

**THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY**  
Mills River, North Carolina  
**The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**September 22, 2024**

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



**PRELUDE** *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*

*Zach Unke*

*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 #482 Lord of All Hopefulness*



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,  
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,  
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,  
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy,  
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,  
your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace,  
whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm,



be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,  
be there at our lab - ors, and give us, we pray,  
be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,  
be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.  
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.  
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.  
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

### 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, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus

Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**FIRST READING: Wisdom 1:16--2:1, 12-22**

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

The ungodly by their words and deeds summoned death; considering him a friend, they pined away and made a covenant with him, because they are fit to belong to his company. For they reasoned unsoundly, saying to themselves, "Short and sorrowful is our life, and there is no remedy when a life comes to its end, and no one has been known to return from Hades. "Let us lie in wait for the righteous man, because he is inconvenient to us and opposes our actions; he reproaches us for sins against the law, and accuses us of sins against our training. He professes to have knowledge of God, and calls himself a child of the Lord. He became to us a reproof of our thoughts; the very sight of him is a burden to us, because his manner of life is unlike that of others, and his ways are strange. We are considered by him as something base, and he avoids our ways as unclean; he calls the last end of the righteous happy, and boasts that God is his father. Let us see if his words are true, and let us test what will happen at the end of his life; for if the righteous man is God's child, he will help him, and will deliver him from the hand of his adversaries. Let us test him with insult and torture, so that we may find out how gentle he is, and make trial of his forbearance. Let us condemn him to a shameful death, for, according to what he says, he will be protected." Thus they reasoned, but they were led astray, for their wickedness blinded them, and they did not know the secret purposes of God, nor hoped for the wages of holiness, nor discerned the prize for blameless souls.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

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

**PSALM 54**

<sup>1</sup>Save me, O God, by your Name; \*  
**in your might, defend my cause.**

<sup>2</sup>Hear my prayer, O God; \*  
**give ear to the words of my mouth.**

<sup>3</sup>For the arrogant have risen up against me,  
and the ruthless have sought my life, \*  
**those who have no regard for God.**

<sup>4</sup>Behold, God is my helper; \*  
it is the Lord who sustains my life.

<sup>5</sup>Render evil to those who spy on me; \*  
in your faithfulness, destroy them.

<sup>6</sup>I will offer you a freewill sacrifice \*  
and praise your Name, O LORD, for it is good.

<sup>7</sup>For you have rescued me from every trouble, \*  
and my eye has seen the ruin of my foes.

## SECOND READING: James 3:13--4:3, 7-8a

A reading from the letter of James.

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace. <sup>1</sup>Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? <sup>2</sup>You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

*People*            Thanks be to God.

## SEQUENCE HYMN

### *H #698 Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ*



1 E - ter - nal Spi - rit of the liv - ing Christ,  
2 Come, pray in me the prayer I need this day;  
3 Come with the vi - sion and the strength I need

I know not how to ask or what to say;  
 help me to see your pur - pose and your will—  
 to serve my God, and all hu - man - i - ty;

I on - ly know my need, as deep as life,  
 where I have failed, what I have done a - miss;  
 ful - fill - ment of my life in love out - poured—

and on - ly you can teach me how to pray.  
 held in for - giv - ing love, let me be still.  
 my life in you, O Christ, your love in me.

**GOSPEL: Mark 9:30-37**

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

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

[Jesus and the disciples] passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him. Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

*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  
 joyce 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,

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

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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 *Children of the Heavenly Father*

*Sean Paul*

### 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

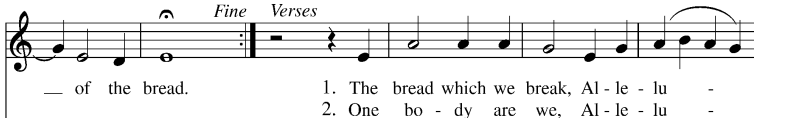
#### FRACTION ANTHEM WLP #876 *The disciples knew the Lord Jesus*

*Antiphon*  
*Cantor, then all*



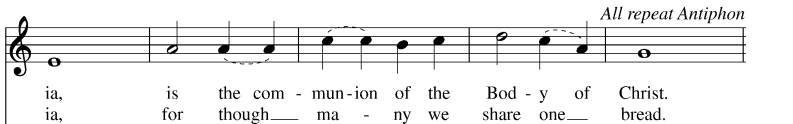
The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord\_ Je - sus\_ in the break - ing\_

*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

*GTG #839 Blessed Assurance*

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

### *Refrain:*

**This is my story; this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;  
this is my story; this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.**

Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst in my sight; angels descending, bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *Refrain*

Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest, watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love. *Refrain*

## 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 #703 Jesus, thy boundless love to me*

Jesus, thy boundless love to me no thought can reach, no tongue declare;

O knit my thankful heart to thee, and reign without a rival there!  
Thine wholly, thine alone, I'd live; myself to thee entirely give.

O grant that nothing in my soul my dwell, but thy pure love alone;  
O may thy love possess me whole, my joy, my treasure, and my crown!

All coldness from my heart remove; may every act, word, thought be love.

O Love, how gracious is thy way! All fear before thy presence flies;  
care, anguish, sorrow melt away where'er thy healing beams arise.  
O Jesus, nothing may I see, nothing desire, or seek, but thee.

## **DISMISSAL/COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Yoga with Kelly, Fri. Sept 27<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am

Worship on Wednesdays (WOW!), Sept 25, 6:00-7:30 pm, Mills River Presbyterian

Men's Group, Sat. Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am, Mills River Restaurant

Women's Group, Sat. Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am

Blessing of the Animals, Sun. Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>, 4 pm

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