

The Episcopal Church of the Atonement



The Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

Liturgy of the Word

August 16, 2026
9:00 a.m.

The service is live-streamed on YouTube and Facebook.

Prelude

Opening Hymn 410

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom now and for ever.**

The Presider and People offer the Collect of 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

Lord Have Mercy S91

Lord, have mer-cy up - on us. Lord, have mer-cy up - on us. Lord, have mer-cy up - on us.

Christ, have mer-cy up - on us. Christ, have mer-cy up - on us. Christ, have mer-cy up - on us.

Lord, have mer-cy up - on us. Lord, have mer-cy up - on us. Lord, have mer-cy up - on us.

Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Reading

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Reader After the exile, non-Israelites had come to Jerusalem to live and serve in the temple. This passage sets conditions for their participation and looks forward to when the temple will be a house of prayer for all nations. The Lord exhorts the people to do what is just because the time of righteous salvation is near.

Thus says the Lord: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed.

And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant—these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

Thus says the Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 67

- 1 May God be merciful to us and bless us,
show us the light of his countenance and come to us.
- 2 Let your ways be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.
- 3 Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
- 4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations upon earth.
- 5 Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
- 6 The earth has brought forth her increase;
may God, our own God, give us his blessing.
- 7 May God give us his blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

The Second Reading

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Reader In this reading, Paul sets forth his belief that God plans to bring both Jews and Gentiles to salvation.

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Hymn 706

In Your Mercy, Lord, You Called Me

The Gospel

Matthew 15: 10-20, 21-28

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

Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

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

Reflection

Janet Parks

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 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 and the Son. 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

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we may all be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

Silence is kept. The congregation is invited to add their prayers silently or aloud. Then all reply together:

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest. We especially remember all of our friends and family who passed this year, for whom altar memorials have been given; and also Joseph & Irene Myette; Seth Sr. and Irene Kellogg, Seth Kellogg Jr.; and all those who have been killed by bombs, for whom the sanctuary lamp burns.

Silence is kept. The congregation is invited to add their prayers silently or aloud. Then all reply together:

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our needs and those of others.

Silence is kept. The congregation is invited to add their personal intercessions silently or aloud.

Then the Presider adds a concluding Collect.

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Then the Presider says

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence is kept. Then all pray together:

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.

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

The Peace

Presider: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us greet one another with peace in the name of the Lord.

Welcome and Announcements

Jesus thought he'd take a break from doing miracles.
He went away up north to Tyre and Sidon.
When along came a Canaanite woman, crying, "Have mercy on me, Lord!
My daughter is possessed by a demon!"
Jesus turned away his head and answered not a word.
His disciples came and told him, "Send her packing."
Jesus told his disciples he came to save the sheep of Israel,
And a Canaanite woman didn't figure in his planning.

But the woman came and worshipped him. She got down on her knees.
"My daughter's surely gonna die if you don't help me, please!"
Jesus told her:

REFRAIN:

It's not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs.
It's not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs.
The woman said, "That's true, my lord, but even dogs eat the crumbs from their master's table."

Jesus smiled and answered her, "I see your faith is strong.
Let it be to you as you desire."
Jesus told the demon, "Take your stuff and move along!"
The woman's daughter was healed within the hour.

Her faith had been full justified, she saved her daughter's life
Left her Canaanite gods behind, put her trust in Jesus Christ
He said,

It's not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs.
It's not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs.
The woman recognized the son of God, she was thankful for the crumbs from the Master's table.

We are blessed and fortified by the living bread of Him who died!
Saved by the crumbs from the Master's table.
Crumbs from the Master's table – crumbs from the Master's table.

Hymn LEVAS 139*Pass Me Not***Doxology Hymn 380, vs. 3***Old Hundredth, Isaac Watts*

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Spiritual Communion

Let us pray together in solidarity with those who are unable to receive communion in person this prayer of Spiritual Communion:

O God, we are united here in your transcendent power of love. From this center of goodness, you appear to us now in a new way, a new light, a new understanding, a new power of friendship and unity. We receive this life from you; we share this life together. You appear in our midst as Life itself, and we rise up together, beyond the resistant forces around us and within us. We receive you. This is the Body of Christ. Amen. — (Ilia Delio, OSF, adapted)

The General Thanksgiving

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know him and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may we give thanks to you in all things. Amen.

The Dismissal

Presider Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

PERMISSIONS

Except as noted within the text of the service leaflet: The structure and words of our service are taken from The Book of Common Prayer, Expansive Language; Enriching Our Worship; The Book of Occasional Services; Liturgy for the Whole Church, by Susan K. Bock, and Prayers for an Inclusive Church, by Steven Shakespeare; Hear Our Prayer by Jon White and Lisa Graves (all by Church Publishing). Today's Greeting and Call to Worship are from the World Council of Churches, Eco-School at the Orthodox Academy of Crete, Greece, 11-18 November 2023. The Biblical texts of the Old Testament, New Testament, and Gospel lessons are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Church of Christ in the USA. Hymns are taken from The Hymnal 1982, Lift Every Voice and Sing II, and Wonder, Love, and Praise (all by Church Publishing) and Songs & Prayers from Taizé, (GIA Publications, Inc.). Permission to print/post hymns for congregational use is granted by Rite Song and/or One License and permission to podcast/stream the music in this service is granted by One License: #A-723294.

ECOTA Happenings

August 16, 2026

THIS WEEK'S WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays: 9:00am Worship & Holy Eucharist (in person & live-streamed)

No Wednesday Healing Services during August

Wednesday, August 26, 2026 | 4:30 pm @ Wash Works, 3 White Street, Westfield

Our Laundry Love ministry will continue to help provide free laundry services to low-income or no-income individuals and families (plus give them a good meal during the wash cycle) again this month. Volunteers are always needed. Check the sign-up sheet in the Narthex to find out what you can contribute.

Westfield High School Community Closet Needs Clothing & Personal Hygiene Products

Students at the Westfield High School are again seeking donations of basic toiletries, T-shirts and other gently used clothing, new underwear and socks, personal care and hygiene items for its Community Closet. Financial donations are also welcome. If you can help, place your donations in the plastic tote just outside the sanctuary door. Talk to Tammy Joseph for more information.

Western Mass Hospital Be a Star for a Senior

If you took a Star from the "Star Tree" for the Compassionate Care Ministry's "Be a Star for a Senior," you can place gifts/donations in the basket in the Narthex. Members of the Compassionate Care Ministry will deliver these gifts to elderly patients at Western Massachusetts Hospital who don't have nearby family. If you would like to help with the program, contact Tammy Joseph for more information.

Westfield Farmers Market Church Table | Thursdays, June - October

We would like to show the community that ECOTA is a welcoming community, but we have not had enough volunteers to staff our Market Table. Can you help us greet visitors to the market and show them what a welcoming place ECOTA is? Do you have suggestions about how to make it easier to encourage volunteers to sit at our table? We'd love to hear your ideas!

Mums Sale Update

Will there be a Mums Sale this year? Yes! We're working on details now and will have more information and order forms ready for you within the next week or so.

When do we go back to two services? When Does Sunday School Restart?

On Sunday, September 13 we plan to return to two services, at 8am and 10am. Sunday School also will resume that day. **REMINDER: We still need Teacher's Helpers to assist Judy Harvester and Jean Brown to run the Church School classes. No previous experience is required, but you must be Safe Church trained.**

Safe Church Training

The Diocese has recently overhauled its Safe Church Training system for volunteers, staff, and clergy. The new system includes online training modules and a Zoom meeting with Safe Church trainers from the diocese. The online training modules are now activated and available. If you would like to obtain Safe Church training so you can help with activities like the Sunday School or Compassionate Care, or if you need to be recertified for Safe Church (recertification is required every three years), please contact Kara in the church office for more information.

Summer Office Hours

MONDAYS:	Closed
TUESDAYS:	9:00 am – 2:00 pm
WEDNESDAYS:	9:00 am – 2:00 pm
THURSDAYS:	9:00 am – 2:00 pm
FRIDAYS:	Closed
SATURDAYS:	Closed
SUNDAYS:	Open before & after the 9am worship service

THE MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Presiders	Janet Parks, Jo Ann Florek
Vestry Person of the Day	Mike Ehresman
Lectors	Sandra Chamberlain, Raymond Brown
Usher/Greeter	Jody Brown
Stream Team	Deb Curtis
Altar Guild	Lesley Frazar
Linens	Deb Bruno
Flower Guild	Tanya Kellogg
Counters	Deb Bruno, Kathy DeJean
Office Angels	Linda Zielinski, Alice Ehresman
Opener	Kara Noble
Closer	Holly Rodriguez

PARISH PRAYER LIST

*Please use this list in your daily prayers. We are happy to add your concerns.
Contact office administrator at program@atonementwestfield.org or call 562-5461.*

Altar Memorials are given to the Glory of God and in memory of all of our friends and relatives who passed this year.

