



# The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

August 10, 2025      8:00 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**

✠ **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, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Hymn of Praise:**

**Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**The Collect**

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.** Let us pray.

Grant to us, Lord, we beseech thee, the spirit to think and do always such things as are right, that we, who cannot exist without thee, may by thee be enabled to live according to thy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee 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.**

#### ✠ **The Holy Gospel: Luke 12:32-40**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

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 be to thee, O Christ.**

#### **The Homily**

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** (Form III, Adapted for Rite I)

*Celebrant:* Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

*Reader:* Father, we beseech thee for thy holy Catholic Church;

**That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve thee;

**That thy Name may be glorified by all people.**

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

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

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

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

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

**That our works may find favor in thy 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, Trinka, Debbie, Joseph, Jackie, Terry, Dewey, Fran, Scott, Karen, Matt, Drew, Mary, Megan, Tony, Kevin, John

**Surround them with thy 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 thee for thy saints who have entered into joy;

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

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

*Celebrant:* Almighty God, who hast promised to hear the petitions of those who ask in thy Son's Name: Receive the prayers we have offered, and those held in our hearts.

Strengthen us to do thy will, and give us hearts to love thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**The Confession of Sin**

*Celebrant:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee 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 thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.**

*Celebrant:* Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **✠ The Peace**

The Peace of the Lord be always with you. **And with thy spirit.**

### **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.*



### **Offertory Sentence**

If thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother or sister hath aught against thee; leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother or sister, and then come and offer thy gift.

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

## **The Celebration of the Holy Communion**

### **✠ At the Presentation**

All things come of thee, O Lord, **and of thine own have we given thee.**

### **The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer II**

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God. **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts: Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.**

**Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son

Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath 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 the Bread**

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, **Have mercy upon us.**

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, **Have mercy upon us.**

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, **Grant us thy peace.**

**We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.**

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 persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion. When directed by an Usher, please come forward to receive Holy Communion kneeling or standing at the Communion Rail.*

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Let us pray. **Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thine everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**

### **✠The Sending of Lay Eucharistic Visitor**

*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.**

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



<b>Worship Assistants</b>	<b>August 10</b>	<b>August 17</b>
Usher	Don and Janice Hobart	David Kreider
Lector	Roberta Wilhelm	Dave Gosnell
Acolyte	Beverly Baker	Jennie Grabill

### **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 Shirley, in celebration of granddaughter, Barbara Shirley's birthday on August 10, and daughter, Elaine Shirley'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