



Grace Episcopal Church

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 2026

The Holy Eucharist: Rite II

10:30 a.m.

BCP PRELUDE

Prelude in B Minor – J. S. Bach

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #559 (In the Blue Hymnal)

Lead us, heavenly Father

1 Lead us, heaven - ly Fa - ther, lead us o'er the world's tem -
 2 Sa - vior, breathe for - give - ness o'er us; all our weak - ness
 3 Spi - rit of our God, de - scend-ing, fill our hearts with

pes - tuous sea; guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
 thou dost know; thou didst tread this earth be - fore us;
 heaven - ly joy; love with ev - ery pas - sion blend - ing,

for we have no help but thee, yet pos - ses - sing
 thou didst feel its keen - est woe; yet un - fear - ing,
 plea - sure that can nev - er cloy; thus pro - vid - ed,

ev - ery bless - ing, if our God our Fa - ther be.
 per - se - ver - ing, to thy pas - sion thou didst go.
 par - doned, guid - ed, noth - ing can our peace des - troy.

355 OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

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

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

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

GLORIA (Sung by all)

Organ *Unison Voices*



Glo - ry to God in the high-est, and
peace to his peo-ple on earth. Lord God, hea-ven-ly King,
al - migh-ty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.
slower Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world:
have mer-cy up-on us; you are seat-ed at the right hand
a tempo of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer. For you a - lone
are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spi - rit,
in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

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THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

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 OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Lector A reading from the Prophet Ezekiel.

The word of the Lord came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

- The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 25:1-8 (*responsively by whole verse*)

¹ To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you;
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

² **Let none who look to you be put to shame;
let the treacherous be disappointed in their
schemes.**

³ Show me your ways, O Lord,
and teach me your paths.

⁴ **Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.**

⁵ Remember, O Lord, your compassion and
love, for they are from everlasting.

⁶ **Remember not the sins of my youth and my
transgressions;
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.**

⁷ Gracious and upright is the Lord;
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

⁸ **He guides the humble in doing right
and teaches his way to the lowly.**

THE EPISTLE

Philippians 2:1-13

Lector A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians.

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 slave, 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.

- The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN #567 (vv. 1-3)

Thine Arm, O Lord, in days of old

1 Thine arm, O Lord, in days of old was strong to
2 And lo! thy touch brought life and health, gave hear-ing,
3 Be thou our great de - liv - erer still, thou Lord of
heal and save; it tri-umphed o'er dis - ease and death,
strength, and sight; and youth re - newed and fren - zy calmed
life and death; re - store and quick-en, soothe and bless,
o'er dark - ness and the grave. To thee they went, the
owned thee, the Lord of light: and now, O Lord, be
with thine al - might - y breath: to hands that work and
blind, the deaf, the pal - sied, and the lame, the lep - er
near to bless, al - might - y as of yore, in crowd-ed
eyes that see, give wis - dom's heaven-ly lore, that whole and
set a - part and shunned, the sick with fe - vered frame.
street, by rest - less couch, as by Gen - nes - aret's shore.
sick, and weak and strong, may praise thee ev - er - more.

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

"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."

-- The Gospel of the Lord *People:* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

SEQUENCE VOLUNTARY

THE HOMILY

The Reverend Canon Marion Sprott
Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina Canon for Transitions

358 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.

Let us pray for the Church and for the world. Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. *Silence* Lord, in your mercy *Hear our prayer.*

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. *Silence* Lord, in your mercy *Hear our prayer.*

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. *Silence* Lord, in your mercy *Hear our prayer.*

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. *Silence* Lord, in your mercy *Hear our prayer.*

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. *Silence* Lord, in your mercy *Hear our prayer.*

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. *Silence* Lord, in your mercy *Hear our prayer.*

We pray for all who are traveling, especially **Julia** Klass, **Josey** Parker, **Brianna** Cantrall, **Barry** Shapiro, **Jack** Tincher, and **Chase** Tincher,

and those with special needs:

Melissa Keates, **Lou** Adkins, **Mark** Adkins, **Ella** Asebes, **Bob** Beard, **Louise** Billings, **Tom** Blalock, **Sissy** Bolstad, **Alice** Brandon, **Lynne** Broch, **Jack** Buckheit, **Gayle** Burke, **Seraphina** Byers, **Jennifer** Cashion, **Lynne** Cleckley, **Bob** Cook, **Linda** Cox, **Wesley** Crump, **Chris** Davila, **Susan** Dixon, **Renee** Ewbank, **Phyllis** Finger, **Shana** Garland, **Lilly** Griffin, **Jimmy** Hall, **George** Hanna, **Nancy** Hinkle, **Chris** Hodges, **Bob** Holcomb, **Marlene** Jones, **Ed** Kelaher, **Ray** Kent, **Peggy** Klass, **Beattie** Logan, **Warren** MacKinstry, **Debbie** Mason, **Arnold** Miller, **Sherry** Moore, **Walker** Peoples, **Gabby** Plott, **Blanche** Poole, **Shirley** Remsburg, **Ellen** Rickert, **Jacklyn** Rojas, **Betty Jo** Sadler, **Lucas** Sanabria, **Lynn** Santolla, **Suzy** Sheets, **Carol** Sills, **Talmadge** Silversides, **Clyde** Smith, **Martha Ellen** Smith, **Sean** Sullivan, **Jackie** Touchton, **Brenda** Tyndall, **Donna** Wiederhold, **Flynn** Williams, **Paul** Wylie, and **Charlotte** Young.

“Are there others?”

Hear us, Lord; *For your mercy is great.*

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.**

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Celebrant and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Please stand if you are able

360 THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

With a Voice Singing – M. Shaw, arr. A. Carpenter

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS HYMN 178 (v. 4)

Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the ris - en Lord.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give praise to his Name.

Repeat Refrain



4. Come, let us praise the liv - ing God, joy - ful - ly sing to our Sa - vior.

361 THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (*Eucharistic Prayer A*)

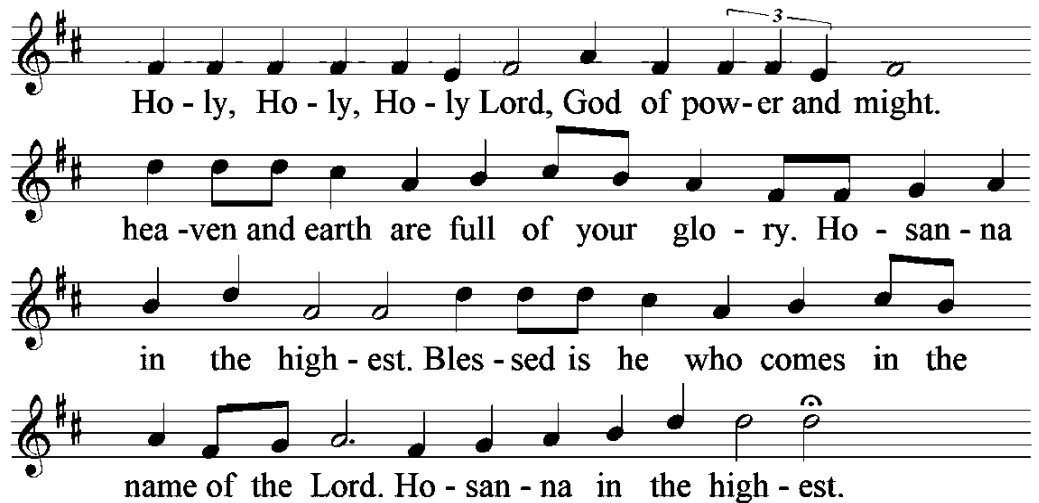
Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS (*Sung by All*)



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The people may stand or kneel

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

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

364 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.
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364 THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People **Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Facing the people, the Celebrant may say the following Invitation

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.

All baptized Christians are invited to come forward for Holy Communion at the Lord's Table. You may receive both the bread and wine, or only the bread or only the wine. Receiving Communion in one or both forms is sufficient sacramentally. If you prefer neither bread nor wine, you also are invited to come forward and to simply cross your arms over your chest as a sign for the minister to provide you with a holy blessing of the Lord.

During Holy Communion, if you are unable to receive communion at the altar rail, please notify an usher so that communion can be brought to you.



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 High King of hea - ven, when vic - tory is won,
 all else be nought to me, save that thou art—
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 may I reach hea - ven's joys, bright hea - ven's Sun!
 thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 thou my great Fa - ther; thine own may I be;
 Heart of my heart, what - ev - er be - fall,
 wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 thou in me dwell - ing, and I one with thee.
 still be my vis - ion, O Ru - ler of all.

365 POST-COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING

May God give us humble hearts to hear his truth, courage to turn toward his ways, and grace to let our lives speak the faith we profess. And the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**



1 Faith of our fa - thers! liv - ing still in spite of dun - geon,
 2 Faith of our fa - thers! faith and prayer shall win all na - tions
 3 Faith of our fa - thers! we will love both friend and foe in



fire and sword: O how our hearts beat high with joy,
 un - to thee; and through the truth that comes from God,
 all our strife: and preach thee, too, as love knows how,

Refrain



when-e'er we hear that glo - rious word:
 man-kind shall then in - deed be free. Faith of our fa - thers,
 by kind - ly deeds and vir - tuous life.



ho - ly faith! We will be true to thee till death.

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia!
People Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Fugue in G Minor (the Little) – J. S. Bach

*The flowers at the altar today are given to the glory of God
 by the Grace Church Choir
 in honor of Bill Herndon on his birthday.*



WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Lector: Mary Bolstad
LEMes: Pam Harvey, Kathie Goodman
Ushers: Sims Riggan, Bill Gilleland
Intercessor: Belvie Gilleland

Greeter: Mary-Cameron Welborn
Acolytes: Analise Petruzzi
Trinity Sheets

WELCOME GUESTS AND NEWCOMERS!

We are delighted to have you worship with us today, and we would welcome the opportunity to get acquainted. Please sign the Guest Book in the narthex and join us immediately following the service in the Parish Hall (in the building next door) for refreshments and conversation.

Infants and young children are always welcome to worship with their families in the sanctuary. The restrooms are in the rear hallway, and diaper-changing stations are provided in both rooms.

During Holy Communion, if you are unable to receive communion at the altar rail, please notify an usher so that communion can be brought to you.



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

419 S. Main Street
Lexington, North Carolina 27292-3234
phone: 336-249-7211

email: gracechurch@gracelexingtonnc.org
www.gracelexingtonnc.org

The Reverend Stephen Becker, Interim Rector
Bill Herndon, Organist and Choir Director
Maureen Tincher, Parish Administrator
Kristi Allred, Media Specialist
John Taylor, Facilities Manager
Joan Clodfelter, Minister of Music Emerita



THE VESTRY

2027

Dan Briggs Junior Warden
Mary Matthews Clerk of Vestry
Leslie Sheets

2028

Kristi Allred
Lynn Meeks Treasurer
Neil Shepherd
David Inabinett

2029

Kristie Miller
Marjorie Parker Senior Warden
Cathy Riggan
Mary-Cameron Welborn

Vestry Person of the Month for September is Kristi Allred.