



# St. BERNARD'S Church

88 Claremont Road, Bernardsville, NJ 07924

## THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 7, 2025

11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

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*Welcome to St. Bernard's Episcopal Church.*

*Thank you for sharing in our worship today. Hymns and service music are found in the blue Hymnal 1982.*

*This week we welcome back the St. Bernard's Choir.*

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### PRELUDE

### PROCESSIONAL HYMN 398 I sing the almighty power of God

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|---|---|
| 1 I sing the almighty power of God,<br>that made the mountains rise,<br>that spread the flowing seas abroad<br>and built the lofty skies.<br>I sing the wisdom that ordained<br>the sun to rule the day;<br>the moon shines full at his command,<br>and all the stars obey. | 2 I sing the goodness of the Lord,<br>that filled the earth with food;<br>he formed the creatures with his Word,<br>and then pronounced them good.<br>Lord, how thy wonders are displayed,<br>where'er I turn my eye,<br>if I survey the ground I tread,<br>or gaze upon the sky! |
| 3 There's not a plant or flower below, but makes thy glories known;<br>and clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from thy throne;<br>while all that borrows life from thee is ever in thy care,<br>and everywhere that I could be, thou, God, art present there.        |   |

### OPENING ACCLAMATION

*The Book of Common Prayer p. 355*

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

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

### COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP p. 355

*Celebrant* 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 S 280

*sung by all*

*found in the blue hymnal (Powell)*

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*from Revised Lectionary Prayers*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray. Source of life and blessing, of garden, orchard, field, root us in obedience to you and nourish us by your ever-flowing Spirit, that, perceiving only the good we might do, our lives may be fruitful, our labor productive, and our service useful, in communion with Jesus, our brother. **Amen.**

**FIRST READING:** Deuteronomy 30:15-20

*read by John Smith*

*Lector* A Reading from the Book of Deuteronomy.

Moses said to all Israel the words which the LORD commanded him, "See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

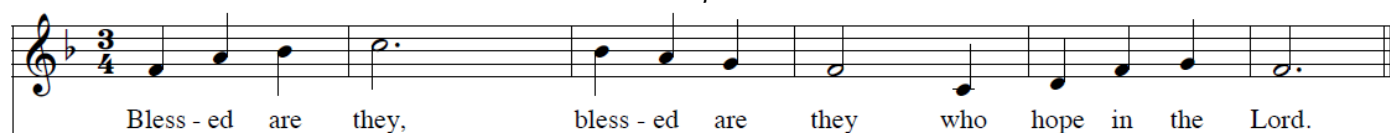
*People*

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 1** *sung by the choir with congregational antiphon*

BCP p. 585

*Antiphon*



*Blessed the man who follows not the counsel of the wicked  
Nor walks in the way of sinners, nor sits in the company of the insolent,  
But delights in the law of the Lord and meditates on his law day and night. **Antiphon***

*He is like a tree planted near running water, that yields its fruit in due season,  
And whose leaves never fade. Whatever he does, prospers. **Antiphon***

*Not so the wicked, not so; they are like chaff which the wind drives away.  
For the Lord watches over the way of the just, but the way of the wicked vanishes. **Antiphon***

**SECOND READING:** Philemon 1-21

*read by Julia Somers*

*Lector* A Reading from the Letter of Paul 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. One thing more: prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping through your prayers to be restored to you. Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my coworkers. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

*Lector*

The Word of the Lord.

*People*

**Thanks be to God.**

## GRADUAL HYMN 707

Take my life and let it be

1 Take my life, and let it be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days,  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.  
Take my hands, and let them move  
at the impulse of thy love;  
take my heart, it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne.

2 Take my voice, and let me sing  
always, only, for my King;  
take my intellect, and use  
every power as thou shalt choose.  
Take my will, and make it thine;  
it shall be no longer mine.  
Take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee.

## THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-33

*Please remain standing as you are able for the Gospel.*

*Deacon*

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

*People*

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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."

*Deacon*

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## THE SERMON

The Rev. Beth Rauen Sciaino

## THE NICENE CREED

BCP p. 358

**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, Form III

*led by Chris Thomas*

BCP p. 387

*Leader* Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;  
*People* **That we all may be one.**  
*Leader* Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;  
*People* **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**  
*Leader* We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;  
*People* **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**  
*Leader* We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;  
*People* **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**  
*Leader* Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
*People* **That our works may find favor in your sight.**  
*Leader* Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;  
*People* **That they may be delivered from their distress.**  
*Leader* Give to the departed eternal rest.  
*People* **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**  
*Leader* We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;  
*People* **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**  
*Leader* Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. *Silence*  
We pray for those on our Prayer List, especially (*read names*).

*The Deacon adds a concluding Collect.*

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

BCP p. 360

*Deacon* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.  
**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.**

*Celebrant* May the God of love embrace you and bring you back, forgive you your sins, and assure you of eternal and unconditional love in Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. **Amen.**

## THE PEACE

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

*During the Offertory Anthem an offering is collected for God's mission and ministry.*

*Thank you for your generosity.*

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**      Somebody's Knocking at your Door      *Traditional Spiritual*

**PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS**      *All stand as able and sing*      *Old 100<sup>th</sup> (Hymn 380, stanza 3)*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**      Eucharistic Prayer A, BCP p. 361

*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 God thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. *(The Proper Preface is said.)* 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:

**SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS S-129**      *found in blue hymnal (Powell)*

**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.**

*Celebrant* Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world. On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by

your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP p. 364

*Celebrant* 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** *The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. Silence is kept.*

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

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

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the People of God. Come and meet the Risen Christ.

*You are welcome to say A Prayer for Spiritual Communion found below during Communion.*

### **A PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

*(Diocese of Oxford, England)*

Lord, you stand at the door of my heart and knock.

You wait for me and only I can let you in.

I believe and trust in you and ask you now to fill me with your presence.

Feed me with your Body and unite me in your Blood,

that I may be your blessing to a world in need. **Amen.**

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP p. 365

*Celebrant* Let us stand and 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

**RECESSIONAL HYMN 344** Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing

1 Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing;  
fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
let us each, thy love possessing,  
triumph in redeeming grace:  
O refresh us, O refresh us,  
traveling through this wilderness

2 Thanks we give and adoration  
for thy Gospel's joyful sound:  
may the fruits of thy salvation  
in our hearts and lives abound:  
ever faithful, ever faithful,  
to thy truth may we be found;

- 3 so that when thy love shall call us, Savior, from the world away,  
fear of death shall not appall us, glad thy summons to obey.  
May we ever, may we ever, reign with thee in endless day.

## THE DISMISSAL

*Deacon* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!  
*People* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

## POSTLUDE

ASSISTING TODAY AT OUR SERVICE		ST. BERNARD'S WARDENS AND VESTRY
<i>Celebrant &amp; Preacher</i>	The Rev. Beth Rauen Sciaino	Christopher Thomas, Valerie McEntee, <i>Wardens</i>
<i>Deacon</i>	The Rev. Karen B. Lewis	Michael Myers, <i>Treasurer</i>
<i>Director of Music</i>	Dr. Martin A. Sedek	Anne Fritts, Mindy Kirby, Meg McKee,
<i>St. Bernard's Choir</i>		Jennifer Moss,
<i>Lectors</i>	John Smith, Julia Somers, Chris Thomas	Michael Myers, Jason Robinette
<i>Chalicer</i>	Pamela Kenworthy	
<i>Usher(s)</i>	Frank Curtis	

## ANNOUNCEMENTS – September 7, 2025

### Signing up to host Coffee hour

This is a reminder that parishioners are welcome to sign up to host coffee hour each Sunday after worship and are welcome to partner with other parishioners. A sign-up sheet is available in the parish hall.

### Signing up for Altar Flowers and dedications to loved ones

This week sees the return of beautiful flowers on our altar. We welcome donations for Altar Flowers and parishioners are invited to dedicate flowers to God and in memory, thanksgiving for, or celebration of loved ones! A sign-up sheet is available in the Parish Hall. The dedication details should be sent to Alison, our Parish Administrator, at [admin@stbernardsnj.org](mailto:admin@stbernardsnj.org) and the Sunday date given for when you'd like the dedication to appear in the Sunday service bulletin.

### September is Recovery Awareness Month

Through September (Recovery Awareness Month) St. Bernard's Church is again joining other churches and organizations in the county to display flags that represent those who have tragically lost their lives to overdose in Somerset County in the past year along with banner and sign supporting recovery.

