

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 2026

THE HOLY EUCHARIST (RITE II)

10:00 am

FREE TO CHOOSE
WHO DO YOU SAY
I AM?

1 ☐ John the Baptist
2 ☐ Elijah
3 ☐ Jeremiah
4 ☐ prophet
5 ☐ Christ
6 ☐ other

The Church of the Holy Spirit (Episcopal)

Knowing • Loving • Serving
God + Neighbor

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As we prepare for worship, please make sure your cell phone is silenced.

The Word of God

The Prelude

Prelude in C

Charles Callahan

Please stand as you are able as the bell is rung.

The Opening Hymn 522 Glorious things of thee are spoken

Austria

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

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

The Collect for Purity

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.**

The Collect of the Day

People The Lord be with you.

Celebrant **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated for the scripture appointed.

The Lessons

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (51:1-6)

Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

People The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 138 *(prayed responsively by whole verse.)*

Leader: I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; *
before the gods I will sing your praise.

People: I will bow down toward your holy temple
and praise your Name, *
because of your love and faithfulness;

For you have glorified your Name *
and your word above all things.

**When I called, you answered me; *
you increased my strength within me.**

All the kings of the earth will praise you, O Lord, *
when they have heard the words of your mouth.

**They will sing of the ways of the Lord, *
that great is the glory of the Lord.**

Though the Lord be high, he cares for the lowly; *
he perceives the haughty from afar.

**Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; *
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
your right hand shall save me.**

The Lord will make good his purpose for me; *
O Lord, your love endures forever;
do not abandon the works of your hands.

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans (12:1-8)

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

People The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able for the sequence hymn and the reading of the gospel.

The Sequence Hymn 707 Take my life and let it be consecrated

Hollingside

People The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Matthew 16:13-20

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Patrick C. Ward

Please stand as you are able for the Creed.

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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.

You may continue to stand or sit or kneel for the prayers as your personal piety guides you.

The Prayers of the People

We lift our petitions to Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit, saying “hear our prayer.”

God of all, the rock from which we are hewn, transform us by the renewing of our minds. We pray for the people of all churches, that they live in the promise of your love. In our own diocese we pray especially for St. Elizabeth’s Church, Wilmington; Parish of the Epiphany, Winchester; St. John’s Church, Winthrop; Trinity Church, Woburn; and for all Sextons and Custodians. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Grant us a holy unity with all living things. Deepen in us reverence for the earth you have made and for the systems and resources which sustain us. Guide us more and more to preserve and protect. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Keep us hungry for your justice. Strengthen in us compassion for the victims of racism, crime, violence, deportation and wrongful conviction. Embolden those in public authority across the world to speak your truth and safeguard the dignity of all. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Make us instruments of your peace. We raise up to you Russia and Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, Iran and the nations of the Middle East; Haiti, Sudan and South Sudan and all regions of the world torn apart by war and civil unrest. We pray for peace and a renewal of collaboration and compassion in our own nation. For an end to gun violence. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Heal the sick and mend what is broken in our own lives and in the lives of those who have asked for our prayers, including Terese Brown, Maureen Cardenas, Joanne Gamble, Nancy Haak, Joan Kirkby, Andrew Payne, Pam Soderholm, Barbara and Philip Sousa, Dottie Walsh, Alex, Bob, Carole, Cathi, Charlie, Dave, Kristy, Lauren, Pat, Rachel and Sally and those we name before you now. (PAUSE) Comfort and restore all who suffer in body, mind or spirit. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Hold fast to those who have died, that they may live forever in your changeless light and love. We name before you those we love and see no longer (PAUSE). Into your hands we commend them. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

The Concluding Collect

Good and gracious God, send forth your Spirit into our hearts. Release us from all the hindrances our growth in your love and make us one through Christ our Lord.. **Amen.**

The Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

Please stand as you are able.

The Absolution

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.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The Greeting and Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

The Handiwork of God

Mark Miller

Stitched together, piece by piece, sewn with purpose and with care.
Scraps once thought to have no worth now become a sacred treasure.

*A quilt of love made by holy hands,
Every pattern known by heart, stitched together
by the sewer of our souls, a quilt of love, a work of art.
We're the handiwork of God.*

Gathered here in this holy hour, hearts are full of pain and glory.
Quilt the threads of this kinship up into your unfolding story.

*A quilt of love made by holy hands,
Every pattern known by heart, stitched together
by the sewer of our souls, a quilt of love, a work of art.
We're the handiwork of God.*

When we've come apart, when we've been torn,
When the fabric of our lives is frayed and worn,
Mend us up, loving friend, let your creative touch heal again.

All the colors, each design, all the living of these days,
Every blessing a gift from God and all creation sings its praise!

*A quilt of love made by holy hands,
Every pattern known by heart, stitched together
by the sewer of our souls, a quilt of love, a work of art.
We're the handiwork of God.*

Please stand as you are able as our offering is presented.

The Offertory Hymn 321, My God, thy table now is spread

Rockingham

1 My God, thy ta - ble now is spread, thy cup with
love doth o - ver - flow; be all thy chil - dren
thith - er led, and let them thy sweet mer - cies know.

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is a simple, hymn-like tune. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The first line of music corresponds to the first line of lyrics, the second line to the second, and the third line to the third. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord.

People And of thine own have we given thee. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Enriching Our Worship, Prayer I

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.

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation, as we sing:

Sanctus WLP 857

African arr. Pulkingham

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow'r and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - sa - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - sa - na in the high - est

You may remain standing, kneel or sit for the remainder of the Eucharistic prayer as your personal piety guides you.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love.

You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us and so we violated your creation, harmed one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: *"Take, eat This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."*

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."*

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name forever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, forever and ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has 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,

for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast.



The gifts of God for you, the beloved people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ lived, died and rose for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Prayer for Spiritual Communion

We offer the following prayer each week in solidarity with those viewing from home.

Holy Jesus, Redeemer of the World, we believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament of this altar. Even while some of us are unable to receive you in the elements of bread and wine, we invite you to enter our hearts and be our companion along the way. Waiting in hope, we know that you are present in every moment of our lives and will never leave us comfortless. For all good things come from you O Lord, and from that goodness, lead us to the love of others. For you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit now and forever. Amen.

All are welcome to receive the bread and/or the wine. You may stand or kneel to receive. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are also available; simply make your needs known to the person serving you. If you wish a blessing instead of the elements, cross your arms over your chest as the priest approaches you.

The Communion Hymns

Hymn 502 O Holy Spirit, by whose breath

Veni Creator Spiritus

Hymn WLP 831 (green hymnal) Ubi caritas

Jacques Berthier

Please stand as you are able.

The Prayer after Communion

Enriching Our Worship

Let us pray.

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Sending *(when lay eucharistic visitors are scheduled to make home or hospital visits)*

Celebrant 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.

People **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread and the one cup.**

The Blessing

Go forth into the world in peace. Be of good courage. Hold fast that which is good. Render to no one evil for evil. Strengthen the fainthearted. Support the weak. Help the afflicted. Honor everyone. Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; and the blessing of almighty God, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Closing Hymn 525 The Church's one foundation

Aurelia

The Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Postlude

Vivace

Hermann Schroeder

Celebrant The Rev. Nancy J. Hagner

Preacher The Rev. Patrick C. Ward

Music Director Joan Kirchner

Eucharistic Ministers Celia Calhoun, Kate Paradise

Readers Sarah Gregory, Nancy Boccia, Diana Crighton

Ushers Raven Thompson, Mary Hammatt

Altar Guild Georgia Schneider

Altar Flower Guild Nancy Miller

Audio/Video Jennifer Marlin

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Please connect to: “CHS_Hearing” and the
Password is: CHSOrleans. This is a case sensitive password.