



Christ Church Cathedral
Hartford, Connecticut
The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 2026, 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

We acknowledge the Tunxis, Sicaog, Wangunks and Poquonook people, the traditional custodians of the land on which Christ Church Cathedral is located. We pay respect to their elders, past and present. We respect their people and traditions as a continued call to live out the ministry of reconciliation to which we are called.

Welcome to our community! Wherever life is taking you, know that we are honored by your presence and invite you to experience God's life-giving grace with us at Christ Church Cathedral. As a community of faith we celebrate God's graciousness by proclaiming in word and deed that God's love is abundant and unconditional. At the Lord's Table, all baptized are welcome to receive Communion. Please turn off your cell phones once the prelude begins. Should you wish to speak with a priest following the service, please contact an usher.

The Liturgy of the Word

Prelude - Meditation

Gabriel Dupont

Processional Hymn ~ 1982 Hymnal #400 All creatures of our God and King, vv. 1, 4, 5, 7

Lasst uns erfreuen

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

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.**

Gloria ~ LEVAS II #241 Glory to God

David Hurd (1950-)

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Reading ~ Exodus 14:19-31

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 114 ~ In exitu Israel (Sung by Choir)

George Mursell Gansett

Hallelujah!

When Israel came out of Egypt, *
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,
Judah became God's sanctuary *
and Israel his dominion.

The sea beheld it and fled; *
Jordan turned and went back.

The mountains skipped like rams, *
and the little hills like young sheep.

What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? *

O Jordan, that you turned back?

You mountains, that you skipped like rams? *

you little hills like young sheep?
Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, *
at the presence of the God of Jacob,
Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water *
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

Gradual Hymn ~ LEVAS II #228 When Israel was in Egypt's Land

Trad., arr. Boyer

Matthew 18:21-35

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

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon

one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

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

Sermon ~ The Rev. Melina Dezhbod

The Celebrant stands. Please stand as you are able.

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.
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.

Who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.

Who 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

Holy God, creator and sustainer of life. We come together in prayer to put before you our needs and our hopes that you may teach, encourage, tend and challenge us to engage with you as we live into our sacred stories.

God of Hope, we pray for our church leaders that their lives may be shaped by your grace and clarity and that they will lead us with humor, compassion and creativity, calling us to share with them our

faith, love and hope to the world. We pray especially for Sarah, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Jeff and Laura, our bishops; Harlon, our Interim Dean; Melina, our Vicar/Chaplain; Tony, our Canon for Latino Ministry; Bonnie, our Deacon; and all our priests associate. God in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of Bold Vision, we pray for our Cathedral congregation and staff that during this time of transition our hearts and minds may be open to trust in your goodness and the knowledge that you are always a constant presence guiding us in our lives.

God in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of Peace, we pray for the leaders of our country and all the world that they may come together to work toward a transformed world where all people thrive and live into their God created potential.

God in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of Creation, we give thanks for the rhythm of times and seasons. Make us more aware of the beauty around us and vigilant in our daily lives to respond with wisdom and foresight to the threat of climate change.

God in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of Healing, stay near to those who despair, those who live with illness and pain, and strengthen and encourage those who care for them. We pray especially for: **Will, Kathleen R. Joan Z, Maïa, Lee, Almeta, Camille, Gerard, Lourdes, Lenora, Ardyce, Mike R., Adrianne, Felicity, Sherrod, Graham, Richard, Betty Jo, Michael, Jason, Andrew, Jeannie, Denise, Shelly N., Dennis, Charlene, Marcia, Sean, Diane, David, Shaun, Thomas, Alberto, Kelley, Allison, Aubrey, Bill, Grace, Ben, Frank, Nelson, Joan, Treviana, Bob, Tyrone, Todd, Javon, Debbie, Julian, Rose, Samy, Eugenia, Louis, Sylvia, Anne, Harmony, Cristianne, Joslin, Sheila, Priscilla, Gual, Mercy, Deborah, John, Heather, Susan, Lanny, Edgar, Goodwin, Pam, Allen and Sally M., Rayfield, Desiree, Evelyn O., Mark, Sharon, Phil, Norma, Viola, Jay,** and those we now name in our hearts. *(Pause)*

God in your mercy,

Hear our Prayer.

God of Comfort, we give thanks for the gift of those who have gone before us and for the ways they continue to enrich our lives and who now live with you and all the saints in heaven.

God in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Celebrant

God our creator and sustainer, we ask that you hear our prayers offered this day by your faithful people. Give us strength and courage to walk on the path of Christ, and embolden us for mission to

fulfill the purpose for which you have created us. All this we ask through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

The Deacon or Celebrant says
Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

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.**

Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

At the 8:00 a.m. service, healing prayer is available in the chapel immediately following the service.

At the 10:00 a.m. service on the second Sunday of the month, we offer a time for healing prayers and anointing with Holy oil. If you desire a prayer for healing, please come forward to the priest or minister of healing with a healing request, and a prayer will be said privately for you.

During this time, music will be offered. All are welcome to participate.

Healing Prayers

Healing Anthem ~ Jesus, still lead on

Seelenbräutigam

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Welcome and Announcements:

8:00, Dr. Jilda Aliotta, Chair, Parish Committee
10:00, John Decker, Co-Chair, Parish Committee

Offertory Sentence

Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow his example pure, through a world that would deceive us, where to sin our hearts are lured. Ever in His footsteps treading, living here, yet home above, full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Father's bidding, Faithful Lord, abide with me; Savior, lead, I follow Thee.

Let us also die with Jesus, by his cross He conquered death, freed us from our souls' destruction, quickened us with life's new breath. Let us mortify, while living, self and pride, and die to sin, and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate to heaven. Jesus, here I die to Thee, there to dwell eternally.

Let us gladly live with Jesus, He is risen from the dead. Death is swallowed up in vict'ry, Jesus, Thou art now our Head. Living members of Thy Body, where Thou livest, we shall be, Thou wilt keep us constantly.

Even so, dear Lord, come quickly, Jesus, here I live to Thee, there to dwell eternally. Let us ever walk with Jesus.

Doxology ~ 1982 Hymnal #380, v. 3 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow
Sung to tune of Duke Street (Jesus shall reign wheree'er the sun, #544)

The Holy Communion

Eucharistic Prayer 2

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.

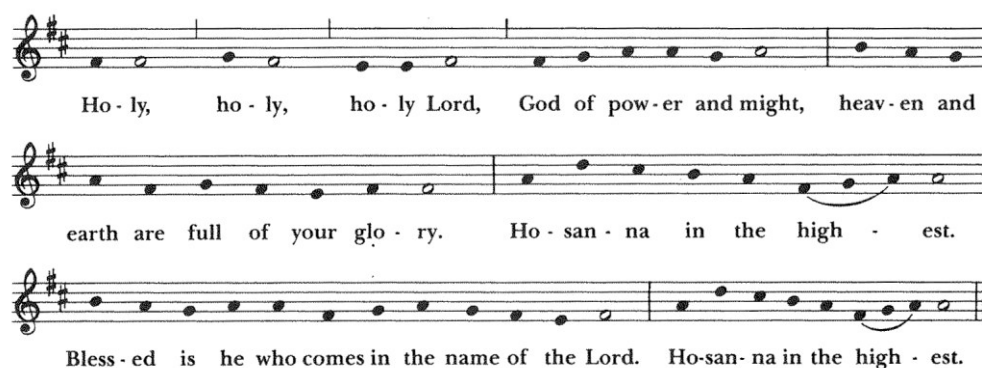
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant.

From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways.

But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing (say):



Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ.

Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with [_____ and] all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Celebrant and People:

**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.

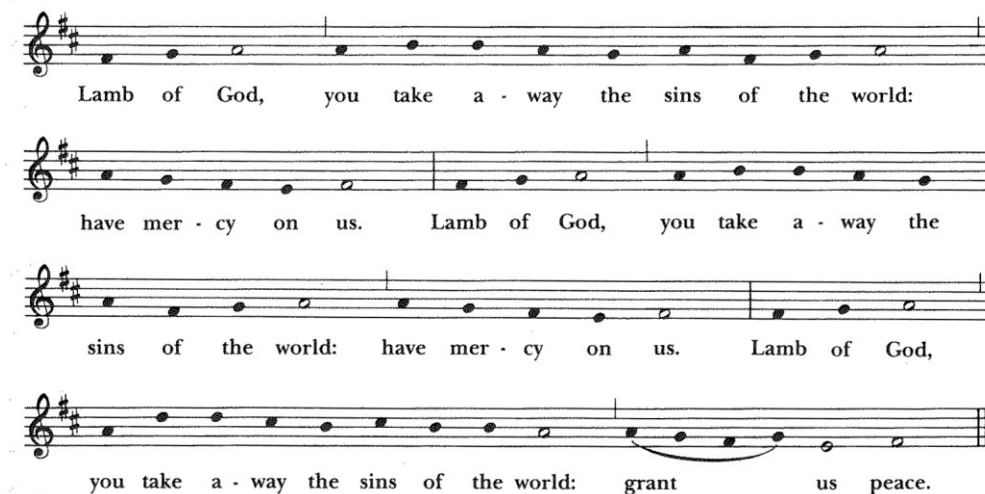
**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem ~ 1982 Hymnal S161 Lamb of God (Agnus Dei)

David Hurd (1950-)



Celebrant The Gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All baptized Christians, regardless of age or denomination, are welcome to receive Holy Communion. When coming forward to receive Holy Communion, please follow the direction given by the ushers. Receive the bread in the palm of your hand. If you are unable to come to the front, please let an usher know and the Sacraments will be brought to you.

Communion Hymn ~ LEVAS II #151 One Bread, One Body

John B. Foley, SJ

Postcommunion Prayer

**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.**

The Blessing

Recessional Hymn ~ 1982 Hymnal #690 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah *Cwm Rhondda*

The Dismissal

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude ~ Now thank we all our God

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Copyright Information: Gloria by David Hurd from Intercession Mass, ©1979, 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., all rights reserved. Let us ever walk with Jesus, tune Lasset uns mit Jesu ziehen by George G. Boltze, arr. Dan Forrest, ©2012 Hinshaw Music, all rights reserved. Sanctus and Lamb of God from New Plainsong Mass by David Hurd, ©1981 GIA Publications, Inc., all rights reserved. One bread, one body by John B. Foley, text and music ©1978, John B. Foley, S.J., and OCP, all rights reserved. The music in this service is printed and streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-733705. All rights reserved.

The altar flowers today are given to the glory of God; in thanksgiving for the 65th wedding anniversary of Peter and Lynn Dahl; and for the ministry of Canon Clinton Jones.

If you are visiting us for the first time, WELCOME!

We would like to keep you informed of the blessings we experience in this house of prayer. Please introduce yourself to Interim Dean Dalton, Canon Garcia, or Deacon Matthews.

Please join us for fellowship in the Cathedral House Auditorium following the service.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:

Sunday, September 13–Sunday, September 20

Art Show: Sept. 13, 18, 19, 20, 2:00–4:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 17

Dwelling in the Word (Zoom), 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 20:

Homecoming Sunday; one service at 9:30 a.m.



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL
CONNECTICUT'S CATHEDRAL

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

An Episcopal Church within the Anglican Communion

The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey W. Mello, Bishop Diocesan

The Rt. Rev. Laura J. Ahrens, Bishop Suffragan

The Rev. Canon Harlon Dalton, Interim Cathedral Dean

The Rev. Melina Dezhbod, Vicar/Chaplain

The Rev. Ramon Antonio Garcia, Canon for Latino Ministry

The Ven. Bonnie Matthews, Cathedral Deacon

The Rev. Dana Campbell, The Rev. Dr. Jay Cooke, The Rev. Canon Rebekah Hatch, The Rev. Canon D Littlepage, The Rev. Canon Ranjit K. Mathews, and The Rev. Canon Kevin Olds, Priest Associates

Dr. Jilda Aliotta, Chair of Congregation Committee

John Decker, Co-Chair of Congregation Committee

Serving at 8:00 a.m.

Preacher

The Rev. Melina Dezhbod

Celebrant

The Rev. Canon Harlon Dalton

Assisting

The Ven. Bonnie Matthews

Verger/Intercessor

Jilda Aliotta

Psalm/Altar Server

John Scott

Lector

Tom Smith

Serving at 10:00 a.m.

Preacher

The Rev. Melina Dezhbod

Celebrant

The Rev. Canon Harlon Dalton

Assisting

The Rev. Ramon Antonio Garcia

Dean's Verger

Peggy Ornell

Gospel Verger

Jilda Aliotta

Altar Server

Marcia Barnett

Crucifer

John Scott

Virtual Vergers

Richard Baraglia and Dr. Deborah Simmons

Digital Evangelist

Samuel Hernandez

First Lector

Pat Wrice

Second Lector

Carlene Taylor

Ushers

John Decker, Carlene Taylor

Guild

Gilbeean Scott, Sheila Green, David Marcano, and Nagda and Ramon Echavarria

Cantor

Phoenix Sheerin

Choir

Kelley Kelly, Trish Leonard, Mary McCue, Viola Mullin, Scott Patrick, Phoenix Sheerin, Kristen Williams

Organist

Marianne Vogel

CATHEDRAL STAFF

David Borawski, Facilities Caretaker

Pedro Cirilo Coral, Spanish Music Coordinator

Cindy Hursty, Finance Officer and Archivist

Nelson Mena, Spanish Music Coordinator

Carolina Pujols, Operations Manager

John Scott, Sacristan

Marianne Vogel, Director of Music

Gary Tomassetti, Executive Assistant and Program Coordinator

Christ Church Cathedral / 45 Church Street, Hartford, CT 06103

office@cccathedral.org * www.cccathedral.org * 860-527-7231