

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY
Mills River, North Carolina
The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 6, 2026

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



PRESENTATION OF THE WORD

PRELUDE

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.

ENTRANCE HYMN *H #433 We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing*

Musical notation for the Entrance Hymn H #433. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has three lines of lyrics. The second staff has two lines. The third staff has two lines. The fourth staff has two lines.

1 We gath - er to - geth - er to ask the Lord's bless - ing;
2 Be - side us to guide us, our God with us join - ing,
3 We all do ex - tol thee, thou lead - er tri - um - phant,

he chas - tens and has - tens his will to make known;
or - dain - ing, main - tain - ing his king - dom di - vine;
and pray that thou still our de - fend - er wilt be.

the wick - ed op - press - ing now cease from dis - tress - ing;
so from the be - gin - ning the fight we were win - ning;
Let thy con - gre - ga - tion es - cape trib - u - la - tion:

sing prais - es to his Name; he for - gets not his own.
thou, Lord, wast at our side; all glo - ry be thine!
thy Name be ev - er praised! O — Lord, make us free!

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 #402 How Lovely, Lord

How lovely, Lord, how lovely is your abiding place.
my soul is longing, fainting, to feast upon your grace.
The sparrow finds a shelter, a place to build her nest;
and so your temple calls us within its walls to rest.

In your blest courts to worship, O God, a single day
is better than a thousand if I from you should stray.
I'd rather keep the entrance and claim you as my Lord
than revel in the riches the ways of sin afford.

A sun and shield forever are you, O Lord Most High;
you shower us with blessings; no good will you deny.
The saints, your grace receiving, from strength to strength shall go,
and from their life shall rivers of blessing overflow.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

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.**

FIRST READING: Exodus 12:1-14

A reading from the book of Exodus.

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.

PSALM 149

¹Hallelujah!

Sing to the LORD a new song; *

sing his praise in the congregation of the faithful.

²Let Israel rejoice in his Maker; *

let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.

³Let them praise his Name in the dance; *
 let them sing praise to him with timbrel and harp.
⁴**For the LORD takes pleasure in his people ***
and adorns the poor with victory.
⁵Let 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;
⁷To wreak vengeance on the nations *
 and punishment on the peoples;
⁸**To bind their kings in chains ***
and their nobles with links of iron;
⁹To inflict on them the judgment decreed; *
 this is glory for all his faithful people.
 Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-14

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

<i>Reader</i>	The Word of the Lord.
<i>People</i>	Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN

H #490 I want to walk as a child of the light

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a common time signature. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing beamed eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the staff, with line numbers 1, 2, and 3 indicating different parts of the hymn. The score includes a refrain and a final section marked 'a tempo'.

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
 2 I want to see the bright - ness of God.
 3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.

I want to fol - low Je - sus.
 I want to look at Je - sus.
 I want to be with Je - sus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The
 Clear sun of right - eous - ness, shine on my path, and
 When we have run with pa - tience the race, we

star of my life is Je - sus.
 show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain

In him there is no dark - ness at all. The
 night and the day are both a - like. The
 Lamb is the light of the ci - ty of God.

a tempo

Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20

Deacon 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."

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, the Lord is full of compassion and mercy.
Let us pray to the Lord singing,



7

All shall be well. All shall be well.

All man - ner of things shall be well. All shall be well.

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.**

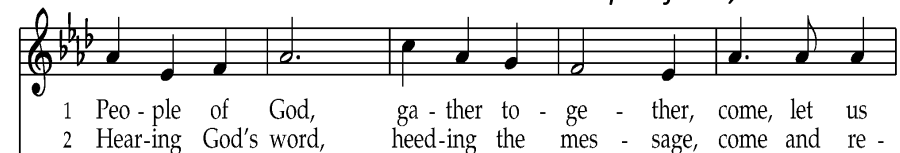
THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

GATHERING

VF #109 *People of God, Vs. 1-2*



1 Peo - ple of God, ga - ther to - ge - ther, come, let us
2 Hear - ing God's word, heed - ing the mes - sage, come and re -

sing on this glo - rious day. Shout-ing a - broad
joice as we an - swer the call. With one ac - cord,

praise to the Mak - er, come and with bo - dy and soul let us pray.
made in God's im - age, come in com - mu - ni - ty, wel - com - ing all.

Refrain

Come, let us join in the hea - ven - ly dance,

prais - ing in joy - ous ce - le - bra - tion.

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

PRESENTATION HYMN

LEVAS #146 Break Thou the Bread of Life

1. Break thou the bread of life, Dear Lord, to me,
2. Bless thou the truth, dear Lord, To me, to me,
3. Teach me to live, dear Lord, On - ly for thee,

1. As thou didst break the loaves Be - side the sea;
2. As thou didst bless the bread By Gal - i - lee;
3. As thy dis - ci - ples lived in Gal - i - lee;

1. Be - yond the sa - cred page I seek thee, Lord;
 2. Then shall all bond - age cease, All fet - ters fall,
 3. Then, all my strug - gles o'er, Then, vic - t'ry won,

1. My spir - it pants for thee, O liv - ing word!
 2. And I shall find my peace, My all in all.
 3. I shall be - hold thee, Lord, The liv - ing one.

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.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

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.

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, 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."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, 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.”

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **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 #876 The disciples knew the Lord Jesus

Antiphon
Cantor, then all



Fine *Verses*

— of the bread.

1. The bread which we break, Al - le - lu -
2. One bo - dy are we, Al - le - lu -



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

GTG #529 Draw us in the Spirit's Tether

Draw us in the Spirit's tether, for when humbly

in your name two or three are met together,

you are in the midst of them.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Here we touch your garment's hem.

As disciples used to gather in the name of

Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the giver

break the bread and bless the cup,

Alleluia! Alleluia! so now bind our friendship up.

All our meals and all our living make as

sacraments of you, that by caring, helping, giving,

we may be disciples true.

Alleluia! Alleluia! We will serve with faith anew.

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

H# 460 Alleluia! sing to Jesus



1 Al - le - lu - ia! sing to Je - sus! his the
 *2 Al - le - lu - ia! not as or - phans are we
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! bread of Hea - ven, Thou on
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! King c - ter - nal, thee the
 *5 Al - le - lu - ia! sing to Je - sus! his the



1 scep - ter, his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the
 2 left in sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is
 3 earth our food, our stay! Al - le - lu - ia! here the
 4 Lord of lords we own: Al - le - lu - ia! born of
 5 scep - ter, his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the



1 tri - umph, his the vic - to - ry a - lone; Hark! the
 2 near us, faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how: though the
 3 sin - ful flee to thee from day to day: In - ter -
 4 Ma - ry, earth thy foot - stool, heaven thy throne: thou with -
 5 tri - umph, his the vic - to - ry a - lone; Hark! the



1 songs of peace - ful Zi - on thun - der like a
 2 cloud from sight re - ceived him, when the for - ty
 3 ces - sor, friend of sin - ners, earth's Re - deem - er,
 4 in the veil hast en - tered, robed in flesh, our
 5 songs of ho - ly Zi - on thun - der like a



1 might - y flood; Je - sus out of ev - ery
 2 days were o'er, shall our hearts for - get his
 3 plead for me, where the songs of all the
 4 great High Priest: thou on earth both Priest and
 5 might - y flood; Je - sus out of ev - every



1 na - tion hath re - deemed us by his blood.
 2 prom - ise, "I am with you ev - er - more?"
 3 sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
 4 Vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.
 5 na - tion hath re - deemed us by his blood.

DISMISSAL

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Sewing pillowcases for Safelight shelter, Sat. Sept. 12, 10 am

Bible Study starts Sun. Sept. 13, 9:15 am

Blessing of the Backpacks, Sept. 13 during church

Vestry meeting, Sun., Sept. 13, 12:15 pm

The Next Chapter: Practical guidance for aging with confidence, purpose, and hope, Tues., Sept. 15, 11:30 am

Grill and Chill, Thurs., Sept. 17, 6:00pm

Hendersonville Hunger Walk, Sat., Sept. 19, 8 am

Guest Choir from St. James, Charlotte, Sun., Sept. 20, 10:45 am

Blessing of the Animals, Sun., Oct. 4. 4:00 pm at Bold Rock

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