

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY
Mills River, North Carolina

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 19, 2026

Sacred Place +++ Sacred Space
Please observe silence after the altar candles are lit



PRE-SERVICE MUSIC *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*
Kim Robertson

PRELUDE *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* *Lloyd Larson*
A bell rings three times; the people stand. Hymns and service music are found in the blue 1982 Hymnals (H) and the purple Glory to God hymnals (GTG) They are in the racks under the chairs

PRESENTATION OF THE WORD

ENTRANCE HYMN **H #290** *Come, ye thankful people, come*
Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home:
all is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin;
God our Maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field, fruit unto his praise to yield;
wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown:
first the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear:
grant, O harvest Lord, that we wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take his harvest home;
from his field shall in that day all offenses purge away;
give his angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store in his garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come to thy final harvest home;
gather thou thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin;
there, forever purified, in thy presence to abide;
come, with all thine angels come, raise the glorious harvest home.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

COLLECT FOR PURITY 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.

SONG OF PRAISE *GTG #582 Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Genesis 28:10-19a

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the

LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!” And he was afraid, and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.” So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

PSALM 139: 1-11, 22-23

¹LORD, you have searched me out and known me; *
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.

²**You trace my journeys and my resting-places *
and are acquainted with all my ways.**

³Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, *
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.

⁴**You press upon me behind and before *
and lay your hand upon me.**

⁵Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; *
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

⁶**Where can I go then from your Spirit? *
where can I flee from your presence?**

⁷If I climb up to heaven, you are there; *
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

⁸**If I take the wings of the morning *
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,**

⁹Even there your hand will lead me *
and your right hand hold me fast.

¹⁰**If I say, “Surely the darkness will cover me, *
and the light around me turn to night,”**

¹¹Darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day; *

darkness and light to you are both alike.

²²**Search me out, O God, and know my heart; *
try me and know my restless thoughts.**

²³Look well whether there be any wickedness in me *
and lead me in the way that is everlasting.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-25

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN

H #705 As those of old their first fruits brought

Unison or harmony

1 As those of old their first fruits brought of vine - yard, flock, and
 *2 A world in need now sum - mons us to la - bor, love, and
 3 With grat - i - tude and hum - ble trust we bring our best to

field to God, the giv - er of all good, the
 give; to make our life an of - fer - ing to
 thee to serve thy cause and share thy love with

source of bount-eous yield; so we to - day our
 God that all may live; the Church of Christ is
 all hu - man - i - ty. O thou who gav - est

first fruits bring, the wealth of this good land, of
 call - ing us to make the dream come true: a
 us thys - elf in Je - sus Christ thy Son, help

farm and mar - ket, shop and home, of mind, and heart, and hand.
 world re-deemed by Christ - like love; all life in Christ made new.
 us to give our - selves each day un - til life's work is done.

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
 according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

[Another parable Jesus put before the crowds:] “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds

you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'” Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

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

THE SERMON The Rev. Tracey Kelly

THE NICENE 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

Leader Sisters and brothers, children of God, let us come before the Most High with humility, saying, "Holy God, we lift our voices to you; **Holy God, hear the prayers of your people.**"

Celebrant Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord 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.

GATHERING

GTG #657 Sing to God, with Joy and Gladness

Sing to God, with Joy and Gladness

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The first staff is marked 'Refrain' and ends with a double bar line. The second staff ends with a double bar line and the word 'Fine'. The third staff begins with a '1.' and ends with a double bar line. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line and the words 'to Refrain'.

Refrain

Sing to God, with joy and glad-ness, hymns and psalms of grat-i-tude;

with the voice of praise dis-cov-er that to wor-ship God is good.

Fine

1. God u-nites the scat-tered peo-ple, gath-ers those who wan-dered far,

heals the hurt and bro-ken spir-its, tend-ing ev-ery wound and scar.

to Refrain

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

OFFERTORY *The Reign of God, like Farmer's Field* *Marieanne Kim*

PRESENTATION HYMN

GTG #501 Feed Us, Lord

Feed us, Lord. Feed us, Lord
In the broken bread, be revealed again.
Come and feed our hearts, O Lord.

Quench us, Lord. Quench us, Lord.
On this thirsty ground, may your love flow down.
Come and quench our hearts, O Lord.

Fill us, Lord. Fill us, Lord,
with the bread and wine of the risen Christ.
Come and fill our hearts, O Lord.

Lead us, Lord. Lead us, Lord,
nourished here by Christ, given strength for life.
Come and lead our hearts, O Lord.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS

WLP # 858 Holy, holy, holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, heaven 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he 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 shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

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, forever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

FRACTION ANTHEM

WLP #865 Christ our Passover



COMMUNION INVITATION

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

(The bread and wine are given to the people. Please indicate that you would prefer a gluten-free wafer by placing your hands with palms together when you come up to receive Communion.)

COMMUNION HYMN *H #455 O Love of God, how strong and true*

O love of God, how strong and true, eternal and yet ever new;
uncomprehended and unbought, beyond all knowledge and all thought.

O wide embracing, wondrous Love, we read thee in the sky above;
we read thee in the earth below, in seas that swell and streams that
flow.

We read thee best in him who came to bear for us the cross of shame,
sent by the Father from on high, our life to live, our death to die.

We read thy power to bless and save e'en in the darkness of the grave;
still more in resurrection light we read the fullness of thy might.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living
members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with
spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into
the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve
you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

BLESSING

RECESSIONAL HYMN

GTG# 714 God of the Fertile Fields

God of the fertile fields, shaper of earth that yields our daily bread:
forth from your bounteous hand come gifts your love has planned,
that all in every land be clothed and fed.

We would be stewards true, holding in trust from you all that you give;
help us in love to share, teach us like you to care,
for people everywhere, that all may live.

As grows the hidden seed to fruit that serves our need, so your reign
grows. Let all our toil be used, no gift of yours abused,
no humble task refused your love bestows.

God of the countryside, dear to the Christ who died to make us one:
we pledge our lives anew in faithful love to you.
Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

DISMISSAL/COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Gentle Yoga with Kelly, 10:00 on Fridays

Congregational Outreach Meeting, Sun., July 19, 12:15 pm

Mountain Folk Harpers/NC Arboretum, Sat. July 25th, 12-2:00 pm

Men's Breakfast, Mills River Restaurant, Sat. Aug. 1st, 9:00 am

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