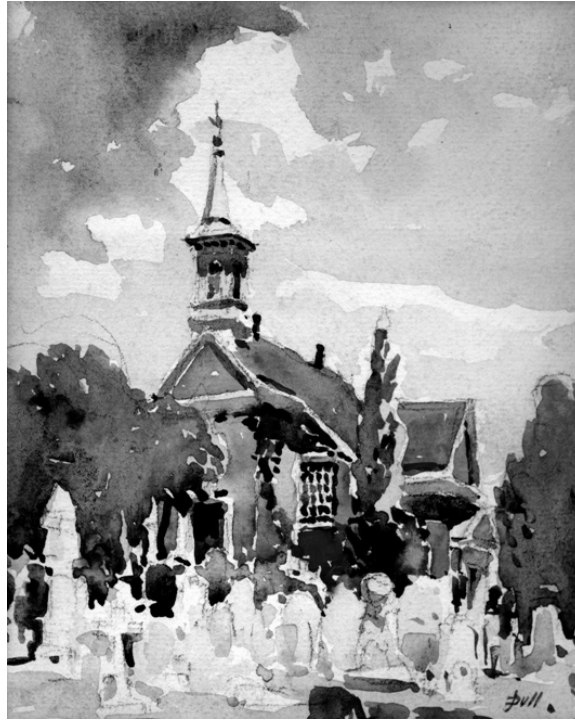




Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church

www.old-swedes.org

215-389-1513

*September 27, 2026 – Proper 21
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Ministry Assistants Today

Lector: *Christine Pickup*

Intercessor: *Carol Jenkins*

Usher: *Jim Ufheil*

Altar Guild: *Rachel Armstrong*

Celebrant: *Rev. Chris Micklewright*

Ministry Assistants October 4

Lector: *Candace Roberts*

Intercessor: *Megan Bartlett*

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 **O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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 17:1-7****Christine Pickup**

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

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

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 78:1-4, 12-16

Hear my teaching, O my people; *

incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable; *

I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

That which we have heard and known, and what our forefathers have told us, *

we will not hide from their children.

We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, *

and the wonderful works he has done.

(continued...)

He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, *
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.
He split open the sea and let them pass through; *
he made the waters stand up like walls.
He led them with a cloud by day, *
and all the night through with a glow of fire.
He split the hard rocks in the wilderness *
and gave them drink as from the great deep.
He brought streams out of the cliff, *
and the waters gushed out like rivers.

Second Reading

Philippians 2:1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

Who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,
he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death –
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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

All Thanks be to God.

Hymn # 685

Rock of Ages

Hymnal 1982

Gospel Reading

Rev. Chris Micklewright

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Matthew (21:23-32)**

All Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

(continued...)

“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

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

Sermon Rev. Chris Micklewright

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

Carol Jenkins

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>
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. *(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. This week we pray especially for Della Setser and Gordon Beggs. *(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.**

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 # 693

Just as I Am

Hymnal 1982

Offertory Sentence

We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord, and the wonderful works God has done. *-Psalm 78:4*

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

6 full of your glo - ry. Ho - sa - nna in the high - est. Ble - ssed is he who comes,

11 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.

Celebrant 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 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 element 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 # 690 *Guide Me, O Great Jehovah* 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 in Riverside Hall for a time of fellowship.***

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.

Favorite Hymns

Our organist, Adam Haines, is requesting that churchgoers share their favorite hymns – so that we can prioritize singing them in the coming months. Please leave your feedback for on one of the sheets located on the back table, on the steps up to the organ loft, or using this QR Code:



Gloria Dei Clergy and Staff

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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:

