

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY
Mills River, North Carolina
The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 2026

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



PRELUDE *Trust and Obey*

Arr. Matt Schinske

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 #555 Lead on, O King eternal

The musical notation is written on four staves. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are primarily quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are aligned with the notes.

1 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, the day of march has come;
2 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
3 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal: we fol - low, not with fears;

hence - forth in fields of con - quest thy tents shall be our home:
and ho - li - ness shall whis - per the sweet a - men of peace;
for glad - ness breaks like morn - ing wher - e'er thy face ap - pears.

through days of prep - a - ra - tion thy grace has made us strong,
for not with swords loud clash - ing, nor roll of stir - ring drums,
Thy cross is lift - ed o'er us; we jour - ney in its light:

and now, O King e - ter - nal, we lift our bat - tle song.
but deeds of love and mer - cy, the heav - en - ly king - dom comes.
the crown a - waits the con - quest; lead on, O God of might!

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed be our God.
People For ever and ever. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE

GTG #605 Praise to God the Father

Praise to God the Father; praise to God the Son;
praise to God the Spirit: praise to the Three -in-One.
Sing praise. sing praise to the Lord on high.
Praise to God Almighty; praise to the Holy One.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Exodus 17:1-7

A reading from the book of Exodus.

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the

people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

<i>Reader</i>	Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
<i>People</i>	Thanks be to God.

PSALM 78:1-4, 12-16

- ¹Hear 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.
- ³That which we have heard and known,
 and what our forefathers have told us, *
 we will not hide from their children.
- ⁴**We will recount to generations to come**
 the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, *
 and the wonderful works he has done.
- ¹²He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, *
 in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.
- ¹³**He split open the sea and let them pass through; ***
 he made the waters stand up like walls.
- ¹⁴He led them with a cloud by day, *
 and all the night through with a glow of fire.
- ¹⁵**He split the hard rocks in the wilderness ***
 and gave them drink as from the great deep.
- ¹⁶He brought streams out of the cliff, *
 and the waters gushed out like rivers.

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13

A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians.

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,

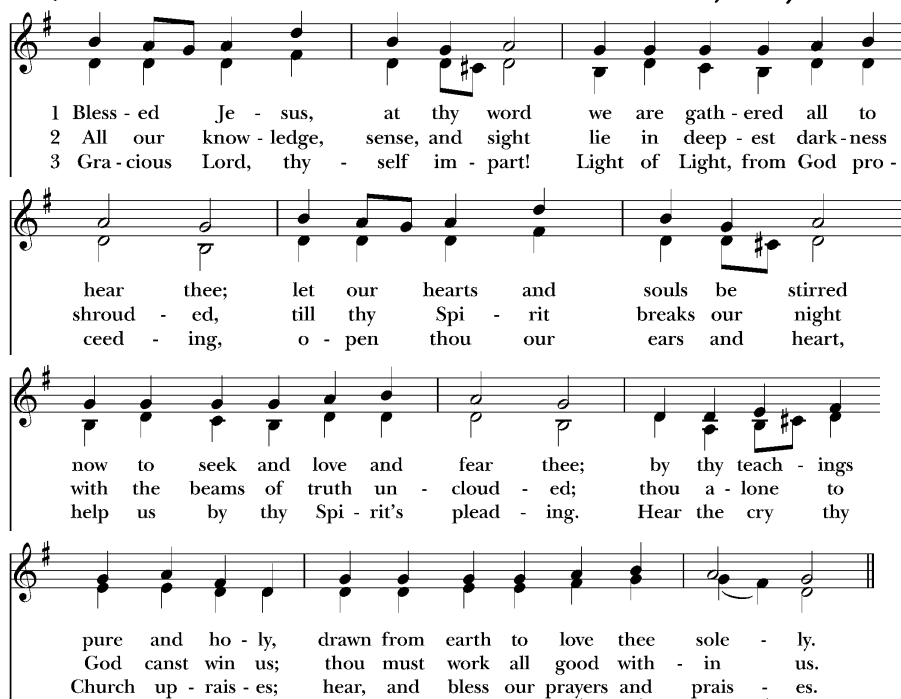
but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People *Thanks be to God.*

SEQUENCE HYMN

H #440 Bless'd Jesus, at thy word



1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at thy word we are gath - ered all to
 2 All our know - ledge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est dark - ness
 3 Gra - cious Lord, thy - self im - part! Light of Light, from God pro -

hear thee; let our hearts and souls be stirred
 shroud - ed, till thy Spi - rit breaks our night
 ceed - ing, o - pen thou our ears and heart,

now to seek and love and fear thee; by thy teach - ings
 with the beams of truth un - cloud - ed; thou a - lone to
 help us by thy Spi - rit's plead - ing. Hear the cry thy

pure and ho - ly, drawn from earth to love thee sole - ly.
 God canst win us; thou must work all good with - in us.
 Church up - rais - es; hear, and bless our prayers and prais - es.

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

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

People ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

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, we humbly bring our prayers before God saying, "We lift our hearts and voices to you; **hear us, good Lord.**"

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 to God.

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.

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 Christ be always with you.
People And also with you.

GATHERING

GTG #504 *We Come as Guests Invited*

We come as guests invited when Jesus bids us dine,
his friends on earth united to share the bread and wine;
the bread of life is broken; the wine is freely poured
for us, in solemn token of Christ our dying Lord.

We eat and drink, receiving from Christ the grace we need,
and in our hearts believing on him by faith we feed;
with wonder and thanksgiving for love that knows no end,
we find in Jesus living our ever present friend.

One bread is our for sharing, one single fruitful vine,
our fellowship declaring renewed in bread and wine.
renewed, sustained, and given by token, sign, and word,
the pledge and seal of heaven, the love of Christ our Lord.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

OFFERTORY *Have Thine Own Way, Lord*

Arr. Brad Nix

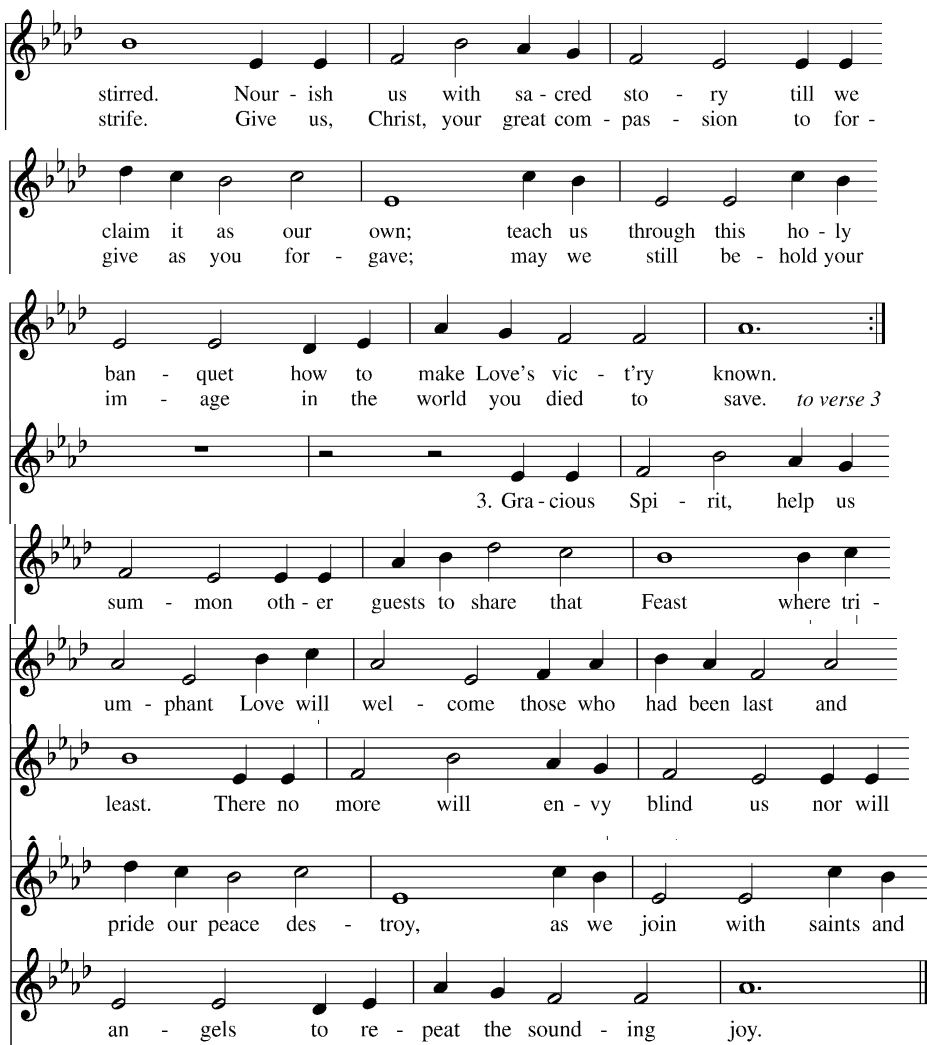
PRESENTATION HYMN

WLP #763 *As we gather at your table*

1. As we gath - er at your
2. Turn our wor - ship in - to

Ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your Word, help us
wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life; send us

know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be
forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is



stirred. Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we
strife. Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for -

claim it as our own; teach us through this ho - ly
give as you for - gave; may we still be - hold your

ban - quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
im - age in the world you died to save. *to verse 3*

3. Gra - cious Spi - rit, help us

sum - mon oth - er guests to share that Feast where tri -

um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and

least. There no more will en - vy blind us nor will

pride our peace des - troy, as we join with saints and

an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

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 our thanks and praise.

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

SANCTUS



Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, an offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me." And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Dying, you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

FRACTION ANTHEM

GTG# 604 Lamb of God



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 # 685 Rock of ages, cleft for me

1 Rock of a - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
2 Should my tears for ev - er flow, should my zeal no lan - guor know,
3 While I draw this fleet-ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,
let the wa - ter and the blood from thy wound - ed side that flowed,
all for sin could not a - tone: thou must save, and thou a - lone;
when I rise to worlds un - known and be - hold thee on thy throne,
be of sin the dou - ble cure, cleanse me from its guilt and power.
in my hand no price I bring, sim - ply to thy cross I cling.
Rock of a - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

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.

BLESSING

RECESSIONAL HYMN

H# 474 When I survey the wondrous cross

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross where the young
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were an
Prince of Glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
cross of Christ, my God: all the vain things that
love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and
of - fering far too small; love so a - maz - ing,
count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

DISMISSAL

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Bible Study Sundays, 9:15 am

Men's Breakfast, Sat. Oct.3, 9:00 am, Mills River Restaurant

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

Vestry Meeting, Sun. Oct. 11, 12:15 pm

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