



The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 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

✠ *Please stand as you are able.*

Welcome

Organ Prelude

“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”

Kreutz/Kolander

✠ Processional Hymn

“Jesus Shall Reign”

Hymnal #544

1. Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does its successive journeys run,
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

4. Blessings abound where'er he reigns:
the prisoners leap to lose their chains,
the weary find eternal rest,
and all who suffer want are blest.

2. To him shall endless prayer be made,
and praises throng to crown his head.
His name like sweet perfume shall rise
with every morning sacrifice.

5. Let every creature rise and bring
peculiar honors to our King,
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud amen.

3. People and realms of every tongue
dwell on his love with sweetest song,
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.

Words: Isaac Waatts
Music: *Duke Street*, John Hatton

✠ 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. Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; 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 16:2-15

A Reading from the Book of Exodus

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?" And Moses said, "When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD."

Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.'" And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. The LORD spoke to Moses and said, "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'"

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat."

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

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

- 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.

37 He led out his people with silver and gold; *
in all their tribes there was not one that stumbled.
38 Egypt was glad of their going, *because they were afraid of them.
39 He spread out a cloud for a covering *
and a fire to give light in the night season.
40 They asked, and quails appeared, *
and he satisfied them with bread from heaven.
41 He opened the rock, and water flowed, *so the river ran in the dry places.
42 For God remembered his holy word *and Abraham his servant.
43 So he led forth his people with gladness, *his chosen with shouts of joy.
44 He gave his people the lands of the nations, *
and they took the fruit of others' toil,
45 That they might keep his statutes *and observe his laws.
Hallelujah!

The Epistle: Philippians 1:21-30

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well-- since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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

♣ Sequence Song

"Jesus, Name Above All Names"

1. Je - sus, name a - bove all names, beau - ti - ful Sav - ior,
2. Je - sus, lov - ing Shep - herd, Vine of the branch - es,
glo - ri - ous Lord. _____ Em - man - u - el, God _____ is
Son _____ of God; _____ Prince of Peace, Won - der - ful
with _____ us, bless - ed Re - deem - er, Liv - ing Word. _____
Coun - se - lor, Lord of the u - ni - verse, Light of the world. _____

3. Praise him, Lord above all lords, King above all kings, God's only Son.
The Prince of Peace, who by his Spirit comes to live in us, Master and Friend.

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♣ The Holy Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

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

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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

Sermon

The Reverend 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 *(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, Jeanne, Lianne, Bill, Gail, Bobbie, Jerry, Sean, Heather, Jackie, Erin, Gary, Karen, Scott, Barry, Pat, Chris, Dan, Gladys, Sharon, Debbie, Jordan, 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 Cathy, Tom, John, Mark, Kim, Liz, Bryan and Karen, Rob and Nettie. **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

“We Have Come Into His House”

1. We have come into His house
And gathered in His name to worship Him
We have come into His house
And gathered in His name to worship Him

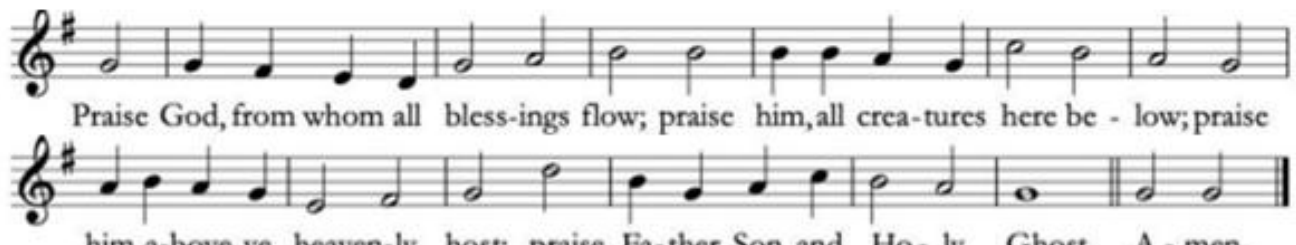
We have come into His house
And gathered in His name
To worship Christ the Lord
Worship Him Christ the Lord

2. So forget about yourself
And concentrate on Him and worship Him
So forget about yourself
And concentrate on Him and worship Him
So forget about yourself
And concentrate on Him
And worship Christ the Lord
Worship Him Christ the Lord

3. Let us lift up holy hands
And magnify His name and worship Him
Let us lift up holy hands
And magnify His name and worship Him
Let us lift up holy hands
And magnify His name
And worship Christ the Lord
Worship Him Christ the Lord

CCLI Song # 17212
Bruce T. Ballinger

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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.**

