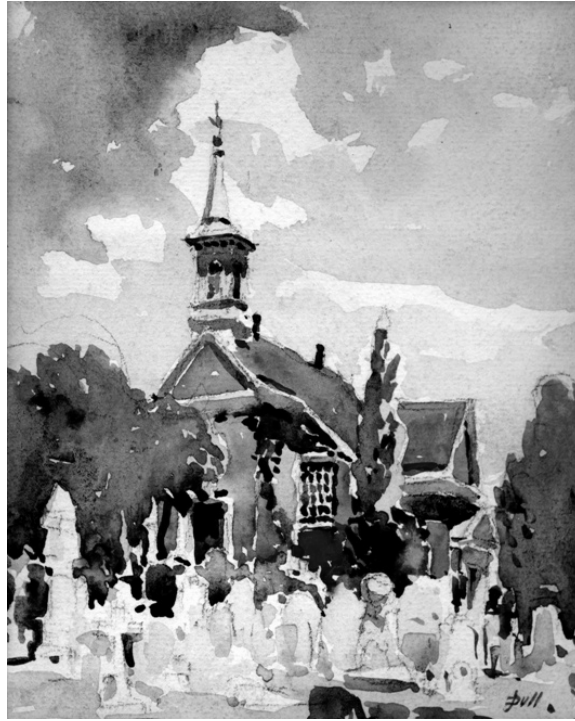




## Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church

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

215-389-1513

*August 23, 2026*

*Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

### **Ministry Assistants Today**

Lector: *Cathy Ufheil*

Intercessor: *Gabrielle Barbour*

Usher: *Jim Ufheil*

Altar Guild: *Christine Pickup*

Celebrant: *Rev. Chris Micklewright*

### **Ministry Assistants August 30**

Lector: *Kathy Smith*

Intercessor: *Brian Smith*

Usher: *Bob Jenkins*

Altar Guild: *Rachel Armstrong*

Celebrant: *Rev. Chris Micklewright*

### ***Welcome to Ordinary Time at Gloria Dei***

As we head into the fall, we are spending time with Exodus, the second book of the Bible. While Genesis – which we focused on for most of the summer – deals with Abraham and other ancestors of the Judeo-Christian tradition, Exodus depicts the formation of the Israelites as a nation. Indeed, biblical scholar Wil Gafney refers to Exodus as a book of becoming, as we see the people learning who God is, who they are, and what it means to follow God. We are still asking the same questions today, especially during the long season of Ordinary Time. These questions are central to the life of faith, and Jesus calls us to seek ever more generous, hopeful, and life-giving answers. We hope you'll join us on that journey!

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

**People** **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to God, using the Third Song of Isaiah (*Isaiah 12:2-6*).

**All** **Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.  
For behold, darkness covers the land; deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.  
But over you the Lord will rise, and his glory will appear upon you.  
Nations will stream to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawning.  
Your gates will always be open; by day or night they will never be shut.  
They will call you, The City of the Lord, the Zion of the Holy One of Israel.  
Violence will no more be heard in your land, ruin or destruction within your borders.  
You will call your walls, Salvation, and all your portals, Praise.  
The sun will no more be your light by day;  
by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.  
The Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory.  
Honor and glory to God, and to God's eternal Word, and to God's Holy Spirit:  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

**People** **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

**All** **Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; 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

### Exodus 1:8-2:10

**Cathy Ufheil**

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live." But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?" The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live."

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

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

All Thanks be to God.

### Psalm 124

If the LORD had not been on our side, \*  
let Israel now say;  
If the LORD had not been on our side, \*  
when enemies rose up against us;  
Then would they have swallowed us up alive \*  
in their fierce anger toward us;  
Then would the waters have overwhelmed us \*  
and the torrent gone over us;  
Then would the raging waters \*  
have gone right over us.  
Blessed be the LORD! \*  
he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.  
We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; \*  
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.  
Our help is in the Name of the LORD, \*  
the maker of heaven and earth.

### Second Reading

#### Romans 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-- what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

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

All Thanks be to God.

## Gospel Reading

Rev. Chris Micklewright

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Matthew (16:13-20)**  
**All Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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

**Sermon** Rev. Chris Micklewright

*The sermon is an opportunity to consider the readings alongside the full witness of Scripture and tradition, asking how these readings impact our lives. You are not necessarily expected to agree with Rev. Chris, and more discussion is always welcome! Following the sermon, we stand together to confess our faith. The ancient Nicene Creed is a helpful guide, but we also know that healthy faith makes room for doubts and questions.*

## 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.**

## Ordinary Time 2026 – Prayers of the People

Gabrielle Barbour

Celebrant Beloved people of Gloria Dei: We have gathered to celebrate God's perfect love for us, and for all of creation. As we seek to reflect that love in both unity and diversity, let us pray for the needs of our community and the world around us. *(Silence)*

Intercessor For believers around the world and across time, each worshipping God in their own language and traditions;

**People That we might be known by our love for God and for one another. *(Silence)***

Intercessor For America, and all the nations of the world, especially those plagued by violence, corruption, or any other turmoil;

**People** **That God's justice and peace might flourish in every corner of the earth.** (Silence)

Intercessor For our leaders and those in authority: in the church... in our community... and across our country;

