night
Nor the arrow that flies by day
Though thousands fall about you, near you it
shall not come *Chorus*

4. For to His angels He's given a command
To guard you in all of your ways
Upon their hands they will bear you up
Lest you dash your foot against a stone *Chorus*

Words: Psalm 91, Michael Joncas
Music: Michael Joncas



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

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.

✠ The Breaking of Bread

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

✠ Fraction Anthem

“Jesus Lamb of God”

Setting: Mass of Creation

1. Je-sus, Lamb of
God, you take a-way the sins of the world: have
mer-cy on us. Je-sus, Lamb of God; you
take a-way the sins of the world: grant us your peace.

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

"Behold the Lamb"

1. Be - hold the Lamb who bears our sins a - way, slain for us, and we re-mem-ber;
 2. The bo - dy of our Sav-ior, Je - sus Christ, torn for you, eat, and re-mem-ber;
 3. The blood that cleans-es ev - ery stain of sin, shed for you, drink, and re-mem-ber;
 4. And so, with thank-ful-ness and faith we rise to re - spond, and to re-mem-ber,

the pro - mise made that all who come in faith find for - give - ness at the cross.
 the wounds that heal, the death that brings us life paid the price to make us one.
 He drained death's cup that all may en - ter in to re - ceive the life of God.
 our call to fol-low in the steps of Christ as His bo - dy here on earth.

So we share in this Bread of life, and we drink of His sac - ri - fice,
 So we share in this Bread of life, and we drink of His sac - ri - fice,
 So we share in this Bread of life, and we drink of His sac - ri - fice,
 As we share in His suf - fer - ing, we pro - claim, "Christ will come a - gain!"

as a sign of our bonds of peace, a-round the tab - le of the King.
 as a sign of our bonds of love, a-round the tab - le of the King.
 as a sign of our bonds of grace, a-round the tab - le of the King.
 And we'll join in the feast of heaven, a-round the tab - le of the King.

"Prayer of St. Francis"

Sebastian Temple

Make me a channel of your peace.
 Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.
 Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,
 And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek
 So much to be consoled as to console.
 To be understood as to understand.
 To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.
 Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
 Where there is darkness, only light,
 And where there's sadness, ever joy.

Make me a channel of your peace.
 It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
 in giving of ourselves that we receive,
 and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

✠ **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.**

1 Now thank we all our God, with heart, and hands, and voices,
 2 O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us!
 3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
 who wondrous things hath done, in whom his world rejoices;
 With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
 the Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven,
 who from our mother's arms hath blessed us on our way
 and keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,
 eternal, Triune God, whom earth and heaven adore;
 with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
 and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be, ever more.

Words: Martin Rinckart Music: *Nun Danket Alle Gott*, Johann Crüger

✠ The Dismissal

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

People: Thanks be to God! Alleluia, alleluia.

Organ Postlude

"Alla Marcia"

Denis Bedard

Worship Assistants	September 27	October 4
Organist	David and JoAnne Kreider	To be determined
Musicians	Choir	Choir
Ushers	David Horn, <i>1 needed</i>	<i>2 needed</i>
Lector	Chris Nusbaum	<i>1 needed</i>
Acolyte(s)	Kaydence Harper, Beatrice Howe	Ellen Anderson
Chalicians	John Holbert, Kim Tompkins Helen Lang, <i>1 needed</i>	Helen Lang, <i>3 needed</i>
Worship Slides	Jill Horn	
Audio Visual	Allison Lord	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 Tom and Sharon in celebration of their wedding anniversary, as well as son Jim and wife Michele's anniversary.

The Bread and Wine are given to the glory of God by Tom and Sharon Schwartz, in thanksgiving for their Ascension family.

Attendance September 20

8:00 am - 22 10:15 am In-person - 40 YouTube - 4 Facebook - 10 Total: 76