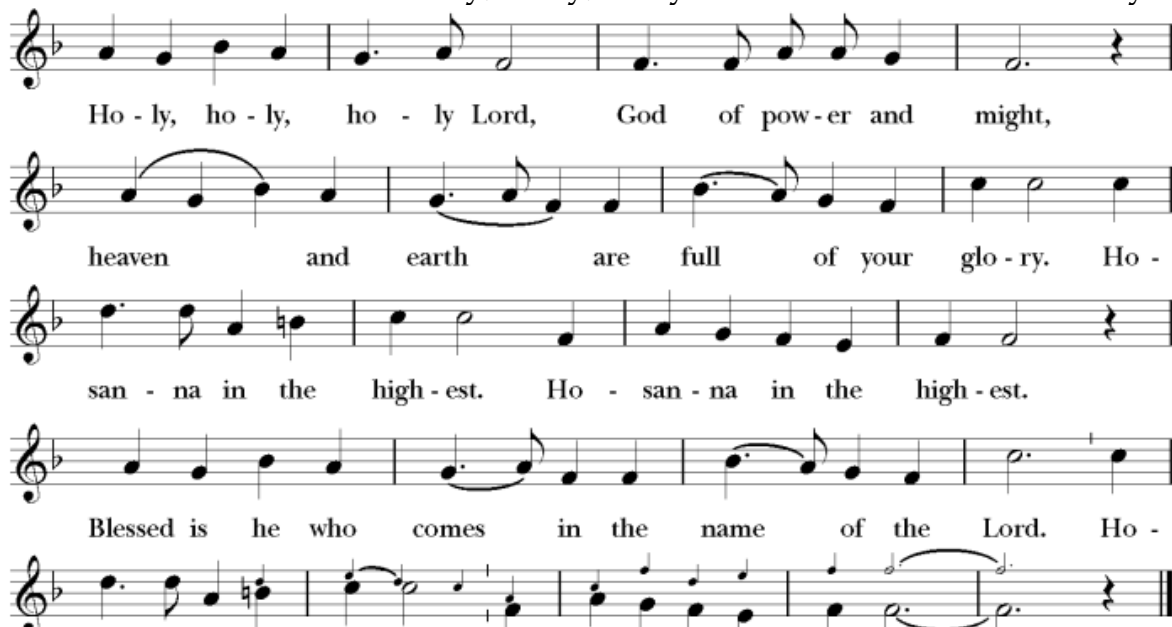
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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.

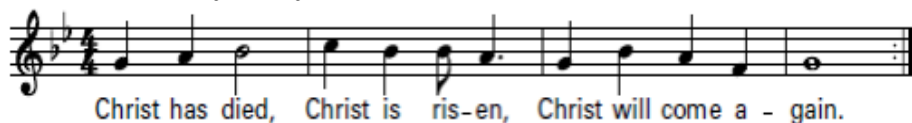
On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

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

"Be Unto Your Name"

We are a moment. You are forever
Lord of the ages God before time
We are a vapor. You are eternal
Love everlasting reigning on high *Chorus*

Chorus:

Holy, holy Lord God Almighty
Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain
Highest praises honor and glory
Be unto your name. Be unto your name

We are the broken. You are the healer
Jesus Redeemer mighty to save
You are the love song we'll sing forever
Bowing before you, blessing your name *Chorus*

CCLI Song # 2177476

Gary Sadler | Lynn DeShazo

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"Glory to the Lamb"

1. Glo ry, glo - ry, glo - ry to the Lamb. Glo - ry, glo - ry,
2. Wor - thy, wor - thy, wor - thy is the Lamb. Wor - thy, wor - thy,
3. Ho ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lamb. Ho - ly, ho - ly,
glo - ry to the Lamb. For He is glo - ri - ous and wor - thy to be praised, the
wor - thy is the Lamb.
ho - ly is the Lamb.
Lamb up - on the throne; And un - to Him we lift our voice in praise, the
Lamb up - on the throne.

CCLI Song # 18558 Larry Dempsey

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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**

“Lift High the Cross”

Hymnal #473

Refrain:

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all
the world adore his sacred Name.

3. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, as thou
has promised, draw the world to thee. *(Refrain)*

1. Led on their way by this triumphant sign, the
hosts of God in conquering ranks combine.
(Refrain)

4. So shall our song of triumph ever be: praise to
the Crucified for victory. *(Refrain)*

2. Each newborn servant of the Crucified bears on
the brow the seal of him who died. *(Refrain)*

Words: George William Kitchin (1827 – 1912)
Music: *Crucifer*, Sydney Hugo Nicholson (1875 – 1947)

✠ **The Dismissal**

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

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

Organ Postlude

“All Glory Be To God on High”

Worship Assistants	September 20	September 27
Organist	David and JoAnne Kreider	David and JoAnne Kreider
Musicians	Choir	Choir
Ushers	<i>2 needed</i>	<i>2 needed</i>
Lector	John Holbert	Chris Nusbaum
Acolyte(s)	Kat Dittrich	Kaydence Harper, Beatrice Howe
Chalicians	John Holbert, Kim Tompkins <i>2 needed</i>	John Holbert, Kim Tompkins <i>2 needed</i>
Worship Slides	<i>1 needed</i>	<i>1 needed</i>
Audio Visual	Allison Lord	Allison Lord

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

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

Attendance September 13

8:00 am - 35 10:15 am In-person - 93 YouTube - 8 Facebook - 2 Total: 138

Readings for Next Sunday: The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 78 Philippians 2:1-13 Matthew 21:23-32