**People** **That they might grow in wisdom, humility, and integrity.** (Silence)

Intercessor For all God's creatures throughout this beautiful and fragile world that God has entrusted to us;

**People** **That we might be responsible and creative caretakers.** (Silence)

Intercessor For the needs of this community, and for all who face suffering or distress. Today we pray especially for:

**People** **Irene, Max, Alexander, Joanne, Isaiah, Deb, Wayne, Bob, Kim, Herb, Karen, Heather, Sara, John, Elia, Eulogio, Sheila, Amy, William, Betty, Dina, Beth, Thomassina, Julie, Denise, Jason, Peggy, Joanna, Mark, Margie, Bonnie, Keith, Connie, and Jack.** (Long silence; additional names may be spoken aloud)

Intercessor For those who have died, and for all who grieve;

**People** **That we might look with hope to the resurrection.** (Long silence for names to be added)

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. **Amen.**

*Our prayers conclude with a time of corporate confession. In speaking of sin and confession, it is never our goal to dwell in shame or guilt. Rather, we acknowledge that we live in a world beset by evil and injustice, all bearing some degree of responsibility for that reality. This acknowledgement is one of the first steps toward healing what is broken in our lives and in our world – and we trust that God's love is always working for healing, justice, and redemption.*

### Confession, Absolution, and Peace

Celebrant Let us confess our sins to God. (silence)

**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.**

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 # 523

*Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken*

Hymnal 1982

### Offertory Sentence

I appeal to you therefore, fellow children of God, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

-Romans 12:1-2

*Collecting an offering reminds us that all we have is a gift from God, and that we are to be responsible stewards of the gifts entrusted to us. Guests are welcome to support our work of worship, ministry, and preservation - but should feel no obligation to give. Electronic giving is possible using the QR code found on the back of the bulletin.*

Flowingly, in 1

Unknown

Praise God from whom all Blessings flow, praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above all heavenly hosts, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

### The Holy Communion –Eucharistic Prayer 3 (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** All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God, through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb of creation; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we sing with joy:

Flowingly

Paul Fejko

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of Po - wer and might, Heav'n and Earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - sa - nna in the high - est. Ble - ssed is he who comes, comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - sa - nna in the high - est, ho - sa - nna in the high - est.

**Celebrant** Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all; your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations; you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

**All** **Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life. Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

Celebrant Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

**All Blessed are you now and for ever. 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! We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

**All We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread. 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.

### Instrumental Hymn # 581

*Where Charity and Love Prevail*

Hymnal 1982

*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.*

### Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us stand and pray together the post communion prayer.

**All God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

### Blessing & Announcements

*Rev. Chris Micklewright*

### Closing Hymn # 525

*The Church's One Foundation*

Hymnal 1982

### Dismissal

Celebrant Alleluia, alleluia. Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

### Postlude

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

## ***About Us***

Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') is the oldest church in Pennsylvania, and one of the oldest continuously operating churches in the nation. While our congregation traces back to the arrival of Swedish colonists in 1638 (aboard the *Kalmar Nyckel* and the *Fogel Grip*, whose replicas hang from our ceiling), worship has been held on this site since 1677. Our church building was dedicated on June 2, 1700, and is the oldest surviving brick building in Pennsylvania. Stories about many of our early parishioners, and others buried in our graveyard, are available in our graveyard tour app (see the maps available just outside the main door).

Gloria Dei was founded as a Swedish Lutheran congregation, with many of the early ministers being sent by the Church of Sweden. However, after the American Revolution, the congregation called an Episcopal priest as an assisting minister. In 1845, the church was formally welcomed into the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania, and it remains an Episcopal parish to this day. However, we still honor our Swedish heritage, especially with our annual Lucia Fest, held every December for more than 85 years. The church was also recognized as a National Historic Site in 1942, and is an affiliated National Park Site under Independence National Historical Park. The open green space and the walls surrounding the church were established by the National Park Service in the 1970s.

Today, the congregation remains vibrant and active. While we are blessed with a rich history and many cherished traditions – and we work to preserve these blessings for future generations – we are not bound by tradition. Instead, we actively and creatively work to welcome the wide variety of different communities that use our space, ranging from concerts and movies in the graveyard, to dog walkers on the grounds, to weddings and performances in the church. To learn more about our current programs, please pick up an upcoming events flyer, located on the table in the back of the church, or view the *events* section on our website. We'd love to have you be a part of this community!

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## ***Gloria Dei Clergy and Staff***

Rev. Dr. Chris Micklewright, Rector  
440-865-1490, [rector@old-swedes.org](mailto:rector@old-swedes.org)

Christine McBride, Parish Administrator  
215-389-1513, [info@old-swedes.org](mailto:info@old-swedes.org)

Adam Haines, Organist  
[MobileMusicPhilly.com](http://MobileMusicPhilly.com)

Jim and Paula Minacci, Sextons  
[@SextonSideshow](https://www.instagram.com/SextonSideshow)

## ***Gloria Dei Vestry***

*Gabrielle Barbour, Wayne Dietrich, Angel Guido, Carol Jenkins (Rector's Warden), Matt Mahler, Christine Pickup, Candace Roberts (Accounting Warden), Seamus Stimpson, 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:

