



The Reverend Bob Farrow, Priest in Charge
Kevin Anderson, Music Director

The 9th Sunday After Pentecost

July 26, 2026

Holy Eucharist Rite II

Please be thoughtful, be silent, be reverent, for this is a house of prayer for all people.

This morning we welcome our guest speaker, Mr. Harold Tarpley, Lay Minister

PRELUDE

All stand as able and sing.

PROCESSIONAL | How great thou art

vv. 1 - 2

1 O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hands hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

Continues on next page.

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee:

How great thou art! How great thou art!

Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee:

How great thou art! How great thou art!

2 When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;

Refrain

OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. 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.**

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; 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 reading of the lessons.

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON | 1 Kings 3:5-12

Lector: A reading from the first Book of Kings.

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

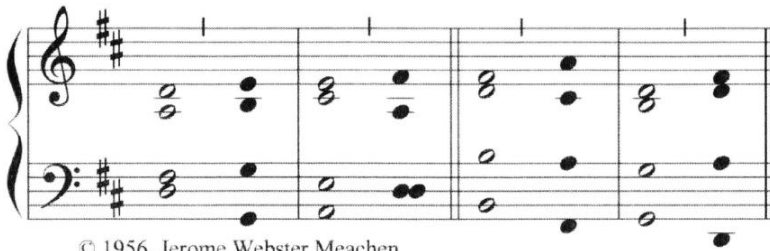
It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning

mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.”

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM | Psalm 119:129-136



The Psalm will be chanted by Kevin Anderson. You're welcome to join in. If you don't read music, the note changes on the italicized words.

129 Your decrees are *wonderful*; * therefore I obey them with all my *heart*.

130 When your word goes forth it gives *light*; * it gives understanding to the *simple*.

131 I open my mouth and *pant*; * I long for your *commandments*.

132 Turn to me in *mercy*, * as you always do to those who love your *Name*.

133 Steady my footsteps in your *word*; * let no iniquity have dominion over *me*.

134 Rescue me from those who oppress *me*, * and I will keep your *commandments*.

135 Let your countenance shine upon your *servant* * and teach me your *statutes*.

136 My eyes shed streams of *tears*, * because people do not keep your *law*.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

THE EPISTLE | Romans 8:26-39

Lector: A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

All stand as able and sing.

SEQUENCE HYMN | *St. Michael* O day of God, draw nigh

Hymnal 601

THE GOSPEL | Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it."

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Please be seated for the message.

THE MESSAGE | God's Love of Us

Mr. Harold Tarpley

All stand as able.

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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
for the 9th Sunday After Pentecost

From *Hear Our Prayer: Prayers of the People for the
Revised Common Lectionary*

Please kneel or stand as you are able. The Intercessor and People pray responsively.

Holy God, be in the midst of us now as we pray for ourselves and the world saying,
“Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.”

We pray for the Church, the body of Christ, that you would be in our midst everywhere we are. Strengthen us, reorient us, and send us to be your people to the world. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the health, welfare, and legacy of this nation. We pray for the prosperity and needs of our brothers and sisters across our country and around the world. Embolden us to serve the common good and advocate for the needs of all people. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all creatures on the earth, and for the earth itself. We pray for an end to pollution and the apathy that destroys the creation that you have called Good. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for your mercy on the members of our diocesan family currently held in immigration detention and their families, and on the children held in detention across our nation. We pray for their release and for the restoration of humane and ethical immigration enforcement. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation; give us hearts that long for you and hands that serve others in your name. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are sick, suffering, anxious, hopeless, imprisoned, persecuted, or alone. We pray for those who are ill and those who provide them care. Especially we lift up Wesley, Bob, David, Woody, Sandra, and Armani. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Be with the dying, comfort the grieving, and hold us in your heart, this day and always. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Lord, you have promised to be with us whenever we gather in your name. Be with us now. Hear and respond to our prayers. Show us the path to be your people more perfectly. All this we ask in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Together

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.

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

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

HOLY COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CELEBRATIONS

OFFERTORY HYMN | Share His Love

See insert

THE DOXOLOGY | *Old 100th*

Please stand as you are able for the presentation of the offering.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly hosts; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

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 | Holy, holy, holy Lord

Hymnal S 129

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. ____

Setting: Robert Powell (b. 1932)

The people stand or kneel as able.

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:

Together

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,

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

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
 People: **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

FRACTION ANTHEM

Hymnal S 169

Cantor or Choir

My flesh is food in - deed, and my blood is drink in -

deed, says the Lord. My Lord. Those who eat my

flesh and drink my blood dwell in me, and I in them. My

flesh is food in - deed, and my blood is drink in - deed, says the Lord.

Setting: Ray W. Urwin (b. 1950)

Celebrant:

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.

THE SHARING OF BREAD AND WINE

All people are invited to receive Communion. The ushers will come stand by your pew, at which time you may go kneel or stand at the railing. If you do not wish to receive, please cross your arms over your chest to receive a blessing. If you have mobility challenges and need communion brought to you at your seat, please let an usher know. Gluten-free wafers are available.

COMMUNION HYMN | *General Seminary* King of glory, King of peace

The hymn will be performed by Kevin Anderson.

BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

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.

RECESSIONAL | How Great Thou Art

vv. 3 - 4

3 And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross my burden gladly bearing
he bled and died to take away my sin;

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!

4 When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim: "My God, how great thou art!" [Refrain]

DISMISSAL

Officiant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Your prayers are asked for Wesley Brown, Rev. Bob Farrow, David Mullins, Rev. Woody Barnes, Sandra Carey, and Armani Butzon. Continued prayers and loving thoughts for those who have ongoing needs and struggles: Liz Dixon, Hudson Garrett, and Mary Butcher.

We pray for wisdom for those in authority, for guidance for those who feel called to action, and for safety and peace for those who feel fear in these times. We continue to pray for all those in need within our community and those in the world who have suffered due to war and natural disaster.

VESTRY

Drucye Cox, *Senior Warden*
Linda Pace, *Junior Warden*
Sheri Cody, Kathy McMurtry,
and Steve Morse
Alex Garrett, *Clerk of the Vestry*
Jim Gilliam, *Treasurer*

SERVING THIS WEEK

Lector: John Brent
Ushers: William Morgan & Steve Morse
Virtual Minister: Drucye Cox
Eucharistic Minister: Connie Blackmon
Crucifer: Martha Dimon
Flowers: Beth Brown

UPCOMING IN THE PARISH

- JUL 28: Church office closed
- JUL 29: St. Nicholas Game Day! 3 p.m.
- AUG 2: Annual Parish Picnic at Blue Springs
Sign up to bring a side or dessert in the kitchen pass-through
- AUG 5: St. Nicholas Book Club after Evening Prayer at 5 p.m.
- AUG 19: Cookies, Crafts, and Conversation 3 p.m.
- AUG 30: Pulpit Swap at Christian Valley Church

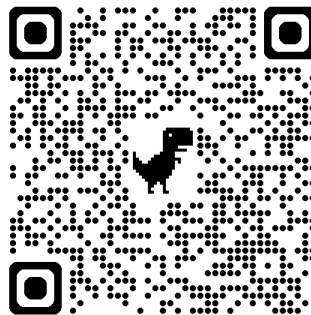
Annual Parish Picnic NEXT WEEK

Our tradition continues with outdoor worship at the Callaway family's Blue Springs on Sunday, August 2 at 10 a.m., followed by a covered-dish picnic. There is a food sign-up sheet on the kitchen pass-through for sides and desserts. It is fine to bring friends, swimsuits and towels! On the off-chance that it is raining Sunday morning, the service will move back to the church.

Rector's Discretionary Fund is Dry – This fund is one of the ways we share the love of Christ by assisting our Harris County neighbors with rent and utilities. Demand is always high – we have helped over 40 households this year alone. If you feel so moved, please drop a few dollars in the plate to rehydrate the well!

The **St. Nicholas Book Club** chose *Oh, William!* by Elizabeth Strout for their next read. See details in your current newsletter. The Book Club meets August 5 after Evening Prayer at 5:00 p.m.

Get all the news: Use this QR code to access the current newsletter.



Unison

1. The love of God is broad - er than earth's vast ex - panse,
 2. All those who have trust - ed in God's on - ly Son,
 3. We show the love of God each day we live,

'Tis deep - er and wid - er than the sea.
 And hold this pre - cious trea - sure in their hearts,
 Re - veal Christ's pres - ence in our lives;

p

Love reach - es out to all to bring a - bun - dant life,
 Seek ways to make it known to all who need to know
 And how the Ho - ly Spir - it guides us day by day,

p

For God so loved the world His on - ly Son He gave.
 That God so loved the world His on - ly Son He gave.
 For God so loved the world His on - ly Son He gave.

Refrain

Share His love by tell - ing what the Lord has done for you,

Continues on next page

Share His love by shar-ing of your faith, and show the world that

Je-sus Christ is real to you ev-'ry mo-ment, ev-'ry day.

TEXT and MUSIC: William J. Reynolds

SULLIVAN
Irregular meter

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Thank you for worshipping with us today.

**Please join us for coffee and fellowship in the Gathering Room,
to the left as you exit the nave.**

St. Nicholas' mission is to actively share Christ's love for all people.

*Our vision is to strive to be a welcoming community who worships a caring and
merciful God, proclaims the Gospel, and promotes justice, peace, and love.*
