

**Gloria Dei (Old Swedes’) Church**

[www.old-swedes.org](http://www.old-swedes.org) 215-389-1513

*August 31, 2025*

*Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 17*

**Ministry Assistants Today**Lector: *Daria Kulp*

Intercessor: *Jeanette Woehr*

Usher: *Mark Roberts*

Altar Guild: *Jeanette Woehr*

Officiant: *Rev. Chris Micklewright*

Guest Musician: *Paul Fleckenstein*

**Ministry Assistants September 7**

Lector: *Cathy Ufheil*

Intercessor: *Candace Roberts*

Usher: *Jim Ufheil*

Altar Guild: *Rachel Armstrong*

Officiant: *Rev. Chris Micklewright*Guest Musician: *Adam Haines*

***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** Kleines Oboekonzert - Justin Heinrich Knecht

**Opening Hymn** **# 423** *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* 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 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.** *(The congregation is invited to sit for the readings.)*

**First Reading Sirach 10:12-18 *Daria Kulp***

The beginning of human pride is to forsake the Lord; the heart has withdrawn from its Maker. For the beginning of pride is sin, and the one who clings to it pours out abominations. Therefore the Lord brings upon them unheard-of calamities, and destroys them completely. The Lord overthrows the thrones of rulers, and enthrones the lowly in their place. The Lord plucks up the roots of the nations, and plants the humble in their place. The Lord lays waste the lands of the nations, and destroys them to the foundations of the earth. He removes some of them and destroys them, and erases the memory of them from the earth. Pride was not created for human beings, or violent anger for those born of women.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
**All**  **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 112**

1 Hallelujah!
Happy are they who fear the Lord \*
 and have great delight in his commandments!

2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land; \*
 the generation of the upright will be blessed.

3 Wealth and riches will be in their house, \*
 and their righteousness will last for ever.

4 Light shines in the darkness for the upright; \*
 the righteous are merciful and full of compassion. ***(continued…)***

5 It is good for them to be generous in lending \*
 and to manage their affairs with justice.

6 For they will never be shaken; \*
 the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

7 They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; \*
 their heart is right; they put their trust in the Lord.

8 Their heart is established and will not shrink, \*
 until they see their desire upon their enemies.

9 They have given freely to the poor, \*
 and their righteousness stands fast for ever; they will hold up their head with honor.

10 The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away; \*
 the desires of the wicked will perish.

**Second Reading Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16**Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." So we can say with confidence,

 "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?"

 Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

 Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

 Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
**All Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn # 438** *Tell Out My Soul* Hymnal 1982

**Gospel Reading**

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Luke (14:1,7-14)**

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

 On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely. When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, `Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, `Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."
He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

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)*  **J*eanette Woehr***

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, and Israel;

**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. (continued…)**

Intercessor For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, especially: **Emily, Dina, 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 O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. ***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 # 477** *All Praise to Thee* Hymnal 1982

**Offertory Sentence**

Light shines in the darkness for the upright; the righteous are merciful and full of compassion. They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast for ever; they will hold up their head with honor. *- Psalm 112:4,9*

*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.*



**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 beauty, creativity and love. 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:

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CelebrantOn 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,
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.**

**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 # 324** *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*Hymnal 1982



**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 # 610** *Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service*Hymnal 1982

**Dismissal**

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**People Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude** Grand Choeur - Théodore Salomé

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

*\*WE WILL BE COLLECTING SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR SACC PHILLY IN THE COMING WEEKS\*
 Please place any supplies in the back of the church. The biggest priorities are:*

*backpacks • bound composition notebooks • plastic folders • pens & pencils • glue sticks • colored pencils*

*Also needed: markers, spiral notebooks pencil sharpeners.*

***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](http://www.old-swedes.org/give), or using the QR code: