



# The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

August 10, 2025      10:15 a.m.



Faith is the assurance  
of things hoped for,  
the conviction of things  
not seen.

*Hebrews Ch. 11*

## 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 Reverend Dr. William Pugliese

✠ *Please stand as you are able.*

Welcome

The Rev. Dr. William Pugliese

Prelude

## ✠ Processional Hymn

“Come Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove”

Hymnal #510

1. Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly Dove,  
with all thy quickening powers;  
Kindle a flame of sacred love  
In these cold hearts of ours.

3. In vain we tune our formal songs,  
In vain we strive to rise:  
Hosannas languish on our tongues,  
And our devotion dies.

2. See how we trifle here below,  
Fond of these earthly toys:  
Our souls, how heavily they go,  
To reach eternal joys.

4. Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly Dove,  
With all thy quickening powers;  
Come, shed abroad a Savior's love,  
And that shall kindle ours.

Words: Isaac Watts Music: *Saint Agnes*, John Bacchus Dykes

## ✠ The Opening Acclamation

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

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

## ✠ 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

“Praise to the Lord”

Hymnal #390

1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -  
2 Praise to the Lord; o - ver all things he glo - rious - ly  
3 Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy way and de -  
4 Praise to the Lord! O, let all that is in me a -

a - tion; O my soul, praise him, for he is thy  
reign - - eth: borne as on ea - gle - wings, safe - ly his  
fend thee; sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall  
dore him! All that hath life and breath come now with

health and sal - va - tion: join the great throng, psal - ter - y,  
saints he sus - tain - eth. Hast thou not seen how all thou  
ev - er at - tend thee; pon - der a - new what the Al -  
prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his

or - gan, and song, sound - ing in glad ad - o - ra - - tion.  
need - est hath been grant - ed in what he or - dain - - eth?  
might - y can do, who with his love doth be - friend thee.  
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)

14 14. 478

## ✠ The Collect

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

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; 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 15:1-6**

A Reading from the Book of Genesis

The word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

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

### **Psalm 33:12-22**

12 Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD! \*  
happy the people he has chosen to be his own!

13 The LORD looks down from heaven, \*  
and beholds all the people in the world.

14 From where he sits enthroned he turns his gaze \*  
on all who dwell on the earth.

- 15 He fashions all the hearts of them \*  
and understands all their works.
- 16 There is no king that can be saved by a mighty army; \*  
a strong man is not delivered by his great strength.
- 17 The horse is a vain hope for deliverance; \*  
for all its strength it cannot save.
- 18 Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon those who fear him, \*  
on those who wait upon his love,
- 19 To pluck their lives from death, \*  
and to feed them in time of famine.
- 20 Our soul waits for the LORD; \*  
he is our help and our shield.
- 21 Indeed, our heart rejoices in him, \*  
for in his holy Name we put our trust.
- 22 Let your loving-kindness, O LORD, be upon us, \*  
as we have put our trust in you.

### **The Epistle: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16**

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old-- and Sarah herself was barren-- because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

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

## ✠ Sequence Song

1. Speak O Lord as we come to You  
To receive the food of Your holy word  
Take Your truth plant it deep in us  
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness  
That the light of Christ might be seen today  
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith  
Speak O Lord and fulfill in us  
All Your purposes for Your glory

2. Teach us Lord full obedience  
Holy reverence true humility  
Test our thoughts and our attitudes  
In the radiance of Your purity  
Cause our faith to rise  
Cause our eyes to see  
Your majestic love and authority  
Words of power that can never fail  
Let their truth prevail over unbelief

## "Speak, O Lord"

3. Speak O Lord and renew our minds  
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us  
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time  
That will echo down through eternity  
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises  
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us  
Speak O Lord till Your church is built  
And the earth is filled with Your glory

CCLI Song # 4615235

Keith Getty | Stuart Townend

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## Children's Chapel

*Children ages 3 – 8 and their Leaders exit to "Children's Chapel," returning at the Peace.*

## ✠ The Holy Gospel: Luke 12:32-40

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

"Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

"But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

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

## Sermon:

Rev. Dr. William Pugliese

## ✠ 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:* Let us pray for the church and for the world.

*Reader:* 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 all bishops, priests, and deacons;

**That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world, especially for the leaders of our country and our community;

**That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

**That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

**That they may be delivered from their distress.**

We pray especially for those on our parish prayer list:

Jenny, Josette, Trinko, Debbie, Joseph, Jackie, Terry, Dewey, Fran, Scott, Karen, Matt, Drew, Mary, Megan, Tony, Kevin, John

**Surround them with your healing presence, and grant them comfort and hope.**

We pray for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week, especially Merle, Allison, Becky, Pat, Cathy, Debbie, Don, David and JoAnne.

**May they be blessed and strengthened in the year ahead.**

Give to all the departed eternal rest;

**Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

**May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. (*silence*)

*Celebrant:* Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear the prayers we offer in Jesus' Name. Receive the needs and thanksgivings we have spoken, and also those held in our hearts. Strengthen us to do your will, and give us hearts to love you; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### ✠ Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**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

**Offertory Sentence** *To make an online offering, please scan the QR code.*



If you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.

(*Matthew 5:23-24, adapted*)

## The Celebration of the Holy Communion

### Offertory

### "By Faith"

1. By faith we see the hand of God  
In the light of creation's grand design  
In the lives of those who prove his faithfulness  
Who walk by faith and not by sight

2. By faith our fathers roamed the earth  
With the power of his promise in their hearts  
Of a holy city built by God's own hand  
A place where peace and justice reign

3. By faith the prophets saw a day  
When the longed-for Messiah would appear  
With the power to break the chains of sin and  
death, and rise triumphant from the grave

4. By faith the church was called to go  
In the power of the Spirit to the lost  
To deliver captives and to preach good news  
In every corner of the earth



5. By faith this mountain shall be moved  
 And the power of the gospel shall prevail  
 For we know in Christ all things are possible  
 For all who call upon his name

Chorus:

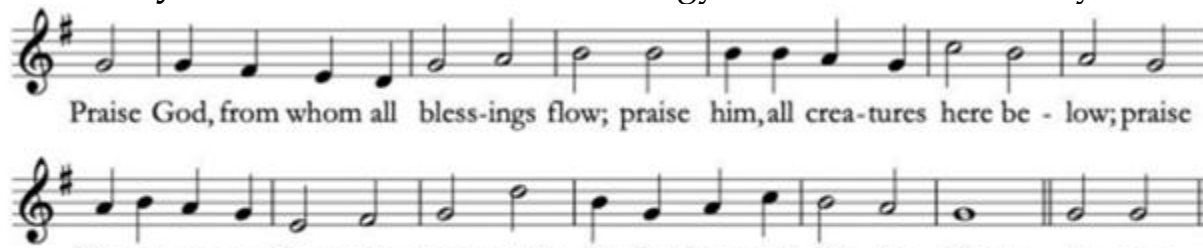
We will stand as children of the promise  
 We will fix our eyes on him our soul's reward  
 Till the race is finished and the work is done  
 We'll walk by faith and not by sight

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✦ **Presentation Hymn**

**"The Doxology"**

Hymnal #380, v. 3



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 D**

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 him thanks and praise.**

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God,  
 living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

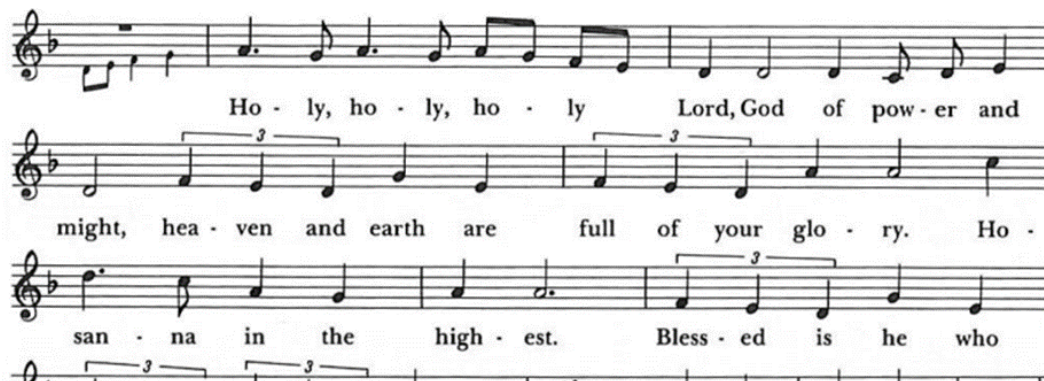
Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your  
 blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding  
 the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise.

Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and  
 glorify your Name, as we sing:

✦ **The Sanctus**

Hymnal #S129



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
 might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. \_\_\_\_\_



We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures.

When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin.

To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said:

'Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.'

After supper he 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 shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.'

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

**We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you,  
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

And now as our Savior Christ has 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.**

### ✠ The Breaking of Bread

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us: **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

**Alleluia.**

### ✠ Fraction Anthem



Words: James Montgomery Music: *Resignation* (American Folk Melody)

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

## “Alleluia, He Is Coming”

1. I looked up and I saw my Lord a coming  
I looked up and I say my Lord a coming down the  
road. *Refrain*

3. I looked up and I saw my Lord a dying.  
I looked up and I saw my Lord a dying on the  
cross. *Refrain*

2. I looked up and I saw my Lord a weeping.  
I looked up and I saw my Lord a weeping for my  
sins. *Refrain*

4. I looked up and I saw my Lord a rising  
I looked up and I say my Lord a rising from the  
grave. *Refrain*

### *Refrain:*

Alleluia He is coming. Alleluia He is here.

Alleluia He is coming. Alleluia He is here.

CCLI Song # 34642 Martha Butler © 1979 Butler, Martha E.

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## ✠ Post-Communion Prayer (#69 from *Enriching our Worship*)

Let us pray.

**God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## ✠ The Sending of Lay Eucharistic Visitors

*Celebrant:* With whom will you share this communion? *Lay Eucharistic Visitor answers.*

In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

**We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup. Amen.**

## ✠ The Blessing

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you today and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

## ✠ Recessional Hymn

## “How Firm a Foundation”

Hymnal #637

1. How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in his excellent word!  
What more can he say than to you he hath said,  
to you that for refuge to Jesus have fled?

4. When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,  
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;  
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design  
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

2. Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed!  
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to  
stand, upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

5. The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;  
that soul, though all hell shall endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake.

3. When through the deep waters I call thee to go,  
the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;  
for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,  
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

Words: K. in *John Rippon's Selection*  
Music: *Foundation*, melody from *The Sacred Harp*

## The Dismissal

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. **Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

<b>Worship Assistants</b>	<b>August 10</b>	<b>August 17</b>
Worship Leader	Mary Butler	James Corns
Musicians	Adult Ensemble	Praise Ensemble
Ushers	<i>2 needed</i>	<i>2 needed</i>
Acolyte	<i>1 needed</i>	Emelia Howe
Lector	John Holbert	Chris Nusbaum
Chalicians	Sandy White, John Holbert, Susan Considine, Betsy Reinders	Sandy White, Betsy Reinders, Jill Horn <i>1 needed</i>
Worship Slides	Jill Horn	John Holbert
Audio Visual	Gabriel Hoff	Gabriel Hoff

## August Altar Guild: Team 2

Janice Hobart, Jill Horn, Emelia Howe, Deb Vana

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Pat, in celebration of granddaughter, Barbara's birthday on August 10, and daughter, Elaine's birthday on August 11.

## Attendance: August 3

8:00 am – 29 10:15 am In-person – 54 YouTube - 8 Facebook – 2 **Total: 93**

## Readings for Next Sunday: The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost – C

Jeremiah 23:23-29 Psalm 82 Hebrews 11:29-12:2 Luke 12:49-56