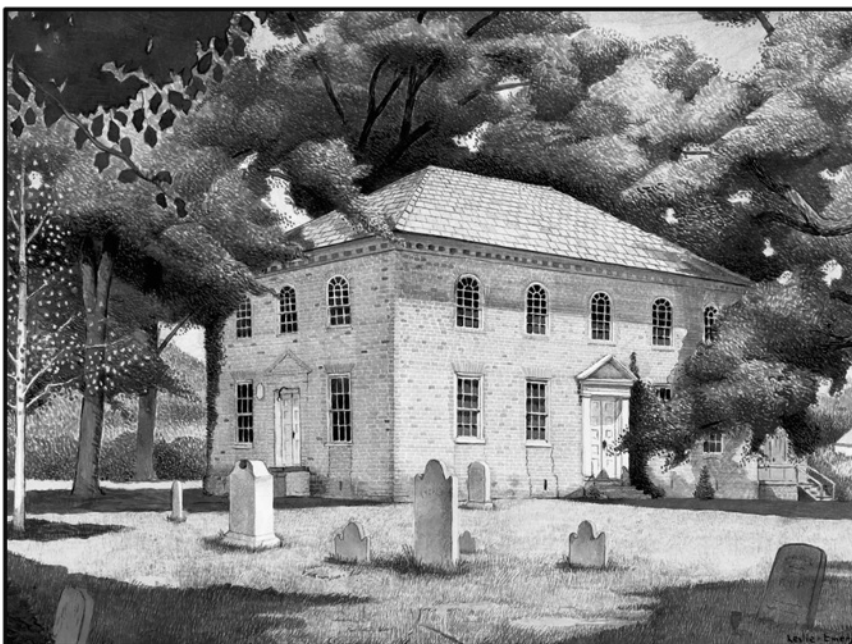


THE FALLS CHURCH

an Episcopal congregation

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



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 17, 2023
9:00 a.m.

Welcome to today's Instructed Eucharist! This unique service promises a brief sermon but adds a fascinating twist – short narrations that unravel the profound meaning behind our liturgical actions. You see, “liturgy” isn’t just a fancy word; it signifies “the work of the people.” It reminds us that when we gather to worship, it’s not a mere performance by a select few but a vibrant participation of all.

Sunday worship often leaves us curious. “Why do we do what we do?” “Can we choose our scripture readings?” “What’s the minister up to at the altar?” Today, your burning questions find their answers as we dive deep into the heart of our worship.

Get ready to engage actively in our liturgy, the collective work of the people of God. Allow the Spirit to mold us further into the likeness of Christ as we embark on this enlightening journey together. And remember, you’re invited to join our Adult Forum right after this service, where you can ask any questions that may arise during our time together. Your liturgical curiosity is warmly welcomed!

THE WORD OF GOD

The people stand.

Opening Hymn 397

Now thank we all our God
verses 1 & 3 only

Tune:
Nun danket alle Gott

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.**

Kyrie

Celebrant Lord have mercy.

People Christ have mercy.

Celebrant Lord have mercy.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; 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

Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God**

The Psalm

Psalm 114

In exitu Israel

- 1 Alleluia! When Israel came out of Egypt, *
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,
- 2 Judah became God's sanctuary *
and Israel God's dominion.
- 3 The sea beheld it and fled; *
Jordan turned and went back.
- 4 The mountains skipped like rams, *
and the little hills like young sheep.
- 5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled; *
O Jordan, that you turned back?
- 6 You mountains, that you skipped like rams; *
you little hills, like young sheep?
- 7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of God, *
at the presence of the God of Jacob,
- 8 Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water *
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

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.



Choir

We have an advocate, Jesus Christ the righteous; your sins are forgiven on account of his name. Alleluia.

The Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

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

Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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.

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 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,
Ashley, Ginger, and Kent;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest, especially Sean;
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.

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

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.

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 679 Surely it is God who saves me Tune: *Thomas Merton*
verse 1 only

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.*

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.

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

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

Have you heard God's Voice?

Jacqui G. Jones
words and music
arr. Frederick Chatfield

Have you heard God's voice; has your heart been stirred? Are you still prepared to follow? Have you made a choice to remain and serve, though the way be rough and narrow? Will you use your voice; will you not sit down when the multitudes are silent? Will you make a choice to stand your ground when the crowds are turning violent? Will you walk the path that will cost you much and embrace God's love and sorrow? Will you trust in One who entrusts to you the disciples of tomorrow? Will you watch the news with the eyes of faith and believe it could be different? Will you share your views using words of grace? Will you leave a thoughtful imprint? Will you walk the path that will cost you much and embrace God's love and sorrow? Will you trust in One who entrusts to you the disciples of tomorrow? In your city streets will you be God's heart? Will you listen to the voiceless? Will you stop and eat, and when friendships start, will you share your faith with the faithless? We will walk the path that will cost us much and embrace God's love and sorrow? Will you trust in One who entrusts to you the disciples of tomorrow? Have you heard God's voice; has your heart been stirred?

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

We are marching in the light of God

Tune: *Siyahamba*

We are march - ing in the light of God, we are
Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya -

march - ing in the light of God, We are march - ing in the
hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -

we are march - ing in the light of God._____
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos' -

light of God, we are march - ing in the light of, the
nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen, kha -

we are march - ing in the light of God._____
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'..

_____ We are march - ing _____
 _____ Si - ya - ham - ba _____

light of God. We are march - ing, march - ing, we are
 nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya -

_____ Oo _____ we are march - ing in the light of God _____
 _____ Oo _____ si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos' -

march - ing, march - ing, we are march - ing in the light of, the
 ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen, kha -

march - ing, we are march - ing in the light of, God. _____
 ham - ba, si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos' -

_____ We are march - ing _____
 _____ Si - ya - ham - ba _____

light of God. We are march - ing, march - ing we are
 nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - ham - be, ham - ba, si - ya -

— Oo —
— Oo —

march-ing, march-ing, we are march-ing in the light of God. —
ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'. —

Dismissal

(BCP, p. 366)

Gospeler
People

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

Postlude

Toccata Giocosa

William Mathias
(1934-1992)

+ + + + +

Celebrant
The Rector

Preacher and Narrator
The Rev'd. Matthew Machowski

+ + + + +

The Parish Prayer List

For Healing in Body, Mind, and Spirit
Immediate Needs
Arthur, Ashley, Ginger, Kent

Long Term Prayers
Aliccann, Anne, Brian, Elaine, Joanna, Lara, Michael, Michael, Tom

Family and Friends
Chris, Gareth, Kendall, Rhonda, Stacy, Wilma

For the Repose of the Soul of
Sean Foley

+ + + + +



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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