Sanctuary Lamp burns to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Joseph & Irene Myette; Seth Sr. and Irene Kellogg, Seth Kellogg Jr.; and all those who have been killed by bombs.

Anglican Communion Cycle of Prayer for The Church in Wales.

Diocesan Prayer for Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Southbridge; the Bishop's Chaplains to Retired Clergy; and the Western Mass Food Bank.

For those suffering throughout the world especially from the ravages of war, violence, hate, environmental changes, and disease.

For these families and individuals Lucas, Aidan, Jesse, Siobhan, Ginger, Ed, Barbara, Mike, Ann, Anne, Danny, Janet, Caroline, Liz, Chris, Caryl, Frank, Jenny, Mark, Sally, Fred, Sue, Hala, Tom, Michael, Mark, Jessica, John, Mark P., Jim L., Kate, Rick, Lee, Teresa, Candi, John, Coralee & Gemariah; Nancy, Tracy Davis; Lily and her parents, Leianne, Fran, Madeline, Debra, Brad, Colin, Bill, Jimmy, Billy, Les, Sally, Denise, Heather, Pearl, Lily, Bill, Jim, Kathy, Fred, Tom, Shannon, Joan, Deborah, Matt, Darlene, Rick & family, Anne, Ann, Jean, Ruth, Thelma, Connie, Candy, Jeff, David, Christina, Sharon, Marcia, Jan, John, Addison, Hannah, Donna, Jack, Mickie, Chris, Josh, Tim, Mike, Juan, John, Sheila, Ann, Gary, David, Sabrina, Wendy, Bernie, John, James, Jeffrey, Brittany, Rick

THIS WEEK AT ATONEMENT

Sunday August 16

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

9:00 am Liturgy of the Word (in person | live-streamed)

6:00 pm Sunday Worship on Westfield Channel 15

Monday, August 17

5:00 pm *Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) (SMGR)*

8:00 pm *Alcoholics Anonymous (Great Hall)*

Tuesday, August 18

Wednesday, August 19

6:00 pm *Adult Children of Alcoholics (Little Chapel)*

7:00 pm *Overeaters Anonymous (SMGR)*

Thursday, August 20

12:00-5:00 pm *Farmers Market*

7:30 pm *Narcotics Anonymous (Great Hall)*

Friday, August 21

7:00 pm *Stairway to Serenity Al-Anon (SMGR)*

Saturday, August 22

9:00 am *Adult Children of Alcoholics (Chapel)*

4:00 pm *Alcoholics Anonymous (Great Hall)*

Sunday, August 23

Thirteen Sunday After Pentecost

9:00 am Holy Eucharist (in person | live-streamed)

6:00 pm Sunday Worship on Westfield Channel 15

SMGR= Saint Margaret's Guild Room (Parlor)

"Drawn in by Grace; Reaching out in Love"

God calls people of any age, race, ethnicity, gender, or sexuality to join us in worship and work in the world. God's grace draws us in—all of us. And together all of us reach out with God's love.



The Episcopal Church of the Atonement

36 Court Street • Westfield, MA • 01085 • (413) 562-5461 • www.atonementwestfield.org

Drawn in by Grace • Reaching out in Love

The Rev. Sandi Albom, *Priest in Charge*

Jerry Noble, *Music Director*

The Rt. Rev. Miguelina Howell, *Bishop, The Episcopal Church of Western MA*

The Rt. Rev. Sean W. Rowe, *Presiding Bishop and Primate*

The Vestry

Holly Rodriguez, *Sr. Warden* ~ Robert Frazar, *Jr. Warden* ~ Steve Adams, *Treasurer* ~ Deborah Bruno, *Clerk*
Mike Ehresman, *Asst. Jr. Warden* ~ Sue Cole ~ Gene Giacometti ~ Phil Siska ~ Gail Meehan