

EPISCOPAL CHURCH of the
HEAVENLY REST

God's Love. For All.

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Year A
Holy Eucharist Rite I
Sunday, September 13, 2026
8:00 in the morning

THE WORD OF GOD

The liturgy begins in silence. Please stand as the procession enters.

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Celebrant

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

KYRIE *Kyrie eleison*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

The people kneel or stand

O God, forasmuch as without thee we are not able to please thee, mercifully grant that thy Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with thee and the same Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All sit

FIRST READING

Genesis 50:15-21

A reading from the Book of Genesis.

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is

doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Lector and People pray responsively by half verse

PSALM 103:1-13 *Benedic, anima mea*

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul, *

and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.

2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, *

and forget not all his benefits.

3 He forgives all your sins *

and heals all your infirmities;

4 He redeems your life from the grave *

and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;

5 He satisfies you with good things, *

and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

6 The Lord executes righteousness *

and judgment for all who are oppressed.

7 He made his ways known to Moses *

and his works to the children of Israel.

8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, *

slow to anger and of great kindness.

9 He will not always accuse us, *

nor will he keep his anger for ever.

10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *

nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, *

so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

12 As far as the east is from the west, *

so far has he removed our sins from us.

13 As a father cares for his children, *

so does the Lord care for those who fear him.

SECOND READING

Romans 14:1-12

A reading from the Letter to the Romans.

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

All stand for

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to thee, O Christ.

THE SERMON

The Reverend David Romanik, *Rector*

Following the sermon, all stand and say

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spake by the Prophets. And I believe in one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church; I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A Deacon or Priest says

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

All kneel or stand. The Intercessor continues with these prayers.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks on behalf of all people: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

The Celebrant says

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate.
Amen.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Silence may be kept.

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all men: We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us, the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Celebrant stands and says

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Celebrant may say one or more sentences of Scripture.

The People stand.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And with thy spirit.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

At Heavenly Rest, we believe that giving leads to spiritual growth, and we know that the ministry of this parish depends on the generosity of those who worship here. You can make your offering by placing it in one of the alms basins passed by the ushers or by using this QR code. Thank you for your generosity



Those who are celebrating anniversaries in September are invited to follow the procession to the altar rail and receive a blessing.

OFFERTORY

ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

All things come of thee, O Lord.
And of thine own have we given thee.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *Eucharistic Prayer II*

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up unto the Lord.
Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
It is meet and right so to do.

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Here a Proper Preface is said.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying:

THE SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The People stand or kneel as they are able.

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

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, forever and ever. Amen.

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread

THE FRACTION ANTHEM

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion. If you are not baptized, you may come forward to receive a blessing by folding your arms over your chest. Gluten-free hosts are available upon request. If you are interested in being baptized, please speak to one of the clergy after the service. Communion will be distributed at two stations: at the altar rail and in front of the pulpit. If you do not wish to receive wine, please cross your arms over your chest when the chalice comes by. Please follow the instructions of the ushers as you wait to receive Communion.

After the ministration of Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

The Commissioning of Eucharistic Visitors may be said.

In the name of this congregation, we send you forth, bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the Communion of Christ's Body and Blood. We who are many are one Body because we all share one bread and one cup.

The Celebrant blesses the people.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Celebrant - The Rev. Karen Boyd, *Assisting Priest*

Preacher - The Rev. David Romanik, *Rector*

Assisting - The Rev. Amanda Watson, *Assistant Rector for Community Life*

Organist - Thomas Pavlechko

Lay Ministers - Terry Young, Bill Young

Altar Guild and Linens - Candy Scarborough, Claire Carlson, Amy Edington, Kendra Jernigan, Cheri Mixon

Greeters & Ushers - Mike Young, Steve Suttle

Sound - Dustin Rainwater



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CLERGY AND STAFF

The Reverend David F. Romanik, <i>Rector</i>	Carol Ann Weston, <i>Director of Children & Family Ministries</i>
The Reverend Ashley Powers, <i>Associate Rector</i>	Thomas Pavlechko, <i>Organist and Director of Music</i>
The Reverend Amanda Watson, <i>Assistant Rector for Community Life</i>	Laura Dickson, <i>Music Assistant, Children's Choir</i>
The Reverend Joe Biles, <i>Curate and Pastoral Assistant</i>	Jen Rogers, <i>Director of Communications and Stewardship</i>
The Reverend Karen Boyd, <i>Assisting Priest</i>	Lydia Hurt, <i>Parish Manager</i>
The Reverend Dr. Doug Thomas, <i>Priest in Residence</i>	Brenda Fisher, <i>Parish Accountant</i>
The Reverend Dr. Russell Dickerson, <i>Deacon</i>	Robert Becerra, <i>Sexton</i>
The Reverend Bikole Mulanda, <i>Deacon and Swahili Minister</i>	Devon Castillo, <i>Assistant Sexton</i>
Luke Teten, <i>Verger</i>	Anne Jones, <i>Nursery Manager</i>

VESTRY AND APPOINTED OFFICERS

Kate Haney, *Senior Warden*; Dru Hall, *Junior Warden*; Sharon Lawler, *Secretary*; Kimberly Brumley, David Christianson, Michael Christie, Dru Hall, Dan Harbaugh, Gretchen Henson, Jay Moore, Dustin Rainwater, Mary Reyes, Diane Stearns, Elizabeth Niblo Wallace, *Chancellor*; and Patrick Lewis, *Treasurer*