

**THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY**  
Mills River, North Carolina  
**The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**September 1, 2024**

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



**PRELUDE** *The Wonder of the Cross*

*Arr. Kenon D. Renfrow*

*A bell rings three times; the people stand.*

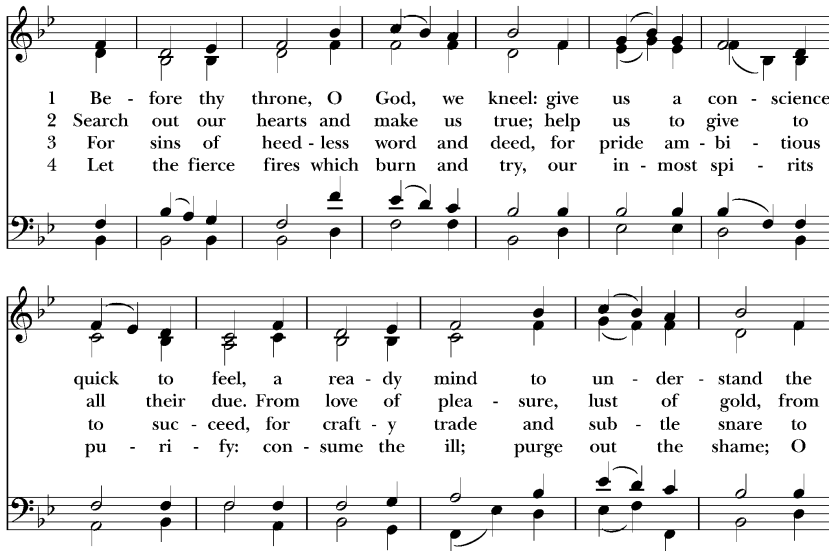
*Hymns and service music are found in the blue 1982 Hymnals (H) and the purple Glory to God hymnals (GTG) They are in the racks under the chairs.*

**PRESENTATION OF THE WORD**

**ENTRANCE HYMN**

**H #574**

*Before thy throne, O God, we kneel*



1 Be - fore thy throne, O God, we kneel: give us a con - science  
2 Search out our hearts and make us true; help us to give to  
3 For sins of heed - less word and deed, for pride am - bi - tious  
4 Let the fierce fires which burn and try, our in - most spi - rits

quick to feel, a rea - dy mind to un - der - stand the  
all their due. From love of plea - sure, lust of gold, from  
to suc - ceed, for craft - y trade and sub - tle snare to  
pu - ri - fy: con - sume the ill; purge out the shame; O

mean - ing of thy chas - tening hand; what - e'er the pain and  
 sins which make the heart grow cold, wean us and train us  
 catch the sim - ple un - a - ware, for lives be - left of  
 God, be with us in the flame; a new - born peo - ple

shame may be, bring us, O Fa - ther, near - er thee.  
 with thy rod; teach us to know our faults, O God.  
 pur - pose high, for - give, for - give, O Lord, we cry.  
 may we rise, more pure, more true, more no - bly wise.

**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.

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you. You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today? But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

*Reader*                The Word of the Lord.

*People*                **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 15

<sup>1</sup>LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? \*  
**who may abide upon your holy hill?**

<sup>2</sup>Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, \*  
**who speaks the truth from his heart.**

<sup>3</sup>There is no guile upon his tongue;  
he does no evil to his friend; \*  
**he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.**

<sup>4</sup>In his sight the wicked is rejected, \*  
**but he honors those who fear the LORD.**

<sup>5</sup>He has sworn to do no wrong \*  
**and does not take back his word.**

<sup>6</sup>He does not give his money in hope of gain, \*  
**nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.**

<sup>7</sup>Whoever does these things \*  
**shall never be overthrown.**

## **SECOND READING: James 1:17-27**

A reading from the letter of James.

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

**SEQUENCE HYMN**

*H #656 Blest are the pure in heart*

1 Blest are the pure in heart, for they shall see our God; the  
2 The Lord, who left the heavens our life and peace to bring, to  
3 he to the low - ly soul will still him - self im - part and  
4 Lord, we thy pres - ence seek; may ours this bless - ing be; give

se - cret of the Lord is theirs, their soul is Christ's a - bode.  
dwell in low - li - ness with us, our pat - tern and our King;  
for his dwell - ing and his throne will choose the pure in heart.  
us a pure and low - ly heart, a tem - ple fit for thee.

**GOSPEL: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23**

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

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

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?"<sup>6</sup> He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition." Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside

a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.” For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

*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 saying, “God of love .... **Hear our prayer.**”

*Celebrant*    God of mercy, you have given us grace to pray with one heart and one voice; and have promised to hear the prayers of two or three who gather in your name. Fulfil now, we pray, the prayers and longings of your people as may be best for us and for your kingdom. Grant us in this world to know your truth, and in the world to come to see your glory. **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


### VF #109 People of God



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 -  
3 Bear - ing your gifts, en - ter God's pre - sence; come, let us  
4 Wo - men and men, har - mo - ny blend - ing, come, swell the



sing on this glo - rious day. Shout - ing a - broad  
joice as we an - swer the call. With one ac - cord,  
share in the hea - ven - ly feast. Mend - ing all rifts,  
cho - rus in lov - ing ac - cord. Rais - ing a - gain



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.  
heal - ing di - vi - sions, come and from sor - rows and hurts be re - leased.  
thanks ne - ver end - ing, come to the God who is Wis - dom and Word.

*Refrain*



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



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## 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** *My Heart is Filled with Thankfulness* Arr. James Koertz

### 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.

The musical score is written in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a whole rest followed by a series of chords. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The second staff continues the melody and accompaniment. The third staff includes the phrase '\* Bless - ed' with an asterisk. The fourth and fifth staves conclude the piece with a double bar line.

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,

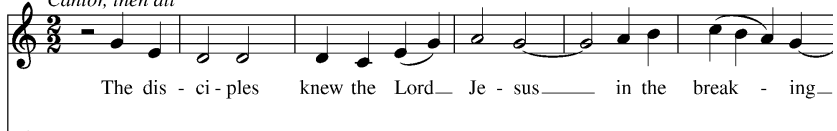
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

#### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

## FRACTION ANTHEM

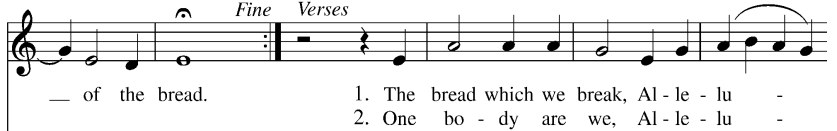
WLP # 876 *The disciples knew the Lord Jesus*

*Antiphon*  
*Cantor, then all*



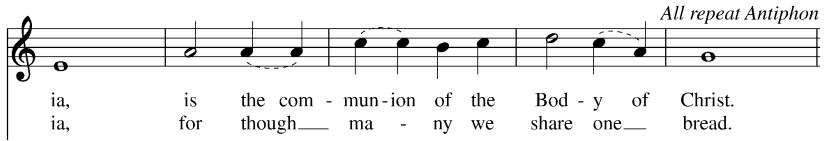
The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus in the break - ing

*Fine Verses*



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

*All repeat Antiphon*



ia, is the com - mun - ion of the Bod - y of Christ.  
ia, for though ma - ny we share one bread.

## 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

WLP # 779 *The church of Christ in every age*

The church of Christ in every age, beset by change by spirit led,  
must claim and test its heritage and keep on rising from the dead.

Across the world, across the street, the victims of injustice cry  
for shelter and for bread to eat and never live until they die.

Then let the servant church arise. A caring church that longs to be  
a partner in Christ's sacrifice, and clothed in Christ's humanity.

For Christ alone, whose blood was shed, can cure the fever in our blood.  
And teach us how to share our bread and feed the starving multitude.

We have no mission but to serve in full obedience to our Lord:  
to care for all without reserve. And spread Christ's liberating word.

## 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 #556 Rejoice, ye pure in heart verses 1-5*

1 Re - joice, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing! Your  
 2 With all the an - gel choirs, with all the saints of earth, pour  
 3 Your clear ho - san - nas raise, and al - le - lu - ias loud; while  
 4 Yes, on through life's long path, still chant - ing as ye go, from  
 5 Still lift your stand - ard high, still march in firm ar - ray, as

1 glo - rious ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.  
 2 out the strains of joy and bliss, true rap - ture, no - blest mirth.  
 3 an - swer - ing ech - oes up - ward float, like wreaths of in - cense cloud.  
 4 youth to age, by night and day, in glad - ness and in woe.  
 5 war - riors through the dark - ness toil, till dawns the gold - en day.

*Refrain*

Re - joice, re - joice, re - joice, give thanks, and sing.  
 re - joice, re - joice,

**DISMISSAL/COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Yoga with Kelly, Fri. Sept. 13, 20, and 27 10:00 am

Worship on Wednesdays (WOW!), Sept 4, 6:00-7:30 pm, Mills River Presbyterian

Outreach Committee Meeting, Tues. Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 pm

Men's Group, Sat. Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> , 9:00 am, Mills River Restaurant

Women's Group, Sat. Sept. 14, 10:00 am

Vestry Meeting, Sun. Sept. 8th, 12:15 pm

Grill and Chill, Thursday, Sept. 19, 6:30 pm

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