

# THE FALLS CHURCH

*an Episcopal congregation*

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



Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
August 27, 2023

## Prelude

## THE WORD OF GOD

*The people stand.*

**Opening Hymn 636**

How firm a foundation

*Foundation*

### 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)

The musical notation consists of three staves of music in common time (indicated by '8'). The first staff begins with a treble clef, the second with an alto clef, and the third with a bass clef. The lyrics are as follows:

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*

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.

*The people sit.*

## The First Lesson

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land."

Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them. The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live." But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?" The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live." Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the

Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?” Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Yes.” So the girl went and called the child’s mother. Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.” So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, “because,” she said, “I drew him out of the water.”

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

- 1 If God had not been on our side, \*  
let Israel now say;
- 2 If God had not been on our side, \*  
when enemies rose up against us,
- 3 Then would they have swallowed us up alive \*  
in their fierce anger toward us;
- 4 Then would the waters have overwhelmed us \*  
and the torrent gone over us;
- 5 Then would the raging waters \*  
have gone right over us.
- 6 Blessed be God, \*  
who has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.
- 7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; \*  
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.
- 8 Our help is in the Name of God, \*  
the maker of heaven and earth.

## The Second Lesson

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.

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

*The people stand.*

**Sequence Hymn 334**      Praise the Lord, rise up rejoicing      *Alles ist  
an Gottes Segen*

## The Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20

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

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.

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

## The Sermon

The Rev'd. Matthew Machowski

*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, 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, 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.*

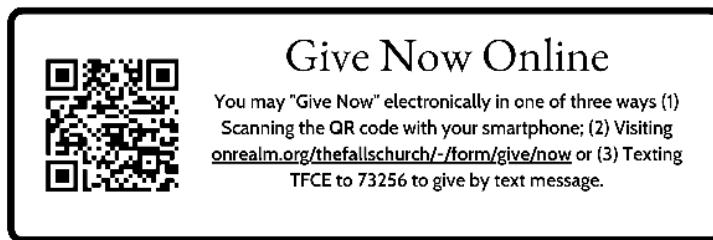
## Welcome and Announcements

## 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.*



*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*

The musical notation consists of three staves of music in G major, common time, with a key signature of one sharp. The lyrics are integrated into the music, appearing below the notes. The first two staves begin with a treble clef, and the third staff begins with an alto clef. The lyrics are: "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." The music is a hymn tune with a simple, repetitive melody.

Sursum Corda S-120

Lift up your hearts

*Celebrant*

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

*People*

*Celebrant*

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

*People*

*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 8	Morning has broken	<i>Bunessan</i>
Hymn 302	Father, we thank thee	<i>Rendez à Dieu</i>
Hymn 441	In the cross of Christ I glory	<i>Rathbun</i>

*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

Built on a rock the church shall stand

*Kirken den er  
et gammelt hus*

1 Built on a rock the Church shall stand,  
2 Not in our tem - ples made with hands  
3 We are God's house of liv - ing stones,  
4 Yet in this house, an earth - ly frame,

E - ven when stee - ples are  
God, the Al-might - y, is  
Built for his own hab - i -  
Je - sus the chil - dren is

fall - ing; Crum-bled have spires in ev - 'ry land, Bells still are  
dwell - ing; High in the heav'ns his tem - ple stands, All earth-ly  
ta - tion; He fills our hearts, his hum - blethrones, Grant-ing us  
bless - ing; Hith - er we come to praise his name, Faith in our

chim-ing and call - ing Call - ing the young and old to rest, Call - ing the  
tem - ples ex - cel - ling. Yet he who dwells in heav'n a - bove Deigns to a -  
life and sal - va - tion. Were two or three to seek his face, He in their  
Sav - ior con-fess - ing. Je - sus to us his Spir - it sent, Mak - ing with

souls of those dis-tressed, Long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing.  
bide with us in love, Mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.  
midst would show his grace, Bless - ings up - on them be-stow - ing.  
us his cov - e - nant, Grant-ing his chil - dren the king - dom.

5. Through all the passing year, O Lord,  
Grant that, when church bells are ringing,  
    Many may come to hear God's Word  
        Where he this promise is bringing:  
    I know my own, my own know me;  
You, not the world, my face shall see;  
    My peace I leave with you. Amen.

### **Dismissal**

(BCP, p. 366)

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

### **Postlude**

The flowers today are given in memory of Robert David Bonds by John Bonds.

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**Celebrant and Preacher**  
The Rev'd. Matthew Machowski

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**The Parish Prayer List**

**For Healing in Body, Mind, and Spirit**  
*Immediate Needs*  
Arthur, Jean, Michael

*Long Term Prayers*  
Aliceann, Anne, Brian, Joanna, Lara, Michael, Tom

*Family and Friends*  
Chris, Gareth, George, Kendall, Kent, Rhonda, Stacy, Wilma

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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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