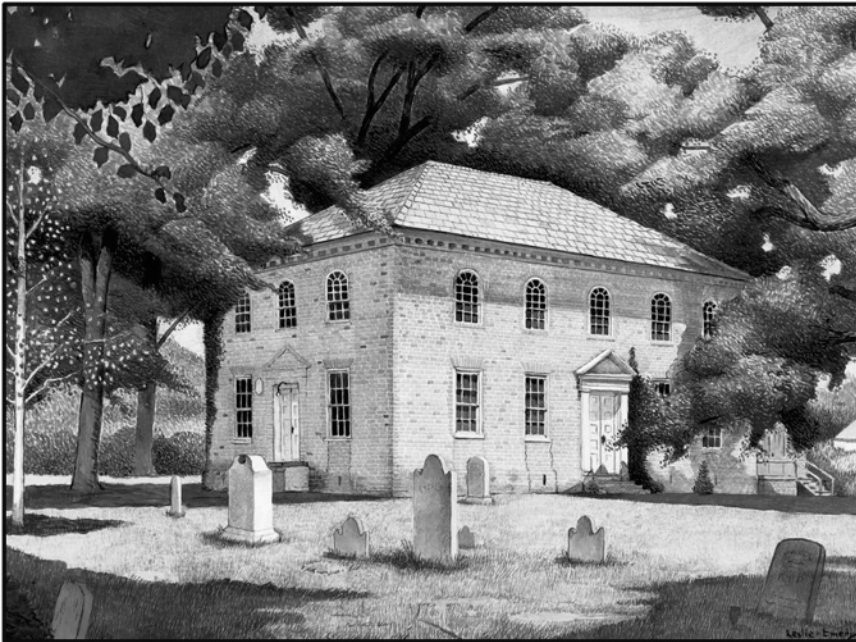


THE FALLS CHURCH

an Episcopal congregation

*A welcoming community called to be an enduring
beacon of faith, hope, and love to all.*



Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 3, 2023

Prelude

THE WORD OF GOD

The people stand.

Opening Hymn 688

A mighty fortress is our God

Ein feste Burg

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People Glory to God for ever and ever.

Celebrant

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

Glory to God in the Highest

Alfred V. Fedak
(b. 1953)

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and
peace__ to his peo-ple on earth. Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al -
migh - ty God_ and Fath - er, we wor-ship you, we give you_ thanks, we
praise you for__ your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ,

on - ly Son of the Fath - er, Lord God, Lamb of God, you
 take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on
 us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fath - er:
 re - ceive our prayer. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
 you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,
 Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the
 glo - ry of God the Fath - er. A - men.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The people sit.

The First Lesson

Exodus 3:1-15

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain." But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.

<i>Reader</i>	The Word of the Lord.
<i>People</i>	Thanks be to God

- 1 We give you thanks, O God, and call upon your Name, *
we make known your deeds among the peoples,
- 2 We sing to you; we sing your praise *
and speak of all your marvelous works,
- 3 We glory in your holy Name; *
let the hearts of those who seek you rejoice;
- 4 We search for you and your strength; *
we continue to seek your face;
- 5 We remember the marvels you have done, *
the wonders and the judgments of your mouth:
- 6 We, the offspring of Abraham, your servant, *
we, the children of Jacob, the chosen ones.
- 23 Israel came into Egypt, *
and Jacob became a sojourner in the land of Ham.
- 24 You made your people exceedingly fruitful; *
you made them stronger than their enemies;
- 25 Whose heart you turned, so that they hated your people, *
and dealt unjustly with your servants.
- 26 You sent Moses your servant, *
and Aaron whom you had chosen.
- 45c Alleluia!

The Second Lesson

Romans 12:9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” No, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God**

The people stand.

Sequence Hymn 648

When Israel was in Egypt’s land

Go down, Moses

The Gospel

Matthew 16:21-28

<i>Gospeler</i>	The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
<i>People</i>	Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

<i>Gospeler</i>	The Gospel of the Lord.
<i>People</i>	Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rector

*The people sit at the invitation of the preacher.
A period of silence follows the homily.
Please stand when the Celebrant stands for the 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.

The Prayers of the People

The Leader and People pray responsively while standing.

In peace and in faith, let us offer our prayers, saying, “Christ, have mercy.”

For peace and tranquility in the world, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of all, let us pray.

Christ, have mercy.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray.

Christ, have mercy.

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, for Mark, and Gayle, our own Bishops, and for all the People of God, let us pray.

Christ, have mercy.

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray.

Christ, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, especially Arthur, Carol, Jean, and Michael, let us pray.

Christ, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray.

Christ, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, especially Monika, let us pray.

Christ, have mercy.

In the communion of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

To you, O Christ Our God.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Confession of Sin

(EOW p. 56)

Celebrant Let us confess our sins to God.

All kneel.

Celebrant and People

**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.**

The Peace

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

The people sit.

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Celebrant may begin the Offertory with one of the sentences on BCP page 376, or with some other sentence of Scripture.

The Offertory

During the offertory you are invited to make a gift to God's mission at The Falls Church through Realm (see QR code), on the website, by texting TFCE at 73256, or by using the plate.



Give Now Online

You may "Give Now" electronically in one of three ways (1) Scanning the QR code with your smartphone; (2) Visiting onrealm.org/thefallschurch/-/form/give/how or (3) Texting TFCE to 73256 to give by text message.

The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.

Presentation Hymn

We the Lord's people,
heart and voice uniting

Decatur Place



We the Lord's peo - ple, heart and voice u - nit - ing, praise him who
In the Lord's ser - vice bread and wine are of - fered, that Christ may
called us out of sin and dark-ness in - to his own light,
take them, bless them, break, and give them to all his peo - ple,
that he might a - noint us a roy - al priest-hood.
his own life im - part - ing, food ev - er - last - ing.

Sursum Corda S-120

Lift up your hearts

Celebrant *People*
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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 S-130

Holy, holy, holy Lord

Franz Peter Schubert
(1797-1828);
arr. Richard Proulx
(1937-2010)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Then the Celebrant continues.
The people may kneel or stand.*

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, abused 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 for the 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:

Celebrant and People

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 for ever.

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

The Celebrant then continues

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

People and Celebrant

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

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem S-164

Jesus Lamb of God

Franz Peter Schubert
(1797-1828);
arr. **Richard Proulx**
(1937-2010)

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

The Invitation to Communion

All those who seek the Lord are welcome and invited to receive Holy Communion at this time. Should you desire to receive, the ushers will direct you to one of the stations where the priest will offer you the host by placing the wafer in your outstretched palms. To receive the wine, guide the base of the chalice to your lips, tipping it slightly toward your lips, take a sip of wine, then tip chalice back toward the minister and release your fingers from the base of the chalice. If you do not wish to receive the wine, but would like to partake in this sacramental act, simply touch the chalice with your finger as the minister pronounces the words. Alternatively, simply fold your arms across your chest, and the minister will refrain from offering you the chalice. After receiving Communion, you may return to your seat.

Gluten-free wafers are available. Should you desire a gluten-free wafer, please let the priest know as you approach them for communion.

Hymn 498

Beneath the cross of Jesus

St. Christopher

Hymn 526

Let saints on earth in concert sing

Dundee

Hymn 314

Humbly I adore thee

Adoro devote

The people stand.

Postcommunion Prayer

(EOW, p. 69)

Celebrant Let us pray.

People and Celebrant

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 for ever

in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

May the blessing of the God of Abraham and Sarah, and of Jesus Christ born of our sister Mary, and of the Holy Spirit, who broods over the world as a mother over her children, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn 541

Come, labor on

Ora Labora

Dismissal

Gospeler
People

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

(BCP, p. 366)

Postlude

+ + + + +

Celebrant and Preacher
The Rector

+ + + + +

The Parish Prayer List

For Healing in Body, Mind, and Spirit

Immediate Needs

Arthur, Carol, Jean, Michael

Long Term Prayers

Aliceann, Anne, Brian, Joanna, Lara, Michael, Tom

Family and Friends

Chris, Gareth, George, Kendall, Kent, Rhonda, Stacy, Wilma

For the Repose of the Soul of

Monika Zippel

+ + + + +



The Falls Church is a parish of The Episcopal Church, a member of the worldwide Anglican Communion. We share ministry with Christians in the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia.

The Most Rev'd. and Rt. Hon. Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury
The Most Rev'd. Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop and Primate, The Episcopal Church
The Rt. Rev'd. E. Mark Stevenson, Bishop Diocesan, Diocese of Virginia
The Rt. Rev'd. Gayle E. Harris, Assistant Bishop, Diocese of Virginia

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