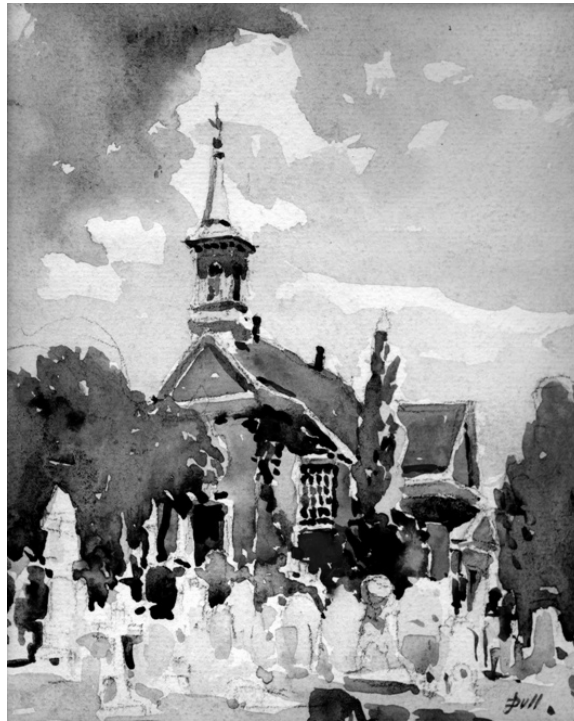




Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church

www.old-swedes.org

215-389-1513

August 30, 2026

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Ministry Assistants Today

Lector: *Kathy Smith*

Intercessor: *Brian Smith*

Usher: *Bob Jenkins*

Altar Guild: *Rachel Armstrong*

Celebrant: *Rev. Chris Micklewright*

Ministry Assistants September 6

Lector: *Megan Bartlett*

Intercessor: *Christine Pickup*

Usher: *Mark Roberts*

Altar Guild: *Cathy Ufheil*

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 **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

Exodus 3:1-15

Kathy Smith

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain." But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?"

(Continued...)

God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.

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

Psalms 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c

Give thanks to the LORD and call upon his Name; *
make known his deeds among the peoples.
Sing to him, sing praises to him, *
and speak of all his marvelous works.
Glory in his holy Name; *
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
Search for the LORD and his strength; *
continually seek his face.
Remember the marvels he has done, *
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,
O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
O children of Jacob his chosen.
Israel came into Egypt, *
and Jacob became a sojourner in the land of Ham.
The LORD made his people exceedingly fruitful; *
he made them stronger than their enemies;
Whose heart he turned, so that they hated his people, *
and dealt unjustly with his servants.
He sent Moses his servant, *
and Aaron whom he had chosen. Hallelujah!

Second Reading Romans 12:9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

Hymn # 655

Oh Jesus I Have Promised

Hymnal 1982

Gospel Reading

Rev. Chris Micklewright

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Matthew (16:21-28)**
All **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

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. <i>(Silence)</i>	(continued...)
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.	<i>(Silence)</i>

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 **Penny, 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; today, we especially remember **Irene Smith and Albert Haas.**

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

Celebrant Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 # 439

What Wondrous Love is This?

Hymnal 1982

Offertory Sentence

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon God's Name; make known God's deeds among the peoples. Sing to God, sing praises to God, and speak of all God's marvelous works. -Psalm 105:1-2

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



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.

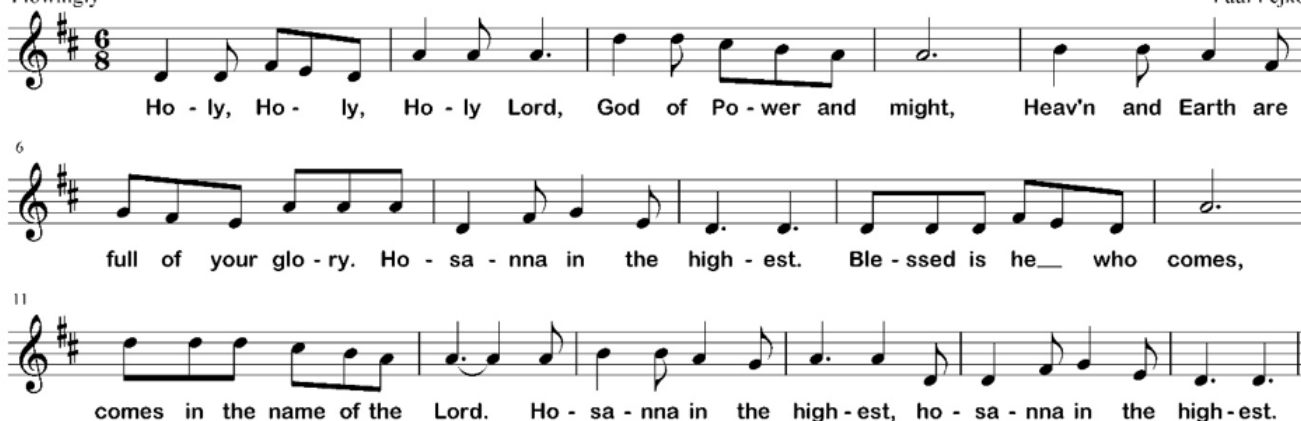
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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



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 # 607

O God of Every Nation

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 # 658

As Longs the Deer for Cooling Streams

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!

Gloria Dei Clergy and Staff

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Christine McBride, Parish Administrator
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Jim and Paula Minacci, Sextons
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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, or using the QR code:

