

Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church

www.old-swedes.org

215-389-1513

September 21, 2025

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 20

Ministry Assistants Today

Lector: *Eric Michael Sanchez*

Intercessor: *Carol Jenkins*

Usher: *Bob Jenkins*

Altar Guild: *Christine Pickup*

Officiant: *Rev. Chris Micklewright*

Interim Musician: *Adam Haines*

Ministry Assistants September 28

Lector: *Cathy Ufheil*

Usher: *Bob Jenkins*

Altar Guild: *Daria Kulp*

Officiant: *Rev. Chris Micklewright*

Interim 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.

Opening Hymn # 390

Praise to the Lord

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 us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; 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

Amos 8:4-7

Eric Michael Sanchez

Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain; and the sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah small and the shekel great, and practice deceit with false balances, buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, and selling the sweepings of the wheat." The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

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

All Thanks be to God.

Psalm 113

Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the LORD; *
praise the Name of the LORD.

Let the Name of the LORD be blessed, *
from this time forth for evermore.

From the rising of the sun to its going down *
let the Name of the LORD be praised.

The LORD is high above all nations, *
and his glory above the heavens.

Who is like the LORD our God, who sits enthroned on high *
but stoops to behold the heavens and the earth?

He takes up the weak out of the dust *
and lifts up the poor from the ashes.

(continued...)

He sets them with the princes, *
with the princes of his people.
He makes the woman of a childless house *
to be a joyful mother of children.

Second Reading 1 Timothy 2:1-7

First of all, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all -- this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

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

Hymn # 408

Sing Praise to God

Hymnal 1982

Gospel Reading

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Luke (16:1-13)**
All Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

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)*

Carol Jenkins

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 – and the dangerous divisions in our own country.
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: **Jeanette, Jack, Christine, Thomas, Dakota, Emily, Dina, Anthony, Rebecca, Beth, Christine, 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 Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask, help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 # 488

Be Thou My Vision

Hymnal 1982

Please sing this verse between the 2nd & 3rd verses:

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
 Thou mine inheritance, now and always.
 Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
 High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

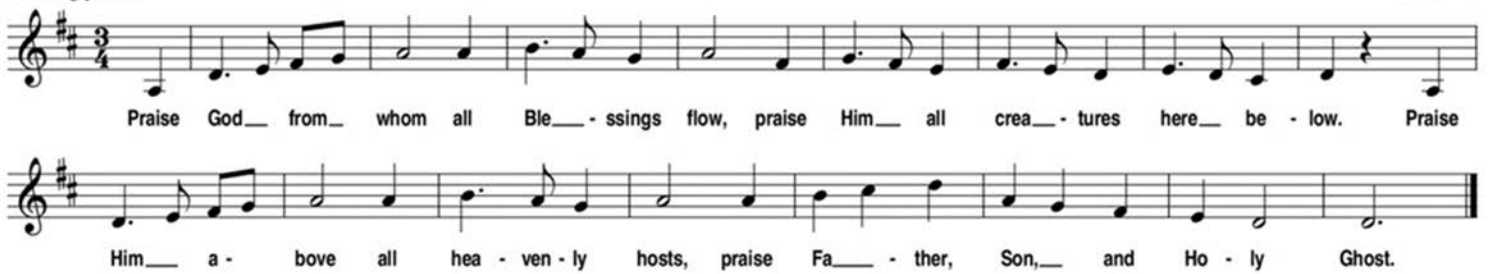
Offertory Sentence

From the rising of the sun to its going down let the Name of the Lord be praised. He takes up the weak out of the dust and lifts up the poor from the ashes. - *Psalm 113:3,6*

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 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:

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."

(Continued...)

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 # 669 *Commit Thou All That Grieves Thee* 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 # 550 *Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult* Hymnal 1982

Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude *Hornpipe* Robin Dinda

***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
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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:

