

Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church

www.old-swedes.org

215-389-1513

August 10, 2025

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 14

Ministry Assistants Today

Lector: *Susan Steele*

Intercessor: *Corin Micklewright*

Usher: *Bob Jenkins*

Altar Guild: *Cathy Ufheil*

Celebrant: *Rev. Chris Micklewright*

Guest Musician: *Mary Eileen Johnston*

Ministry Assistants August 17

Lector: *Christine Pickup*

Intercessor: *Carol Jenkins*

Usher: *Bob Jenkins*

Altar Guild: *Christine Pickup*

Officiant: *Rev. Chris Micklewright*

Welcome to Ordinary Time at Gloria Dei

The green cloth on the Altar today is a reminder that we have entered the season of "Ordinary Time." As you may remember, this term comes from the Latin word for counting - because we count the Sundays from Pentecost until Advent. The green is also a reminder of our call to growth during this long season. While growth is most noticeable during the dramatic moments of life, God cares about every aspect of our daily lives. In that sense, there are no ordinary moments; instead, we are called to continually grow in the knowledge and love of God – and of our neighbors. So, please join us in counting the days, and in growing as disciples of Jesus.

Prelude

Opening Hymn # 637

How Firm a Foundation

Hymnal 1982

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

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

Celebrant 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.**

**All Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

All 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 congregation is invited to sit for the readings.)

First Reading

Genesis 15:1-6

Susan Steele

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.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

All Thanks be to God.

Psalm 33:12-22

Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD! *
happy the people he has chosen to be his own!
The LORD looks down from heaven, *
and beholds all the people in the world.
From where he sits enthroned he turns his gaze *
on all who dwell on the earth.
He fashions all the hearts of them *
and understands all their works.
There is no king that can be saved by a mighty army; *
a strong man is not delivered by his great strength.

(continued...)

The horse is a vain hope for deliverance; *
 for all its strength it cannot save.
 Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon those who fear him, *
 on those who wait upon his love,
 To pluck their lives from death, *
 and to feed them in time of famine.
 Our soul waits for the LORD; *
 he is our help and our shield.
 Indeed, our heart rejoices in him, *
 for in his holy Name we put our trust.
 Let your loving-kindness, O LORD, be upon us, *
 as we have put our trust in you.

Second Reading Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

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.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

All Thanks be to God.

Hymn # 510

Come Holy Spirit

Hymnal 1982

Gospel Reading

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Luke (12:32-40)**

All 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 servants 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 servants. "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."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon **Rev. Chris Micklewright**

The sermon is an opportunity to reflect on the Scriptures we have read in the light of the Christian tradition, the life of this community, and the needs of the world around us. You don't have to agree with the preacher, and further conversation is always welcome!

After the sermon, there will be a few moments for quiet reflection. Then the congregation will stand to reaffirm our faith using the Nicene Creed. Some elements may be strange or confusing – and you are invited to engage in conversation and reflection around the Creed. In the life of faith, we sometimes confess more than we fully understand, and God's grace is faithful to meet us wherever we are on the journey.

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 *(the intercessor and the people pray responsively)*

Corin Micklewright

Celebrant In awe of the God who is Love, and who invites us to ask for what we need, let us prepare ourselves for prayer with a few moments of silence. *(Silence)*

Intercessor For all people in their daily life and work;
People **For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

Intercessor For this community, the nation, and the world, remembering especially the victims of warfare in Ukraine, Palestine, Israel, and Iran;
People **For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

Intercessor For the just and proper use of your creation;
People **For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

Intercessor For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble, remembering especially immigrants and refugees;
People **For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

Intercessor For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
People **For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

Intercessor For Sean and Daniel, our Bishops; for Chris, our priest, for Rachel, our postulant, for our Vestry, and for all ministers of the Gospel;
People **For all who serve God in the Church and in the world beyond our doors.**

Intercessor For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, especially: **Anthony, Rebecca, Beth, Christine, Judith, Charles, Seamus, Thomassina, Gregory, Julie, Denise, Jason, the Juline Family, Barb, Laurie, Jerry, Peggy, JoAnn, Joanna, Mark, Margie, Bonnie, Keith, Connie, and Jack.** *(Long pause for people add their own petitions)*

Intercessor Hear us, Lord;
People For your mercy is great.

Intercessor We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. *(Long pause for thanksgivings)*

Intercessor We will exalt you, O God our King;
People And praise your Name for ever and ever.

Intercessor We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.
(Long pause for people to add their own petitions)

Intercessor Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
People Who put their trust in you.

Celebrant Hasten, O Father, the coming of thy kingdom; and grant that we thy servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold thy Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Celebrant Let us now confess our sins to God, kneeling as you are able. *(Silence may be kept.)*
All God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

A note about Confession: In dealing with sin and confession, we are acknowledging that there are things in our world and things in our own lives that are in some way broken. We believe that God desires our lives to be marked by justice, freedom, peace, and love (most of all!). By recognizing when we fall short of that standard, we open ourselves to God's unfailing grace and help, rather than dwelling in shame or despair.

The Peace & Offertory

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you. *(Please share the peace by greeting your siblings in Christ.)*

Pre-Offertory Hymn # 68

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers!

Hymnal 1982

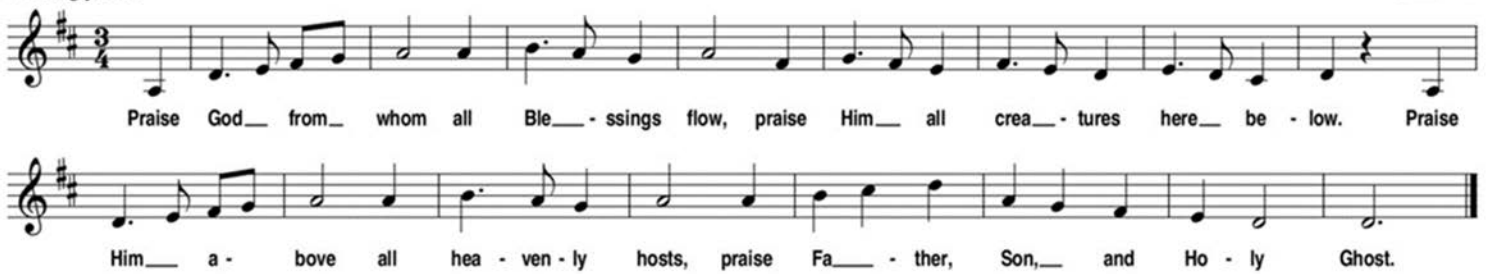
Offertory Sentence

Our souls wait for the LORD; God is our help and our shield. Indeed, our hearts rejoice in God,
for in God's holy Name we put our trust. *- Psalm 33:20-21*

Collecting an offering is a way for us to remember that all we have is a gift from God, and that we are to be responsible stewards of the gifts entrusted to us. Guests should feel no obligation to give. Electronic giving is possible using the QR code on the back of the bulletin. After the collection, the offering is brought forward as we stand to sing the doxology.

Flowingly, in 1

Unknown



The Holy Communion –Eucharistic Prayer C

- Celebrant God 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. *(Then, facing the Altar, the Celebrant proceeds)*
 Celebrant God of all power, Source and Sustainer of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.
People Glory to you for ever and ever.
 Celebrant At your command all things came to be: shining light and enfolding dark; the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, and this fragile earth, our island home.
People By your will they were created and have their being.
 Celebrant From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with the capacity for memory, reason, and skill. You made us the stewards of your creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.
People Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.
 Celebrant Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your eternal Word, born of your servant Mary, to fulfill your Law, opening for us the way of freedom and peace.
People By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.
 Celebrant And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Flowingly

Paul Fejko



- Celebrant On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, 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."
 After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Celebrant Remembering now his work of redemption and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,
People We celebrate Christ's death and resurrection as we await the day of his coming.
 Celebrant Therefore, O God, we who have been redeemed by Jesus Christ, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Savior. Sanctify us also, and let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

People Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.
 Celebrant God of our ancestors; Redeemer and Mother of Israel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only and not for strength; for pardon only and not for renewal. Accept these prayers and praises, Almighty God, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.

People (In a loud voice!) AMEN!
 Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
All Our Father, who art in heaven, As we forgive those who trespass against us.
hallowed be thy name; And lead us not into temptation;
Thy kingdom come; thy will be done; but deliver us from evil.
On earth as it is in heaven. For thine is the kingdom, and the power
Give us this day our daily bread. and the glory,
And forgive us our trespasses, For ever and ever. Amen.

Fraction & Invitation

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
All Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Celebrant This is the table not of the church but of our Lord Jesus. It is made ready for those who love him and those who want to love him more. So come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, because it is Jesus who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

*All those interested in receiving communion should make their way forward to the rail, while the elements are prepared for distribution to the congregation. Episcopal theology recognizes baptism as the formal entry into the Christian community, and baptism is normally a prerequisite to receiving communion. However, we also recognize that God meets us wherever we are on our journey of faith. Moreover, Jesus regularly welcomed and ate with people from outside of his normal community. **Therefore, all are welcome at this table - including children!***

Kneel or stand at the rail, as you are comfortable. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are available – just hold up one finger to receive either of these alternative elements. The priest will distribute wafers, which you receive in your outstretched hands. If you wish to receive the cup, you may drink or dip your wafer; it is also okay to receive the wafer only – we believe that Jesus is fully present in each of the elements of communion. If you prefer not to receive, you are still warmly invited to come forward and cross your arms to receive a blessing.

Instrumental Hymn # 4

Better Be Ready

Lift Every Voice & Sing II

Refrain:

Better be ready; Better be ready;
 Better be ready; Ready to try on your long white robe!

Verse 1 Oh! Rise up children, get your crown,
 And by your Savior's side sit down.

Verse 2 What a glorious morning that will be,
 Our friends and Jesus we shall see. [Refrain]

Verse 3 O shout you Christians, you're gaining ground,
 We'll shout old Satan's kingdom down! [Refrain]

Verse 4 I soon shall reach that golden shore,
 And sing the songs we sang before. [Refrain]

Post Communion Prayer & Blessing

Celebrant Let us stand and pray together the post communion prayer.
All Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Blessing Rev. Chris Micklewright

Announcements *Please pick up a handout of upcoming events in the back of the church, some of which will be highlighted here.*

Closing Hymn # 709 *O God of Bethel* Hymnal 1982

Dismissal

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

Postlude

*All are invited to listen to the postlude,
and then to join us for a time of fellowship in Riverside Hall.*

Gloria Dei Clergy and Staff

Rev. Dr. Chris Micklewright, Rector
440-865-1490, rector@old-swedes.org

Christine McBride, Parish Administrator
215-389-1513, info@old-swedes.org

Jim and Paula Minacci, Sextons

Gloria Dei Vestry

Gabrielle Barbour, Ann Brilliant, Angel Guido, Re Henning, Carol Jenkins (Rector's Warden), Christine Pickup, Candace Roberts (Accounting Warden), Cathy Ufheil (Secretary), Jeanette Woehr

Online Giving Available:

It is possible to give to Gloria Dei on our website,
www.old-swedes.org/give, or using the QR code:

