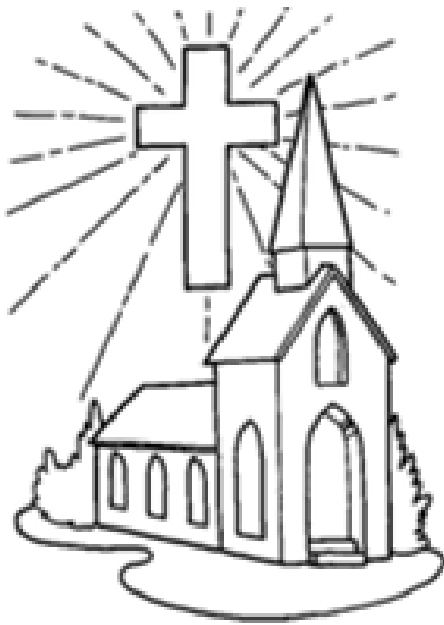




The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 2026

10:15 a.m.



Where two or three
are gathered in my name,
I am there among them.

Matthew Ch. 18

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

"His Mercy Is More"

Chorus:

Praise the Lord. His mercy is more. Stronger than darkness, new every morn.
Our sins they are many. His mercy is more.

1. What love could remember no wrongs we have done. Omniscient all knowing He counts not their sum. Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore. Our sins they are many His mercy is more.

Chorus

3. What riches of kindness He lavished on us. His blood was the payment His life was the cost. We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford. Our sins they are many His mercy is more.

Chorus

2. What patience would wait as we constantly roam? What Father so tender is calling us home? He welcomes the weakest the vilest the poor. Our sins they are many His mercy is more

Chorus

CCLI Song # 7065053

Matt Boswell | Matt Papa

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✠ Processional Song

"At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"

Hymnal #174

1. At the Lamb's high feast we sing
Praise to our victorious King
Who hath washed us in the tide
Flowing from his pierced side
Praise we him whose love divine
Gives his sacred blood for wine
Gives his body for the feast
Christ the victim Christ the feast

3. Mighty Victim from on high
Hell's fierce powers beneath thee lie
Thou hast conquered in the fight
Thou hast brought us life and light
Now no more can death appall
Now no more the grave enthrall
Thou hast opened paradise
And in thee thy saints shall rise

2. Where the Paschal blood is poured,
death's dark angel sheathes his sword;
Israel's hosts triumphant go
through the wave that drowns the foe.
Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed,
Paschal victim, Paschal bread;
with sincerity and love
eat we manna from above.

4. Easter triumph Easter joy
These alone do sin destroy
From sin's power do thou set free
Souls newborn O Lord in thee
Hymns of glory songs of praise
Father unto thee we raise
Risen Lord all praise to thee
With the Spirit ever be

Words: Latin, 1632 tr. Robert Campbell

Music: Salzburg, Jakob Hintze

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 -
mighty 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.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

The First Lesson: Exodus 12:1-14

A Reading from the Book of Exodus

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 149

- 1 Hallelujah! Sing to the LORD a new song; *
sing his praise in the congregation of the faithful.
- 2 Let Israel rejoice in his Maker; * let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.
- 3 Let them praise his Name in the dance; *
let them sing praise to him with timbrel and harp.
- 4 For the LORD takes pleasure in his people * and adorns the poor with victory.
- 5 Let the faithful rejoice in triumph; * let them be joyful on their beds.
- 6 Let the praises of God be in their throat *and a two-edged sword in their hand;
- 7 To wreak vengeance on the nations *and punishment on the peoples;
- 8 To bind their kings in chains *and their nobles with links of iron;
- 9 To inflict on them the judgment decreed; *this is glory for all his faithful people.
Hallelujah!

The Epistle: Romans 13:8-14

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

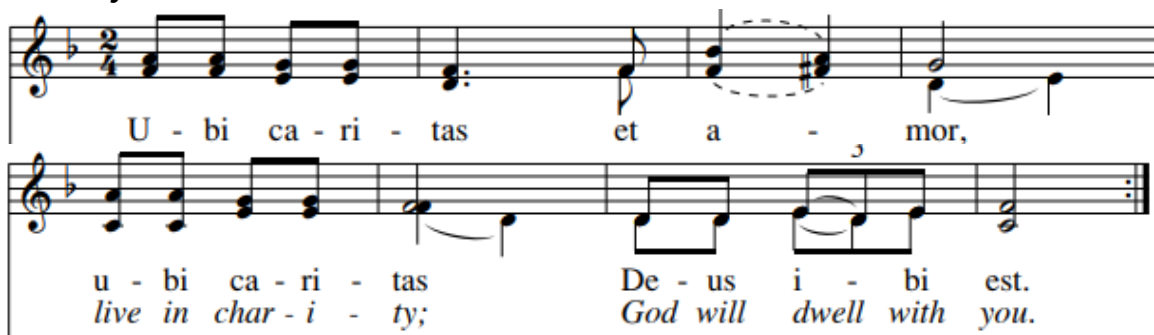
Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

✠ Sequence Hymn

"Ubi Caritas"

J. Berthier



The Holy Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

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

Children's Sermon & 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 (*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 all who labor; for those seeking work; for those whose work is difficult, dangerous, underpaid, or undervalued. **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 B., Jeanne, Lianne, Bill, Gail, Bobbie, Jerry, Sean, Heather, Jackie, Karen, Scott, Barry, Pat, Chris, Betsy, Rick, Dan, Gladys, Sharon, Debbie, Jordan, Mary S., Reed, and Diane.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for all who have died, 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 Bud, Lew, Judy, Robert and Karen.

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

"Servant Song"

by Richard Gillard

1. Won't you let me be your servant,
Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to
Let you be my servant, too.

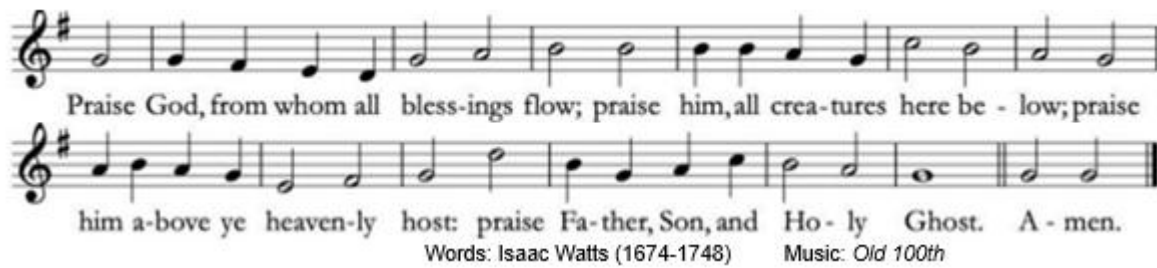
2. We are pilgrims on a journey,
We are travelers on the road;
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load.

3. I will hold the Christ light for you
In the nighttime of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
Speak the peace you long to hear.

4. I will weep when you are weeping;
When you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
'Till we've seen this journey through.

5. When we sing to God in heaven
We shall find such harmony,
Born of all we've known together
Of Christ's love and agony.

6. Won't you let me be your servant,
Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to
Let you be my servant, too.



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.**

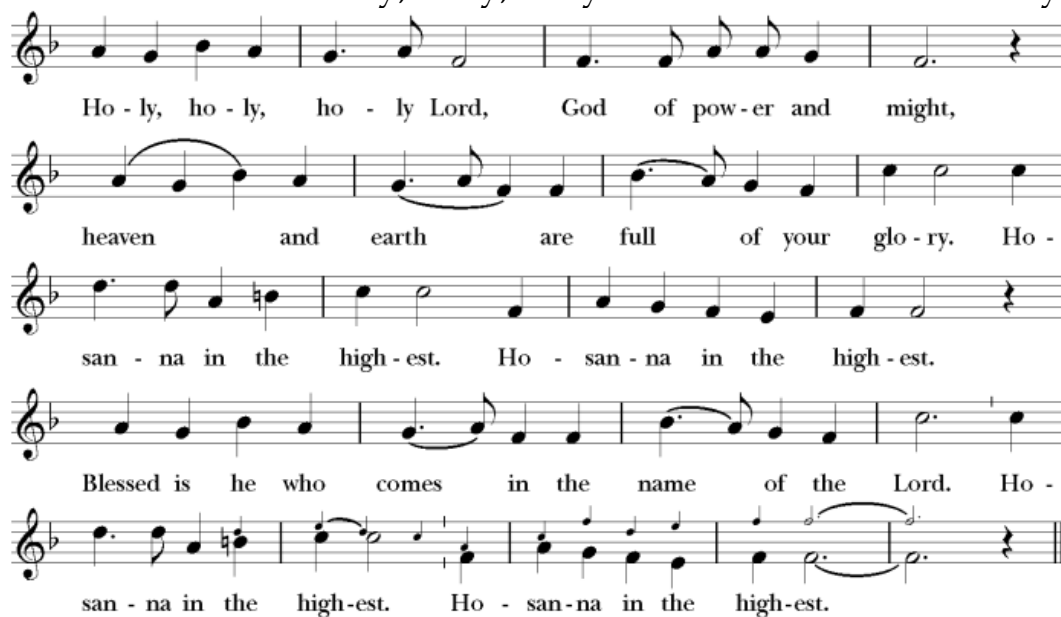
It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish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

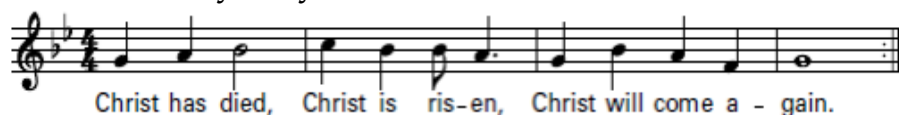
On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

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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Music © 1984, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

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.

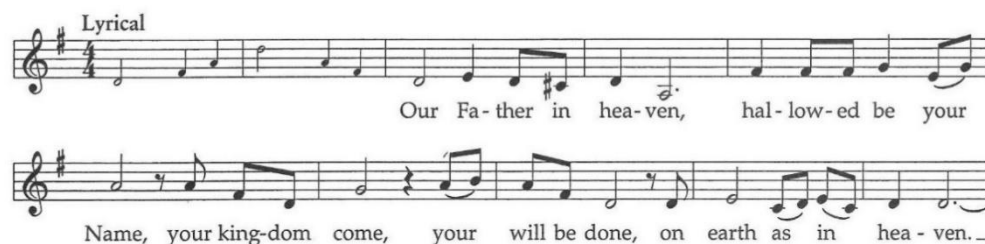
The Great "AMEN"

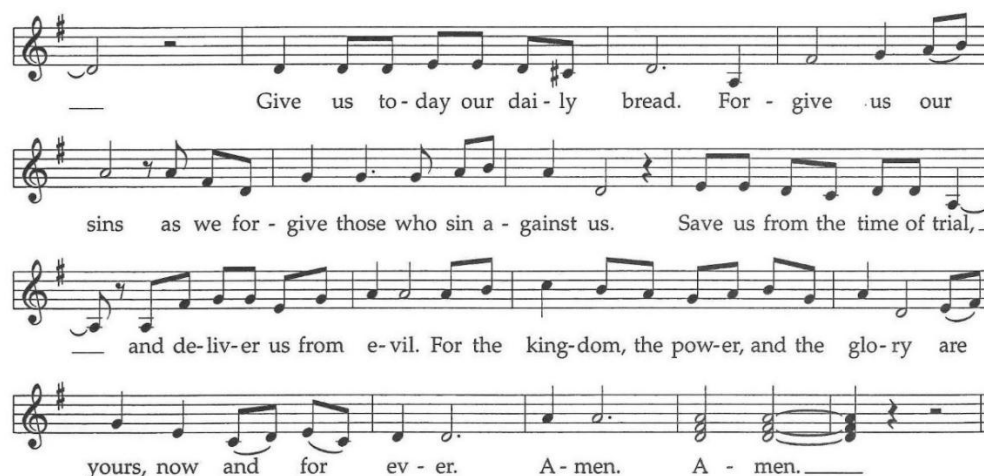
Setting: Mass of Creation



And now as our Savior Christ has taught us we are bold to sing:

The Lord's Prayer





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

"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 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

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Hymnal #657

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

3. Finish then thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

2. Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be alway blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Music: *Hyfrydol*, Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1811-1887
Words: Charles Wesley, 1701-1788

The Dismissal

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

People: **Thanks be to God! Alleluia, alleluia.**

Postlude

Worship Assistants	September 6	September 13
Organist	Mary Butler	David and JoAnne Kreider
Musicians	Choir	Choir
Ushers	<i>2 needed</i>	David and Ellen Anderson
Lector	Olivia Carpenter	Chris Nusbaum
Acolyte(s)	Ellen Anderson	Kat Dittrich
Chalicians	John Holbert, Sandy White, Kat Dittrich, Betsy Reinders	Helen Lang, Betsy Reinders, Kim Tompkins, Jill Horn
Worship Slides	<i>1 needed</i>	John Holbert
Audio Visual	Allison Lord	Gabriel Hoff

September Altar Guild: Susan Considine, Debbie Linard, Liz Lowe, Patty O'Brien

Attendance August 30

8:00 am - 42 10:15 am In-person - 54 YouTube - 4 Facebook - 1 Total: 101

Readings for Next Sunday: The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 14:19-31 Psalm 114 Romans 14:1-12 Matthew 18:21-35