Today’s scripture lessons speak about how God searches for us even when we are lost or have wandered away. In the lesson from Exodus, Moses intercedes on behalf of the people when God threatens to punish them for worshipping other gods. God relents and treats the people mercifully. In 1 Timothy, the author marvels at God’s overflowing grace that redeemed him—he, who was once a blasphemer and violent persecutor of God’s people. In Luke’s Gospel, Jesus tells two parables of people who have lost something precious, searched diligently to find what was lost, and celebrated with great joy when they found what they sought. As with these people, there is great rejoicing in heaven when a sinner who is lost turns in repentance and receives God’s abundant grace.
Gathering
Carillon

Opening Voluntary

Pari intervallo

Arvo Pärt

Greeting and Call to Worship

*Processional Hymn 339

Come, Sinners, to the Gospel Feast

HURSLEY

*Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance | The minister offers words of confession in three biddings to which the congregation responds as follows:

Minister:  Lord, have mercy.
People:    Lord, have mercy.

Minister:  Christ, have mercy.
People:    Christ, have mercy.

Minister:  Lord, have mercy.
People:    Lord, have mercy.

The minister speaks words of assurance.

*Peace | All exchange signs and words of God's peace.

Minister:   The peace of Christ be with you.
People:     And also with you.

Proclamation

Prayer for Illumination | In unison:

Lord of creation, whose glory is around and within us: open our eyes to your wonders, and come now to illuminate your holy word; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*All rise as able
Old Testament Lesson  |  OT pages 75–76 in pew Bibles.

Exodus 32:7–14

Lector:  This is the word of the Lord.
People:  Thanks be to God.

Psalmody

Have Mercy on Me, O God

Have mercy on me, O God.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.
Purge me with hyssop,
and I shall be whiter than snow.
Have mercy on me, O God.
Hide thy face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.
Then will I teach transgressors thy ways,
and sinners will return to thee.
Have mercy on me, O God.

—adapt. from Psalm 51

New Testament Lesson  |  NT page 196 in pew Bibles.

1 Timothy 1:12–17

Lector:  This is the word of the Lord.
People:  Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Blessed Be the Lord, My Rock

Blessed be the Lord, my rock and my fortress,
my stronghold, my deliverer;
my shield and he in whom I take refuge.
We are like breath;  
our days are like a passing shadow.  
Bow thy heavens, O Lord, come down!  
Stretch forth thy hand from on high;  
Rescue me, deliver me.  
I will sing a new song to thee, O God.

—adapt. from Psalm 144

*Gospel Lesson | NT page 73 in pew Bibles.

Luke 15:1–10

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.  
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Joy Wins

Response

*Response Hymn 400

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

*Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth:
  And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the
  Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
  was crucified, dead, and buried: he descended into hell; the third day
  he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the
  right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come
to judge the quick and the dead.
  I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion
  of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the
  life everlasting. Amen.
Call to Prayer

Minister: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Minister: Let us pray.

Prayers of the People | The congregation responds to each petition:

People: Hear our prayer.

Offertory Anthem

God, Bless Us and Keep Us

God, bless us and keep us and make us a blessing,
a sign of your mercies outhumb’ring the stars.
Enliven our labor with love for our neighbor,
the harvest of grateful and grace-bearing hearts.

Christ, shine on our path as the flame of good courage,
a light in the darkness, the dawn of our days.
With kindness uphold us, defend us, and clothe us
in garments of gladness and garlands of praise.

Pour out on all people your bountiful Spirit—
new visions she wakens, sweet wisdom she breathes.
Today and tomorrow, in joy and in sorrow,
in life and in death, ever, God, give us peace.

—Susan Ruth Briehl

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.
Thanksgiving

*Prayer of Thanksgiving*

*The Lord’s Prayer* | All are encouraged to pray the Lord’s Prayer in the language of their choosing.

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, forever.
Amen.

Sending Forth

*Choral Benediction*

God, Bless Us and Keep Us (*reprise*) R. Buckley Farlee

Christ, shine on our path as the flame of good courage,
a light in the darkness, the dawn of our days.
With kindness uphold us, defend us, and clothe us
in garments of gladness and garlands of praise.

—S. R. Briebl

*Closing Hymn 378* | Stanzas 4 and 5 will be sung in canon, pulpit side first.
Follow the directions of the choir.

Amazing Grace AMAZING GRACE

Closing Voluntary

Prelude in B Minor, BWV 544/1 Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Carillon

Memorial Chapel Communion | Immediately following today’s worship service, a brief communion service will be held in Memorial Chapel. Following communion, the pastor will be available to offer prayers and anointing.
TODAY IN WORSHIP

Presiding Ministers
Luke A. Powery .................................................. Dean, Duke University Chapel
Kathryn Lester-Bacon ............................... Director of Religious Life, Duke University Chapel

Preacher
Bruce Puckett .............................................. Assistant Dean, Duke University Chapel

Lectors
David Ntim ........................................................ Trinity ’26
Katie Spencer ........................................ Chapel Scholar, Wesley Fellowship, Pratt ’23

Musicians
Duke Chapel Choir .............................................. Choir
Zebulon Highben ................................. Director of Chapel Music, Duke University Chapel
Robert Parkins ......................................... University Organist, Duke University
Jane Lynch ................................................... Guest Organist
Daniel Jacky ........................................ Organ Scholar, Duke University Chapel
Mitchell Eithun ........................................ Duke Chapel Carillonneur

Head Usher
James Ferguson ........................................ Member, Congregation at Duke Chapel

Today’s Offering | All of today’s checks written to Duke University Chapel will be used to support the Chapel’s Development Fund for Mission and Ministry. Send checks to: Duke University Chapel, Box 90974, Durham, NC 27708-0974. You are invited to give online at chapel.duke.edu/offering.

Today’s Music | Blessed Be the Lord, My Rock by Abbie Betinis was written on September 12, 2001, in response to the terrorist attacks of the previous day. It was not performed for the first time until two years later. The composer sets selected verses from Psalm 144 that acknowledge the fragility of human life against the constancy of God, our rock and stronghold. The piece concludes with a unison plea for rescue and deliverance, followed by the psalmist’s promise from verse 9: “I will sing a new song to thee, O God.”

Today’s Flowers | Flowers for today’s worship service are provided by the generosity of the Nancy Hanks Fund.

Accessibility | Large print hymnals and worship guides are available at the visitor relations desk. Hearing assistance units are available at the AV console in the rear of the Chapel.

University Prayer of Thanksgiving | Each week, we focus on a different campus unit, school, or department for whom to give thanks to God for their service and contributions to the wider university community and beyond. Today we give thanks for Duke’s housekeepers, groundskeepers, maintenance workers, food service employees, and all those who work behind the scenes.

Tour After the Service | Learn about the history, architecture, and life of Duke Chapel on a tour immediately following the service. The tour is free and lasts about forty-five minutes. Meet the docent outside in front of the Chapel.

Restrooms in Divinity School | