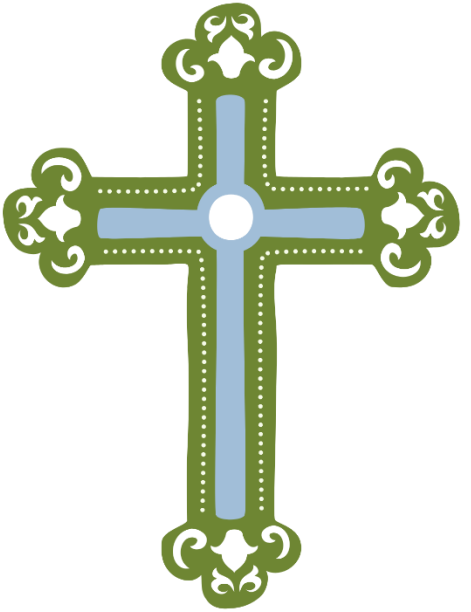
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 16

August 23, 2026, 10:00 AM



Welcome to Grace Church – we are glad you are here! Whether you are a regular attender or first-time visitor, we hope today you find here a place to draw close to God. We welcome all as we gather to seek God through word, prayer, & sacrament. We seek to fulfill our baptismal commitment to love, serve & treat each person with dignity. Service information is found in this leaflet; additionally, we use the red Book of Common Prayer & the blue Hymnal in your pew. We have a PrayGround available to children and families - please stay with your child & enjoy this space as our encouragement for your little ones to participate in the Service.

Please know we are available to support you on your spiritual journey.

Hearing assistance is available; please ask an usher.

Grace Episcopal Church

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Prelude *Invention No. 1* by C. Harker

Opening Hymn 387 *We sing of God* Magdalen College

THE WORD OF GOD *The Book of Common Prayer,* page 355

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

The 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.**

The Gloria S202

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

The Collect of the Day

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

The First Reading **Exodus 1:8-2:10**

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the

birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live." But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?" The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live."

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

Lector The Word of The Lord. *People* **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 124

Please join in reading responsively by whole verse.

If the Lord had not been on our side,
let Israel now say;

If the Lord had not been on our side,
when enemies rose up against us;

Then would they have swallowed us up alive
in their fierce anger toward us;

Then would the waters have overwhelmed us
and the torrent gone over us;

Then would the raging waters
have gone right over us.

Blessed be the Lord!
he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.

We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler;
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

Our help is in the Name of the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.

The Second Reading **Romans 12:1-8**

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-- what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Lector The Word of The Lord. *People* **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

Sequence Hymn 530 *Spread, spread, thy mighty word* Gott sei dank

The Holy Gospel **Matthew 16:13-20**

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the

kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Erin Pickersgill

The Nicene Creed

Please stand as you are able.

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.

Prayers of the People

We invite you to kneel as you are able.

Celebrant Holy and Blessed One, you have revealed yourself through your Son Jesus Christ as a God of compassion and love: Inspire the church to live in your Spirit as witnesses to your goodness, as we pray: Our help is in the Name of God, the maker of heaven and earth.

Intercessor Infinite One, you have founded your church upon strong rock and given to us the keys to the kingdom of heaven: Inspire the gifts of your prophets, ministers, teachers, exhorters, givers, leaders, and servers, that we may be a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to you, which is our spiritual worship. Our help is in the Name of God,

People **the maker of heaven and earth**

Intercessor Merciful One, you hear the cries of the oppressed and seek the protection of all your children: Confront our leaders and all in authority throughout the world with the power of your compassion, that their service may not be conformed to this world, but transformed by the renewing of their minds in your love. Our help is in the Name of God,

People **the maker of heaven and earth**

Intercessor Ever-present One, you see all injustice and hear the cries of those who suffer: Bind the hands of the oppressors and loose the victims of harsh taskmasters, that all who are misused in their labor and in their lives may be free to experience everything that is good and acceptable and perfect. Our help is in the Name of God,

People **the maker of heaven and earth**

Intercessor Gracious One, be present in this community to inspire us to serve one another with the gifts you have given us and to live together with generous humility.Our help is in the Name of God,

People **the maker of heaven and earth**

Intercessor Gentle One, you unite us as many members into one body in Christ: Empower our gifts and reconcile our differences that we may witness to Jesus the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Receive our prayers for those for whom we intercede, especially ___. Hear our thanksgiving for all the blessings we enjoy, especially ___. Embrace in heaven those who have died, especially ___. May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Our help is in the Name of God,

People **The maker of heaven and earth**

Celebrant Triune One, your love fills the whole creation and prevails against the gates of death: Fill us with the gifts of your Spirit, that we may be faithful ministers of your truth and generous servants of your compassion, through Jesus the Messiah, the Son of the living God. **Amen.**

The Confession of Sin

The Book of Common Prayer, Page 360

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

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.

The Peace

The Book of Common Prayer, page 360

Please stand as you are able.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Announcements

Offertory

Magnificat by C. Harker

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Please stand as you are able

Doxology Hymn 380

Eucharistic Prayer B *The Book of Common Prayer*, page 367

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.**

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

Proper Preface inserted here

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:

Celebrant and People

Sanctus S114

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts;
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.**

And now, as our Savior
Christ has taught us,
we are bold to say, **Our Father…** *The Book of Common Prayer,* Page 364

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Agnus Dei S158

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.

Celebrant The gifts of God for the people of God…

The Communion of the People

All are invited to receive communion.
Gluten-free Bread is available upon request. Inform an usher if communion in the pew is needed.

Communion Hymn 339 *Deck thyself, mu soul, with gladness* Schmueckedich

The Post-Communion Prayer

Celebrant 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.

The Blessing

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God.

Be the one body in Christ Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of the Living God -- members of one another, for we who are many are one.

Exercise your gifts in the power of the Spirit, to bind and to loose with justice and compassion, presenting yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God.

And the blessing of our transforming God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you and abide with you now and always. Amen.

Closing Hymn 493 *O for a thousand tongues to sing* Azmon

The Dismissal

The Book of Common Prayer, page 366

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

The Altar flowers are Given to the Glory of God by Dick Wright
In memory of Ginny Wright.

Sunday, August 23

Holy Eucharist 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. / Nave
Summer Sundays 9:00 a.m. – Lychgate
Coffee hour following each Service for all

Tuesday, August 25

Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m. / Chapel

Wednesday, August 26

Men's Breakfast 8:00 a.m. / Spencer's Grill

Thursday, August 27

Morning Prayer 9:30 a.m. / Chapel

Saturday, August 29

Diocesan Picnic / Camp MoVal

Sunday, August 30

Holy Eucharist 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. / Nave
Coffee hour following each Service for all
Summer Sundays 9:00 a.m . Emergency Response

Summer Sunday Conversations - 9:00 a.m. / Library
Next Sunday 8/30 Emergency Response

Upcoming Events

- **Sunday, September 13**
  - **Blessing of the backpacks:** during the 10:00 a.m. service.
  - **Community Picnic:** following the combined 10:00 a.m. service in the front circle. Sign up for potluck is on the bulletin board in Albright Hall.

Scan code to view weekly iMessenger

GRACE
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Episcopal Diocese of Missouri

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