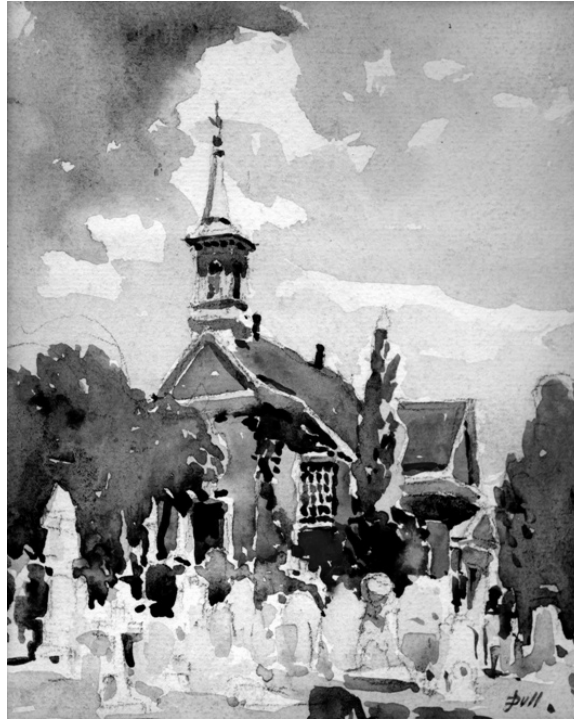




Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church

www.old-swedes.org

215-389-1513

*September 6, 2026 – Proper 18
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Ministry Assistants Today

Lector: *Megan Bartlett*

Intercessor: *Christine Pickup*

Usher: *Mark Roberts*

Altar Guild: *Jeanette Woehr*

Celebrant: *Rev. Chris Micklewright*

Ministry Assistants September 13

Lector: *Candace Roberts*

Intercessor: *Corin Micklewright*

Usher: *Mark Roberts*

Altar Guild: *Jeanette Woehr*

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 us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who
confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your
mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and for ever. Amen.**

(The congregation is invited to sit for the readings.)

First Reading

Exodus 12:1-14

Megan Bartlett

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

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

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 149

Hallelujah! Sing to the LORD a new song; *
sing his praise in the congregation of the faithful.
Let Israel rejoice in his Maker; *
let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.
Let them praise his Name in the dance; *
let them sing praise to him with timbrel and harp.
For the LORD takes pleasure in his people *
and adorns the poor with victory.
Let the faithful rejoice in triumph; *
let them be joyful on their beds.
Let the praises of God be in their throat *
and a two-edged sword in their hand;
To wreak vengeance on the nations *
and punishment on the peoples;
To bind their kings in chains *
and their nobles with links of iron;
To inflict on them the judgment decreed; *
this is glory for all his faithful people. Hallelujah!

Second Reading

Romans 13:8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

All Thanks be to God.

Hymn # 554

'Tis the Gift

Hymnal 1982

Gospel Reading

Rev. Chris Micklewright

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Matthew (18:15-20)**
All **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

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

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

Christine Pickup

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>
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. <i>(Silence)</i>
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. <i>(Silence)</i>
	<i>(continued...)</i>
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. <i>(Silence)</i>
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. <i>(Long silence; additional names may be spoken aloud)</i>

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 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.

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 # 440

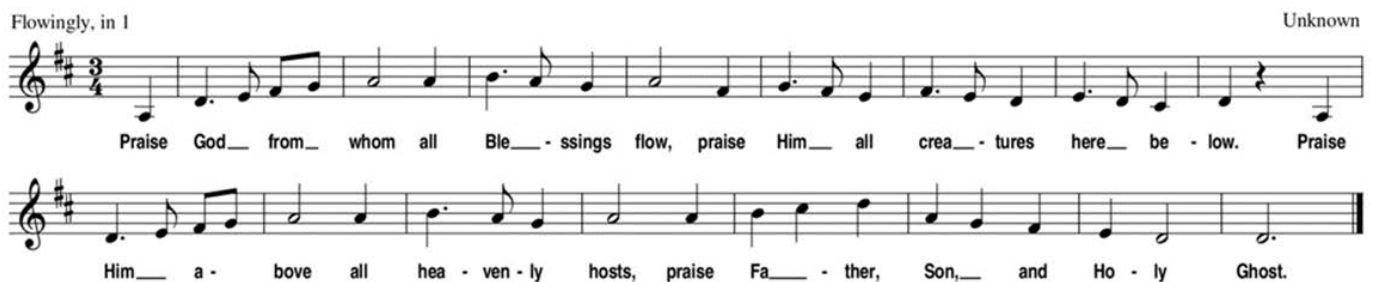
Blessed Jesus, at Thy Word

Hymnal 1982

Offertory Sentence

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.
 - *-Ephesians 5:2*

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.



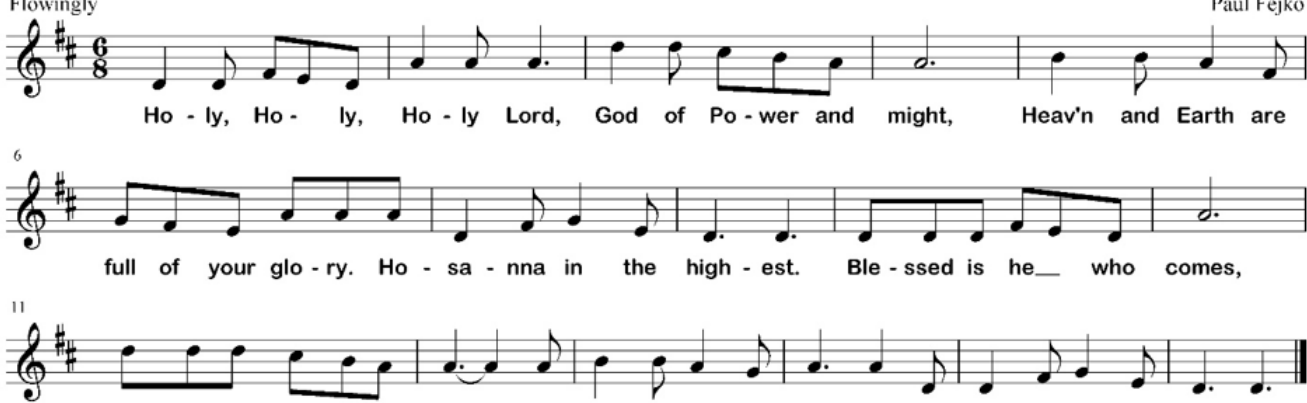
The Holy Communion –Eucharistic Prayer 3 *(from Enriching Our Worship)*

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.

Communion Anthem

*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 # 518

Chris is Made the Sure 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.

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

Call for Food Pantry Donations

In recognition of the challenges that many of our neighbors currently face with affording basic necessities, our community is supporting the Food Pantry at Snyder Avenue Congregational Church (with whom we have collaborated on a number of outreach programs). There is a basket in the back of the church for donations; this month the missions committee is especially asking for donations of peanut butter and canned vegetables, though a full list of needed supplies is also available by the basket.

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

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

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

Adam Haines, Organist
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, or using the QR code:

