

# THE FALLS CHURCH

*an Episcopal congregation*

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



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 10, 2023  
9:00 a.m.

Prelude      *Concerto in D Minor, Allegretto-Grave-Fugue, BWV 596*      J. S. Bach  
 (1685-1750)

THE WORD OF GOD

*The people stand.*

Opening Hymn

Here in this Place

Marty Haugen  
 (b. 1950)

1. Here in this place new light is stream - ing,  
 2. We are the young— our lives are a mys - t'ry,  
 3. Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter,  
 4. Not in the dark of build - ings con - fin - ing,

Now is the dark - ness van - ished a - way,  
 We are the old— who yearn for your face,  
 Here we will take the bread of new birth,  
 Not in some heav - en, light - years a - way, But

See in this space our fears and our dream-ings,  
 We have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,  
 Here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,  
 here in this place the new light is shin - ing,

Brought here to you in the light of this day.  
 Called to be light to the whole hu - man race.  
 Call us a - new to be salt for the earth.  
 Now is the King - dom, now is the day.

Gath - er us in— the lost and for - sak - en,  
 Gath - er us in— the rich and the haugh - ty,  
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion,  
 Gath - er us in and hold us for ev - er,

Gath - er us in— the blind and the lame;  
 Gath - er us in— the proud and the strong;  
 Give us to eat the bread that is you;  
 Gath - er us in and make us your own;

Call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,  
 Give us a heart so meek and so low - ly,  
 Nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion  
 Gath - er us in— all peo - ples to - geth - er,

We shall a - rise at the sound of our name.  
 Give us the cour-age to en - ter the song.  
 Lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.  
 Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

## 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

# Gloria

Robert J. Powell  
(b. 1932)

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly  
King, al - might - y 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.

*Celebrant*

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The people sit.*

## The First Lesson

Exodus 12:1-14

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over

you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

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

- 1 Alleluia! Sing to God a new song; \*  
sing praise in the congregation of the faithful.
- 2 Let the people of Israel rejoice in their Maker; \*  
let the children of Zion be joyful in their Monarch.
- 3 Let them praise God's Name in the dance; \*  
let them sing praise with timbrel and harp.
- 4 For God takes pleasure in the people \*  
and adorns the poor with victory.
- 5 Let the faithful rejoice in triumph; \*  
let them be joyful on their beds.
- 6 Let the praises of God be in their throat \*  
and a two-edged sword in their hand,
- 7 To wreak vengeance on the nations \*  
and punishment on the peoples;
- 8 To bind their rulers in chains \*  
and their nobles with links of iron;
- 9 To inflict on them the judgment decreed; \*  
this is glory for all God's faithful people. Alleluia!

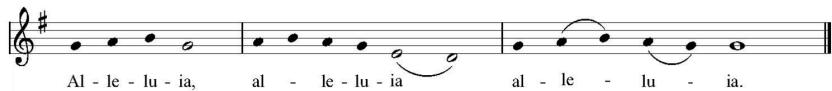
*The people stand.*

*Children are invited to follow the Crucifer into Nicolson Hall for Children's Chapel.*

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia

*Sung twice, first by the choir and then by all.*



## The Gospel

Matthew 18:15-20

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

Jesus said, “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

*Gospeler*      The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*        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.*

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;  
**That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;  
**That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons; for Michael, Mark, and Gayle, and for Burl and Matthew,  
**That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

We give thanks for the 150th anniversary of Falls Church Presbyterian Church, our long-standing partner in ministry.  
**That they may continue to prosper in your love.**

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;  
**That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
**That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble; especially Arthur, Carol, Jean, and Michael;  
**That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Give to the departed eternal rest, especially Muriel;  
**Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;  
**May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*Silence.*

*The People may add their own petitions.*

*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

## Commissioning Formation Leaders

God of all learning, grant our leaders an abundance of your wisdom. Prepare their hearts to welcome and love. Give them grace in their encounters, courage to face challenges, and strength when they feel weak. When they feel unseen, remind them we are overwhelmed with gratitude for the gifts they share with us. May they see how their dedication forever impacts generations. **Amen.**

## 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

### *Lord of the Dance*

Shaker Hymn  
arr. L.L. Fleming

Dance then wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance said he,  
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the Dance said he.

I danced in the morning when the world was begun, And I danced in the moon and  
the stars and the sun, And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth; At  
Bethlehem I had my birth. *Refrain*

I danced for the scribe and the pharisee. But they would not dance, and they would  
not follow me; I danced for the fishermen, for James and John, they came with me  
and the dance went on. *Refrain*

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black: It's hard to dance with the devil on  
your back. They buried my body and they thought I'd gone; But I am the Dance, and  
I still go on. Then they cut me down and I leapt up high, I am the life that will never,  
never die; I will live in you if you live in me, I am the Lord of the Dance said he.

*Refrain*

*During the offertory you are invited to make a gift to God's mission at The Falls Church through Realm (scan QR code over the page), 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/now](http://onrealm.org/thefallschurch/-/form/give/now) 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 679**   Surely it is God who saves me      Tune: *Thomas Merton*

**The Great Thanksgiving**      Eucharistic Prayer 1      (EOW, p. 57)

*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 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:

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.

*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.

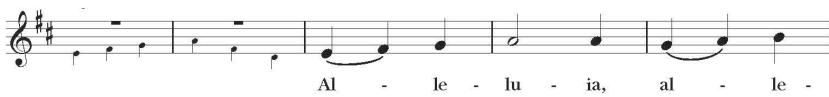
## The Breaking of the Bread

*A period of silence is kept.*

Fraction Anthem S-155

Jesus Lamb of God

Gerald Near  
(b.1942)



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is

sac - ri - ficed for us; There - fore let us keep the feast.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## 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.*

### Communion Music

“Jesus, I Adore Thee”

Tune: *Plainsong*  
Mode V (13th c.)  
setting by Stephen Caracciolo

Jesus, I adore thee, Word of truth and grace; Who in glory shineth light upon our  
race, Christ, to thee surrendered, my whole heart is bowed.  
Alpha and Omega, thou true Son of God.

### Hymn 606

Since the love of Christ  
has joined us in one body

Tune: *Ubi Caritas*

*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

The Wisdom of God. the Love of God and the Grace of God strengthen you to be  
Christ's hands and heart in this world, in the name of the Holy Trinity. **Amen.**

## Closing Hymn 412

Earth and all stars

Tune: *Earth and All Stars*

## Dismissal

(BCP, p. 366)

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

## Postlude

*Concerto in D Minor, Allegro Moderato, BWV 596*

J. S. Bach

(1685-1750)

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**Celebrant**

The Rev'd. Matthew Machowski

**Preacher**

The Rector

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**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**

Muriel Eleanor McCluskey Wilbur

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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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[vestry@thefallschurch.org](mailto:vestry@thefallschurch.org)

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