



The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 1, 2024

10:15 a.m.



Every perfect gift is from above.

James Ch. 1

Welcome to Church of the Ascension

Church of the Ascension provides opportunities to
Connect with God and one another,
Grow in faith and understanding, and
Serve the Lord, one another, and the world around us.

We are an active community of faith committed to welcoming all
and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Christ-centered + Spirit-filled + Mission-minded

The Liturgy of the Word of God

✠ *Please stand as you are able.*

Welcome

Prelude

1. Who am I that the Lord of all the earth
Would care to know my name
Would care to feel my hurt
Who am I that the Bright and Morning Star
Would choose to light the way
For my ever-wandering heart

Pre-Chorus
Not because of who I am
But because of what You've done
Not because of what I've done
But because of who You are

"Who Am I?"

Chorus
I am a flower quickly fading
Here today and gone tomorrow
A wave tossed in the ocean
A vapor in the wind
Still You hear me when I'm calling
Lord You catch me when I'm falling
And You've told me who I am
I am Yours

2. Who am I that the eyes that see my sin
Would look on me with love
And watch me rise again
Who am I that the voice that calmed the sea
Would call out through the rain
And calm the storm in me

CCLI Song # 4196651 Mark Hall

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✠ Processional Song

1. Here in this time here in this place
Here we are standing face to face
Here in our hearts here in our lives
Our God is here
Here for the broken here for the strong
Here in this temple we belong
Here in our hearts here in our lives
Our God is here

Chorus:
And we cry holy holy holy are You
We cry holy holy holy and true
Amen we do believe our God is here
Our God is here

"Our God Is Here"

2. Here in the Word God is revealed
Here where the wounded can be healed
Here in our hearts here in our lives
Our God is here
Here we become what we receive
Here in this Eucharistic feast
We are His body living as one
Our God is here

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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 All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace on earth from
 2 O Lamb of God, Lord Je - sus Christ, whom God the Fa - ther
 3 You on - ly are the Ho - ly One, who came for our sal -
 hea - ven, and God's good will un - fail - ing - ly be
 gave us, who for the world was sac - ri - ficed up -
 va - tion, and on - ly you are God's true Son, who
 to all peo - ple giv - en. We bless, we wor - ship you, we raise for
 on the cross to save us; and, as you sit at God's right hand and
 was be - fore cre - a - tion. You, on - ly, Christ, as Lord we own and,
 your great glo - ry thanks and praise, O God, Al-might - y Fa - ther.
 we for judg - ment there must stand, have mer - cy, Lord, up - on us.
 with the Spi - rit, you a - lone share in the Fa - ther's glo - ry.

Words: Nikolaus Decius (1490?-1541); tr. F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984), rev.;
 para. of *Gloria in excelsis*

Music: *Allein Gott in der Höh*, melody att. Nikolaus Decius (1490?-1541);

87. 87. 887

The Collect

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

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Collect for Labor Day

Almighty God, you have so linked our lives one with another that all we do affects, for good or ill, all other lives: So guide us in the work we do, that we may do it not for self alone, but for the common good; and, as we seek a proper return for our own labor, make us mindful of the rightful aspirations of other workers, and arouse our concern for those who are out of work; 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: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy.

Moses said: So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

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

Psalm 15

- 1 LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? *
 who may abide upon your holy hill?
- 2 Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, *
 who speaks the truth from his heart.
- 3 There is no guile upon his tongue;
 he does no evil to his friend; *
 he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.
- 4 In his sight the wicked is rejected, *
 but he honors those who fear the LORD.
- 5 He has sworn to do no wrong *
 and does not take back his word.
- 6 He does not give his money in hope of gain, *
 nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.
- 7 Whoever does these things *
 shall never be overthrown.

The Second Lesson: James 1:17-27

A reading from the Letter of James

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like.

But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act-they will be blessed in their doing.

If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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

Children's Chapel

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

✠ **Sequence Hymn**

"Take Up Your Cross, The Savior Said"

Hymnal #675

1. Take up your cross, the Savior said,
if you would my disciple be;
take up your cross with willing heart,
and humbly follow after me.

4. Take up your cross, then, in his strength,
and calmly every danger brave:
it guides you to abundant life
and leads to victory o'er the grave.

2. Take up your cross, let not its weight
fill your weak spirit with alarm;
his strength shall bear your spirit up,
and brace your heart, and nerve your arm.

5. Take up your cross, and follow Christ,
nor think till death to lay it down;
for only those who bear the cross
may hope to wear the glorious crown.

3. Take up your cross, heed not the shame,
and let your foolish heart be still;
the Lord for you accepted death
upon a cross, on Calvary's hill.

Words: Charles Willaim Everest
Music: *Bourbon*, Freeman Lewis

The Gospel: Mark 7:1-8,14-15, 21-23

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

When the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile." For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil

intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

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

The Sermon

✠ 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.

Prayers of the People: *Form II, adapted*

With all our heart and with all our mind let us pray to the Lord.

For God's people throughout the world; for Michael our Presiding Bishop, Sean and Carrie our Bishops; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer.**

For peace in our country and in the world; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer.**

For the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, those in prison, and for those in any need or trouble, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer.**

For all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of God, that they may find and be found by God, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer.**

For the departed, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer.**

For those who suffer, for Joy, Sherry, Jenny, Pierre-Henry+, Linda, Katelyn, Ernest, Mary, Joanne, Rick, Kathy, Allan+, those in our prayer list, and those we name now silently or aloud. (*silence*) Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer.**

We give thanks and pray for the birthdays of Sylvie, Bud, and the anniversary of Steve and Deb. Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer.**

You may add your own thanksgivings and petitions, silently or aloud. (*silence*) Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer.**

The Celebrant: Gracious God: Grant that your people may have in them the same mind that was in Christ Jesus, and guide us into harmony of relationship through loving-kindness and the wise use of all that you have given; for you are drawing all things into communion with thee and with each other by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Celebrant: 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.