### NEXT SUNDAY! SEPT. 14 - Joint Service & FALL FESTIVAL & CASA School Supplies Drive

Joint service on Sept. 14, at 10 am at St. John on the Mountain with joint choir. Includes a blessing for students and teachers followed by a fall festival with music, food, and crafts. Please bring cash for baked goods and hamburgers and empanadas. *Parishioners are invited to donate school supplies for CASA's school supply drive and can bring donations to church on Sundays, or bring directly to the joint service on Sept. 14.* CASA SHaW provides support for children and families in foster care in Somerset, Hunterdon, and Warren.

### Evening Prayer resuming Sept. 10, 5:30 pm via Zoom

Evening Prayer Services via Zoom will resume Weds., September 10, at 5:30 pm running every other week until Advent. Services will be weekly during the Advent season. Service resources available online or via slides during the Zoom service.



**Confirmation Class, Sept. 21, 10:15 am at St. John on the Mountain**

The confirmation class will meet on Sun., Sept. 21, at 10:15 am at St. John on the Mountain in preparation for their Confirmation on Sept. 28 at St. Martin's, Bridgewater. A short rehearsal for the Confirmation will take place on Saturday, Sept. 27, at 10:30 am at St. Martin's.

**Games Night! Wednesday, Sept., 24, 6 – 8 pm at St. Bernard's**

Join us for games, fun, and pizza on Wednesday, Sept., 24, from 6-8 pm in St. Bernard's Parish Hall. Fun for all ages, held once a month. Thanks to Jason Robinette for leading us.

**St. Francis' Day: Blessing of the Animals, Sunday, Oct. 5: two opportunities. Send in your photos**

We will celebrate Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, Oct. 5. You can submit photos of your pets for the blessing slide show and/or bring your pet or stuffed animal in person to the 11 am Holy Eucharist at St. Bernard's. Alternatively, bring your pet to a brief outdoor Blessing of the Animals service held at St. John on the Mountain at 1:30 pm. All are welcome to either service. Please invite friends and neighbors. *Email your pet photos (include the names of your pets) to Alison, our Parish Administrator, at Admin@StBernardsNJ.org by Wed. Oct 1. Thank you!*

**Food Bank of Somerset County Donations - urgent items needed (see below)**

Donations can be brought to church on Sundays or placed in our food donation tote outside the church. The Food Bank is always in need of donations over the summer.

*Food bank is currently in desperate need of the following:* kid friendly cereal (e.g. Lucky charms, Cinnamon Toast Crunch, Cheerios, Honey Nut Cheerios, Frosted Flakes, Rice Krispies). Also, chunky soups and boxes of Kraft Mac and Cheese. Thank you!

**God's Giving Garden: Work sessions every Tues, Thurs, and Sat mornings**

Join us at God's Giving Garden either Tues., Thurs., or Sat. mornings from 9 am to noon, weather-permitting, straight through the Fall. If you would like to volunteer for this very rewarding ministry contact Cathy Ferrara: [cathyhf2@gmail.com](mailto:cathyhf2@gmail.com) or just come down to the garden during our work sessions! Ross Farm, 135 N. Maple Avenue, Basking Ridge.

**Angel's Closet, November 15-16 at Bedwell Elementary School**

Angel's Closet donations can be dropped off at St. John on the Mountain, 379 Mount Harmony Drive. Volunteers are needed for the set up day on Nov. 15 and distribution day Nov. 16. This year the event will be held at Bedwell Elementary School.

**SAVE THE DATE: Oct. 13 Bishop's Cup Golf Outing with Pickleball Challenge!**

Mercer Oaks Golf Course, West Windsor, NJ. You are invited to the Annual Bishop George E. Connell Memorial Golf Outing and Pickleball Challenge on Mon., Oct. 13. Golfers of all ages and skill levels will play one of two iconic courses, and foursomes from parishes to compete for the prestigious Bishop's Cup. Pickleball offered as well! A reception and repast will follow. This annual event is the largest fundraiser for Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Trenton. If you can't attend but would like to donate go to: [www.trinitycathedralnj.org](http://www.trinitycathedralnj.org) for more info.