

THE FALLS CHURCH

an Episcopal congregation

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



Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
November 12, 2023
9:00 a.m.

Prelude

Prelude on "Picardy"

Leo Sowerby
(1895-1968)

THE WORD OF GOD

The people stand.

Opening Hymn 454

Jesus came, adored by angels
vv. 1 & 4

Tune: *Lowry*

Opening Acclamation

(EOW, p. 50)

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

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The people sit.

The First Lesson

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. “Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.” But Joshua said to the people, “You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God.

He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good.” And the people said to Joshua, “No, we will serve the Lord!” Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.” He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.” The people said to Joshua, “The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey.” So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

Psalm 78:1-7

Attendite, popule

- 1 Hear my teaching, O my people; *
 incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
- 2 I will open my mouth in a parable; *
 I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.
- 3 That which we have heard and known,
 and what our forebears have told us, *
 we will not hide from their children.
- 4 We will recount to generations to come
 your praiseworthy deeds and your power, O God, *
 and the wonderful works you have done.
- 5 You gave your decrees to Jacob
 and established a law for Israel, *
 which you commanded them to teach their children;
- 6 That the generations to come might know,
 and the children yet unborn, *
 that they in their turn might tell it to their children;
- 7 So that they might put their trust in you, *
 and not forget your deeds,
 but keep your commandments;

The people stand.

Children are invited to gather around the Gospeller for the proclamation of the Gospel.

Sequence Hymn 68

Rejoice, rejoice, believers

Tune: *Llangloffan*

The Gospel

Matthew 25:1-13

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

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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.

Gracious God, 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 pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world, especially for the leaders of Palestine and Israel, and those who live within their jurisdictions.
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 Ashley, Krista, Patricia, Terri and Robin.
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, either silently or aloud.

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.**

Welcome and Announcements

Welcoming of New Members of The Falls Church

The prospective members come to the Chancel steps with the Newcomers chair and face the Rector.

Sponsors I present to you these persons to be welcomed as members of The Falls Church.

Rector Have they been duly instructed in the meaning and importance of membership and the requirements of this commitment?

Sponsors They have.

Then the Rector addresses the Prospective Members with these words

Siblings in Christ, you have been brought into God's family, the Church, through the waters of Baptism at which time you or your parents committed to loving and serving our Lord Jesus Christ through prayer, worship, study, stewardship, and ministry. Now you come seeking to live out that baptismal covenant in this part of God's family at The Falls Church. You have been instructed in the requirements for membership and the opportunities for ministry.

Will you commit yourself to being a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ and a committed member of this Parish?

Prospective Members I will with God's help.

Rector The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Rector Let us pray.

Eternal God, it is only by your love that we are capable of loving and serving, and it is through the Church that we make your love known to one another and to the world: Bestow upon these your servants the grace and courage to love and serve you in their lives and to build up and strengthen this parish; through Jesus Christ, our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

In the name of God and of this Parish, I welcome you as members of The Falls Church.

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.

Offertory *Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning* Tune: *African American Spiritual*

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 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 380 *From all that dwell below the skies* Tune: *Old 100th*

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

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:

Sanctus S-129

Holy, holy, holy Lord

Robert J. Powell
(b. 1932)

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, as able.

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.

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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

Christ our Passover

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.

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 the communion rail 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 324

Let all mortal flesh keep silence

Tune: *Picardy*

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

Flowers are given in memory of Muriel Eleanor McCluskey Wilbur

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Celebrant

The Rev'd. Burl Salmon

Preacher

The Rev'd. Matthew Machowski

+ + + + +

The Parish Prayer List

For Healing in Body, Mind, and Spirit

Immediate Needs

Ashley, Krista, Patricia, Terri, Robin

Long Term Prayers

Anne, Brian, Bryan, Joanna, Lara, Lee, Michael

Family and Friends

Chris, Kendall

**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

Vestry

vestry@thefallschurch.org

Krista Gauthier (Senior Warden), Laura Davison Shepler (Junior Warden), Michael Ankuma, Heather Falen Ashby, Kathleen Bell, Matthew Harrington, Geoff Kannan, Louise Liebeskind, Barb Mantegani, Amy Marshak, Kofi McCleary, David Scharre, James Weatherly (Treasurer), Brandon Huffman (Registrar), Jason Matechak (Chancellor), Ava Liberatore (Youth Representative)

Clergy and Staff

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