

# Grace & Holy Trinity Church

*an Episcopal parish on Monroe Park*



## Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 18, Year C

Holy Eucharist, Rite One

September 7, 2025 | 8:00 a.m.

### Welcome

**Welcome to Grace & Holy Trinity.** We hope you will find a community here with us, whether you are a college student, Richmond newcomer, out-of-towner, or a long-time resident looking for a new church home. **If you are visiting,** please fill out the **Connect Card** from the Connect Table and place it in the offering plate during the service. A wonderful **nursery** staff is available from 9:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. should you wish to drop off your young children (up to age 3) during worship. **Changing tables** are located in the family restroom in the choir room. A greeter can direct you. Information about **complimentary Sunday parking** can be found on the back of this bulletin.

# The Word of God

*The beginning of our worship is intended as a time of reflection.*

## Opening Acclamation

*Book of Common Prayer p. 323*

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**All** And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

## The Collect for Purity

*Book of Common Prayer p. 323*

*Celebrant* Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: **Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Trisagion

*Book of Common Prayer p. 324*

*Celebrant* Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,

**All** Have mercy upon us.

## The Collect of the Day

*Book of Common Prayer p. 181*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

**All** And with thy spirit.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Grant us, O Lord, we pray thee, to trust in thee with all our heart; seeing that, as thou dost always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so thou dost not forsake those who make their boast of thy mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*You may be seated for the readings.*

## First Reading

Jeremiah 18:1–11

*Lector* A reading from the Book of Jeremiah.

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him. Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and

break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the Lord: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

**All** Thanks be to God.

**Psalm 139:1–5, 12–17**

*Read responsively by whole verse.*

*Book of Common Prayer p. 794*

*Domine, probasti*

*Lector* 1 Lord, you have searched me out and known me; \*  
you know my sitting down and my rising up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.

**All** 2 **You trace my journeys and my resting-places \***  
**and are acquainted with all my ways.**

3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, \*  
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

4 **You press upon me behind and before \***  
**and lay your hand upon me.**

5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; \*  
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

12 **For you yourself created my inmost parts; \***  
**you knit me together in my mother's womb.**

13 I will thank you because I am marvelously made; \*  
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

14 **My body was not hidden from you, \***  
**while I was being made in secret**  
**and woven in the depths of the earth.**

15 Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;  
all of them were written in your book; \*  
they were fashioned day by day,  
when as yet there was none of them.

16 **How deep I find your thoughts, O God! \***  
**how great is the sum of them!**

17 If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand; \*  
to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

*Lector* A reading from Paul's letter to Philemon.

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

**All** Thanks be to God.

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**All** Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord.

**All** Praise be to thee, O Christ.

**The Sermon**

The Rev. Brent A. Melton, *Priest-in-Charge*

*Silence for reflection.*

**The Nicene Creed**

*Book of Common Prayer* p. 326

*Celebrant* Let us stand, and affirm our common faith in these words of the Nicene Creed.

**The Prayers of the People**

*Book of Common Prayer* p. 328

**Parish Prayer List**

**The Confession of Sin & Absolution**

*Book of Common Prayer* p. 330

**The Peace**

*Book of Common Prayer* p. 332

**Welcome & Announcements**

## The Holy Communion

**Offertory Sentence**

*Book of Common Prayer* p. 376

*Celebrant* Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

– *Ephesians 5:2*

To donate or pay your pledge, scan the QR code or visit [ghtc.org/give](https://ghtc.org/give).



*In receiving the offertory plates we say ...*

**All** All things come of thee O Lord and of thine own have we given thee. – 1 Chronicles 29:14

**The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer II** *Book of Common Prayer* p. 340

**The Lord's Prayer** *Book of Common Prayer* p. 336

**The Breaking of the Bread** *Book of Common Prayer* p. 337

### **Communion Instructions**

Communicants will drink from the Chalice at the Altar in the chapel. Alternatively, communicants who receive the Bread may refrain from drinking from the Chalice. Those who refrain from drinking from the Chalice are encouraged to cross their arms and say "Amen" when the Chalice is offered: their "Amen" is their verbal acknowledgment of the grace of the sacrament, the full grace of which is communicated through the Bread.

**Post-Communion Prayer** *Book of Common Prayer* p. 339

*Please stand as you are able.*

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

**All** Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

### **The Blessing**

*Celebrant* The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**The Dismissal** Henri-Frédéric Amiel & *Book of Common Prayer* p. 339

*Deacon* Friends, life is short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us so be swift to love, make haste to be kind and go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All** Thanks be to God.

## Flowers at the Altar

This Sunday's Altar flowers are given to the glory of God. *If you would like to remember or honor a loved one by giving altar flowers, scan the QR Code, call the office, or visit [ghtc.org/flowers](http://ghtc.org/flowers) for information.*



## Today's Worship Leaders

The Rev. Brent A. Melton, *Preacher, Co-Celebrant & Deacon*

The Rev. Marissa Sotos, *Co-Celebrant*

Terry Hathaway, *Lector*

## The Season after Pentecost: Music

The season that follows Pentecost Sunday continues through the summer and fall months. This is the longest church season, as many as 28 Sundays depending on the date of Easter Day. This season falls in an Ordinary Time and green is the preferred color. In this is a time Christians should reflect on the meaning of Christ's resurrection in our ordinary life. Each month we will include a new "Teaching Blurb" for your learning.






Music has been a part of the liturgy (worship service) from the very beginning. Liturgy by definition was "sung." Chanting/singing was considered the highest form of worship and was the norm through the Middle Ages. We began to lose chanting in the local parish churches in the Reformation. It was revived by the 19th Century and now is common, especially during the Psalm. We remember what Ephesians 5:19–20 says, "... as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

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# Let's be the church together... online.

-  Look up members in our church directory
-  Update your personal information
-  Give online - one time & recurring gifts
-  View giving history & print giving statements
-  Make & keep track of pledges



Scan the QR Code here for the GHTC Realm log in to start. *Please refer to the Parish News for more details.*

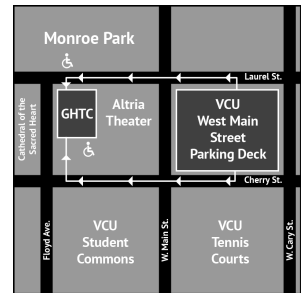
# Complimentary Sunday Parking Instructions at VCU W. Main Street Parking Deck



**Validation Number:** WM-1593

**Expiration date:** 06/30/2026

*QR code only valid on Sundays.*



1. Enter the parking deck from N. Laurel Street or N. Cherry Street.
2. At the parking gate arm, press the button to receive a ticket.
3. Park in any available space in the deck.
4. After visiting Grace & Holy Trinity, exit the parking deck in your vehicle and scan your parking ticket into the machine at the parking gate arm.
5. When the machine asks for payment, hold the QR code to the scanner.
6. The machine will scan the code, accept it as payment, and the parking gate arm will raise in order for you to exit.

**\*If you need assistance, press the “i” button at the gate and someone will assist remotely.**

## **GHTC Staff:** Name, *Title*

## **Ministry Focus**

## **Phone Ext.**

The Rev. Brent A. Melton, <i>Priest-in-Charge</i>	Admin.   Liturgy   Formation	Ext. 17
The Rev. Marissa Sotos, <i>Assistant Priest</i>	Outreach   Communications   Liturgy	Ext. 16
The Rev. Steve Pace, <i>Deacon</i>	Outreach   Pastoral Care	Ext. 12
The Rev. Russ Kerr, <i>Campus Minister</i>	Pace Center Student Engagement Coordinator	
The Rev. Jenny Montgomery, <i>Priest Associate</i>	Worship   Parish Life	
Luke Brennan, <i>Assistant Choirmaster &amp; Organist</i>	Youth Instrumental Ensemble   Choir	Ext. 21
Tyler Brady, <i>Communications Associate</i>	Communications   Media   Printing	Ext. 25
Dr. Elizabeth Melcher Davis, <i>Choirmaster &amp; Organist</i>	Music   Choir   Liturgy	Ext. 18
Lauren Frazier, <i>Parish Administrator</i>	Property Admin.   Pastoral & Clergy Support	Ext. 23
Barbara Hobson-Simpson, <i>Receptionist</i>	Doors   Phones   Welcome	Ext. 10
Madeleine Preston, <i>Director of Formation</i>	Children & Youth   Adult Formation	Ext. 15
Kathy Schultheis, <i>Financial Administrator</i>	Admin.   Expenses   Pledges	Ext. 14
Abigail Stinnett, <i>Children's Choir Director</i>	Children's Choir	

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