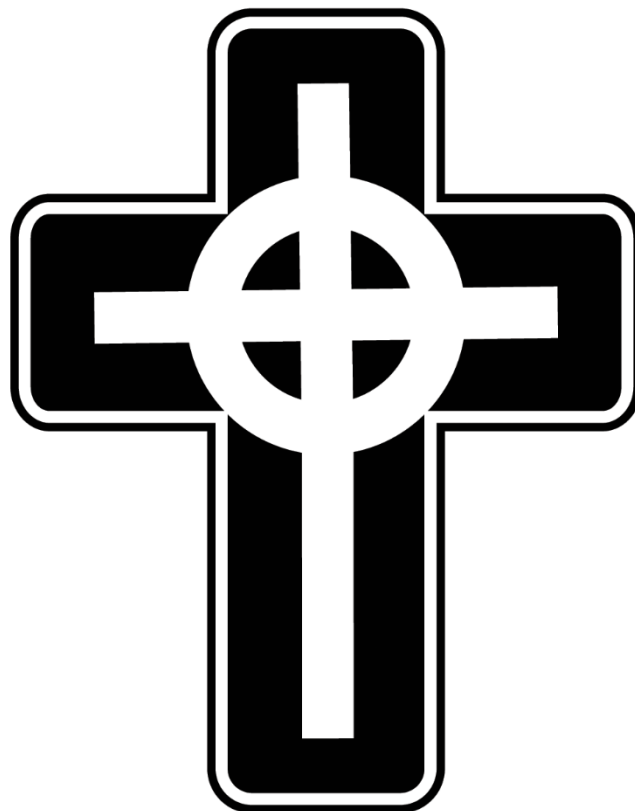


The Episcopal Church of the Atonement



The Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Worship and Holy Eucharist

August 23, 2026
9:00 a.m.

*Please observe silence during the musical prelude.
The service is live-streamed on YouTube and Facebook.*

Prelude

Entrance Hymn 399

To God With Gladness Sing

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.

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.**

The First Reading

Isaiah 51:1-6

Reader This reading exhorts the people to recall the power and blessings that have already come from the Lord. It reminds them that following God's teachings and justice will lead to salvation.

Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.

Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be for ever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 138

- 1 I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; *
before the gods I will sing your praise.
- 2 I will bow down toward your holy temple
and praise your Name, *
because of your love and faithfulness;
- 3 For you have glorified your Name *
and your word above all things.
- 4 When I called, you answered me; *
you increased my strength within me.
- 5 All the kings of the earth will praise you, O Lord, *
when they have heard the words of your mouth.
- 6 They will sing of the ways of the Lord, *
that great is the glory of the Lord.
- 7 Though the Lord be high, he cares for the lowly; *
he perceives the haughty from afar.
- 8 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; *
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
your right hand shall save me.
- 9 The Lord will make good his purpose for me; *
O Lord, your love endures for ever;
do not abandon the works of your hands.

The Second Reading

Romans 12:1-8

Reader In this lesson, Paul encourages the Christians in Rome to recognize that, although they have different abilities and functions, they are all members of one body. He urges them to devote themselves to God's service.

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.

<i>Reader</i>	The Word of the Lord.
<i>People</i>	Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn WLP 722, vss. 1-4

The Desert Shall Rejoice

Presider 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.

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

Sermon

The Rev. Richard Bellows

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;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

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

Give to the departed eternal rest. We especially remember Robert Hebert, Paul Hebert and Tricia Hidden, for whom altar memorials have been given; and 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.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

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

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.

The Presider may add a closing collect.

The Confession

The Presider says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence is 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 Presider says

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

Presider: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Welcome and Announcements

August Birthdays

Jerry Noble

The Great Thanksgiving

When we gather, we are happy to receive an offering of "our life and labor," which we present to God. The ushers will pass the offering plate to receive your donations in person. You may also give online at [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly) or scan the QR code located in the pew.

REFRAIN

One bread, one body, one Lord of all
One cup of blessing which we bless
And we, though many, throughout the earth,
We are one body in this one Lord.

1. Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
Woman or man no more.

REFRAIN

2. Many the gifts, many the works,
One in the Lord of all.

REFRAIN

3. Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,
Gathered to one for all.

REFRAIN

Presentation Hymn 581

Where Charity and Love Prevail

Doxology Hymn 380, vs. 3

Old Hundredth, Isaac Watts

Sursum Corda

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

The Presider proceeds

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

For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ
our Lord.

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:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Presider continues

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it 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."

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

The Presider and the People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Presider continues

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit, may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

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.**

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.

The Breaking of the Bread

Presider Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All are welcome to receive the presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist. In the Episcopal Church we believe that God is uniquely present with us in the Bread and the Wine—and we also believe that receiving only Bread or only Wine does not limit God. Bread is offered in the form of a small wheat wafer. Gluten-free wafers (wrapped to prevent cross contamination) are available—ask for one if you need it. All are welcome to take a small sip from the Common Cup or you may intinct (dip the bread) into the cup. Please cleanse your hands with the alcohol-based hand cleanser in the dispensers at the foot of the stairs leading to the altar rail prior to receiving. Thank you.

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)

Communion Meditation

After Communion, the People stand when the Presider says

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

The Blessing

Concluding Hymn 522

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

The Dismissal

Presider: Alleluia, alleluia. Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

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 23, 2026

THIS WEEK'S WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

No Wednesday Healing Services during August

Little Free Food Pantry Wish List Food of the Week

Some foods are always in high demand in the Little Free Food Pantry (LFFP)—we never have enough of them. Peanut butter is always popular, especially for families with kids, and there is always a shortage. This week the LFFP needs donations of 12 oz – 16 oz jars of peanut butter. Donate one jar or a bunch of them in the box in the Narthex.

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 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!

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.

THE MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Presider	The Rev. Richard Bellows
Music Director	Clifton J. Noble
Vestry Person of the Day	Sue Cole
Eucharistic Ministers	Sue Cole, Kathy DeJean
Lectors	Suzanna Adams, Steve Harvester
Usher/Greeter	Chris Steger, Rich Howitt
Stream Team	Deb Curtis
Altar Guild	Gail Meehan
Linens	Deb Bruno
Flower Guild	Sandra Petrucelli
Counters	Lesley Frazar, Kathy DeJean
Office Angels	Donna Tatlock, Debbie Bruno
Opener	Gail Meehan
Closer	Sue Cole

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 love memory of Robert Hebert, Paul Hebert and Tricia Hidden.

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 23

Thirteen Sunday After Pentecost

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

6:00 pm Sunday Worship on Westfield Channel 15

Monday, August 24

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

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

Tuesday, August 25

Wednesday, August 26

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

7:00 pm *Overeaters Anonymous (SMGR)*

Thursday, August 27

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

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

Friday, August 28

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

Saturday, August 29

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

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

Sunday, August 30

Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

9:00 am Liturgy of the Word (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 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