Celebrant: 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

The Celebration of the Holy Communion

*Thank you for your financial support!
To make an online offering, please scan this QR code:*



Offertory

“I’ve Decided To Make Jesus My Choice”

1. Some folk would rather have houses and land.
Some folk choose silver and gold.
These things they treasure and forget about their
souls; I’ve decided to make Jesus my choice.

2. These clothes may be ragged that I’m wearing.
Heavy is the load that I’m bearing.
These old burdens that I’m carrying
I’ve decided to make Jesus my choice.

Refrain:

Words and Music: Harris Johnson

The road is rough; the going gets tough,
and the hills are hard to climb.
I’ve started out a long time ago,
there’s no doubt in my mind;
I’ve decided to make Jesus my choice.

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)*

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: 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 fulness 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

Setting: Mass of Ascension
Donna Parker

Ho-ly Ho - ly, Ho-ly Lord. God of pow - er God of might
8
Hea-ven and earth are full of Your glo - ry Ho - sa na in the high -
16
est. Blest is He, who comes in the name of the Lord Ho - sa - na
26
in the high - est Ho - sa 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."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Memorial Acclamation

Setting: Mass of Ascension
Donna Parker

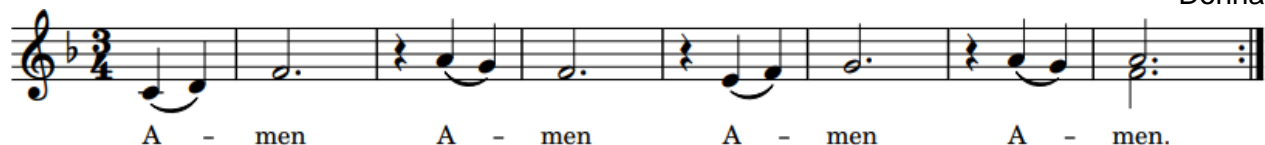


Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. 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.

Amen

Setting: Mass of Ascension
Donna Parker



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

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:

Congregation: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Fraction Anthem

“Lamb of God”

Setting: Mass of Ascension
Donna Parker

Je - sus Lamb of God have mer - cy on us. Je - sus Lamb of God have
mer - cy on us Je - sus Lamb of God Gra - nt 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 in front of the altar. Gluten-free communion wafers are available. To receive the wine, you can either drink from the common cup or dip your host held by the second Eucharist minister on both sides of the priest. If you would prefer a blessing, please indicate by crossing your arms over your chest.

Communion Music

“Hallelujah Here Below”

1. We are an altar of broken stones
But You delight in the offering
You have the heavens to call Your home
But You abide in the song we sing

2. Ten thousand angels surround Your throne
To bring You praise that will never cease
But hallelujah from here below
Is still Your favorite melody

3. And should the fire that once burned bright
Become an ember my eyes can't see
I will remember Your sacrifice
I will abide in Your love for me

Jesus Christ our King enthroned
All the praise is Yours
Forevermore
Hallelujah Here below
All the praise is Yours Forevermore

Chorus:

We sing Hallelujah
Hallelujah Hallelujah

4. Oh what a wonderful day to come
When every knee bows before Your Name
But we will not wait until it does
For here and now shall Your Kingdom reign

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“Sanctuary”

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary
Pure and holy, tried and true
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
Sanctuary for You

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✠ Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray. **Faithful God in the wonder of your wisdom and love you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels, and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life. We thank you for feeding us with this bread. May it strengthen us that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may embody your desire and be renewed for your service through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

The Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you. The Lord lift his countenance upon you and give you peace. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Recessional Song

“All the People Said Amen”

1. You are not alone if you are lonely
When you feel afraid you're not the only
We are all the same in need of mercy
To be forgiven and be free
It's all you got to lean on
But thank God it's all you need

2. If you're rich or poor well it don't matter
Weak or strong you know love is what we're after
We're all broken but we're all in this together
God knows we stumble and fall
And He so loved the world
He sent His son to save us all

Chorus:

And all the people said amen whoa
And all the people said amen
Give thanks to the Lord for His love never ends
And all the people said amen

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The Dismissal

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

Postlude

Worship Assistants	September 1	September 8
Organist	Donna Parker	Donna Parker
Musicians	Praise Ensemble	Praise Ensemble
Ushers	<i>2 needed</i>	Beatrice and Emelia Howe
Acolyte	<i>1 needed</i>	<i>1 needed</i>
Lector	Betsy Reinders	Olivia Carpenter
Chalicians	Betsy Reinders, Susan Considine, Helen Lang, Mark Howe	Helen Lang, Mark Howe, Sandy White, <i>1 needed</i>
Worship Slides	<i>1 needed</i>	Lynn Lyon-Vaiden
Audio Visual	Reagan Dunn	Reagan Dunn

September Altar Guild: Team 1:

Karen Lance, Donna Hansen, Jenny Lui, Kathy Sullivan, Sandy White

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Ted and Joanne Neil, in thanksgiving for 65 years of marriage, as well as the many other blessing received in their lives.

Attendance: August 25:

8:00 am - 24 10:15 am In-person - 70 YouTube - 1 Facebook - 6 **Total: 101**

Readings for Next Sunday: The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost - B

James 2:1-17 Mark 7:24-37