



The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 2026

10:15 a.m.



*Upon this rock I will build my church.
I will give you the keys
to the kingdom of Heaven.
Matthew Ch. 16*

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

Prelude

"On Bended Knee"

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

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

_____ Lift - ing ho - ly hands — to You — as I
_____ Lift - ing ho - ly hands — to You — as we

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

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



1 I come with joy to meet my Lord, for -
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to
 3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each
 4 And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, we'll

1 giv - en, loved, and free, in awe and won - der
 2 find, as all are fed, the new com - mu - ni -
 3 proud di - vi - sion ends. That love that made us
 4 pres - ence, al - ways near, is in such friend - ship
 5 go our dif - ferent ways, and as his peo - ple

1 to re - call his life laid down for me.
 2 ty of love in Christ's com - mun - ion bread.
 3 makes us one, and stran - gers now are friends.
 4 bet - ter known: we see and praise him here.
 5 in the world we'll live and speak his praise.

Opening Acclamation

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

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

The Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise

Hymnal #S278



1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
 peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al -
 might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we

praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,
on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;
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, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; 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 1:8-2:10

A Reading from the Book of Exodus

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing

tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live." But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?" The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live."

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

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

Psalms 124

- 1 If the LORD had not been on our side, * let Israel now say;
- 2 If the LORD had not been on our side, *when enemies rose up against us;
- 3 Then would they have swallowed us up alive *in their fierce anger toward us;
- 4 Then would the waters have overwhelmed us *and the torrent gone over us;
- 5 Then would the raging waters * have gone right over us.
- 6 Blessed be the LORD! *he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.
- 7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; *
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.
- 8 Our help is in the Name of the LORD, *the maker of heaven and earth.

The Epistle: Romans 12:1-8

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-- what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

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

✠ Sequence Song

"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 Holy Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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

Sermon

The Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson

✠ The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People (*Adapted from Form I, Book of Common Prayer*)

Celebrant: With all our heart and all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

Intercessor: For the holy Church of God throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Carrie, our Bishop, and all bishops, priests, and deacons, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this parish family, that God may grant us wisdom, courage, generosity, and faithfulness, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For Donald, President of the United States, and for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For an end to the wars that ravage so many nations, especially the Middle East, Sudan, and Ukraine; for the protection of the innocent, the care of refugees, and the courage of peacemakers, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who serve in the armed forces and for their families, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and suffering, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For Marion, Jeanne, Lianne, Bill, Gail, Bobbie, Jerry, Sean, Heather, Jackie, Janet, John, Karen, Scott, Barry, Pat, Chris, Ryan, Betsy, Rick, Sharon, Debbie, Jordan, Mary, Tracie, Reed, Diane, and those we now name silently or aloud, (*Silence*) Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, for all the departed, and those we remember before God, *(Silence)* Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week, especially Sue, Donna, Rob, Chloe, Zoe, Raymond and Jenny, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

The people may add their own petitions or thanksgivings, silently or aloud.

Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Celebrant: Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; 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

“The Solid Rock”

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✠ Presentation Hymn

“The Doxology”

Hymn 380 v.3

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:

Christ has died, Christ is ris-en, Christ will come a - gain.

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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



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

"As the Deer"

1. As the deer panteth for the water so my soul longeth after thee. You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship thee. *Refrain*

2. You're my friend and you are my brother even though you are a king. I love you more than any other so much more than anything. *Refrain*

3. I want you more than gold or silver. Only you can satisfy. You alone are the real joy giver and the apple of my eye. *Refrain*

Refrain:

You alone are my strength my shield
To you alone may my spirit yield
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship thee.

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"My Peace I Leave You"

J. Berthier



✠ 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

"The Church's One Foundation"

Hymnal #525

1. The Church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is his new creation by water and the word:
from heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.

4. 'Mid toil and tribulation and tumult of her war
She waits the consummation of peace forevermore
Till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blessed
And the great Church victorious
Shall be the Church at rest

2. Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation,
one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy Name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with every grace endued.

3. Though with a scornful wonder
Men see her sore oppressed
By schisms rent asunder by heresies distressed
Yet saints their watch are keeping
Their cry goes up how long
And soon the night of weeping
Shall be the morn of song

5. Yet she on earth hath union
with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with thee.

Words: Samuel John Stone, (1839 – 1900)
Music : Aurelia, Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1810-1876

The Dismissal:

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. *People:* **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

Worship Assistants	August 23	August 30
Organist	Mary Butler	Mary Butler
Musicians	Choir	Choir
Ushers	2 needed	2 needed
Lector	Buck Lyon-Vaiden	John Holbert
Acolyte(s)	Ellen Anderson	Sandy White
Chalicians	John Holbert, Sandy White, Kim Tompkins, Helen Lang	John Holbert, Kim Tompkins, Helen Lang, Kat Dittrich
Worship Slides	Jeanne Cox	Karen Lance
Audio Visual	Nick Hoff	Nick Hoff

August Altar Guild: Kim Tompkins, Charlie Aler, Beverly Baker, Helen Lang

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Roger and Donna Bair, in thanksgiving for their family and their Church Family.

The Bread and Wine are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Roger's sister, Brenda.

Attendance August 16

8:00 am - 23 10:15 am In-person - 54 YouTube/Facebook - 0 (No AV assistant) **Total: 77**

Readings for Next Sunday: The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 3:1-15 Psalm 105 Romans 12:9-21 Matthew 16:21-28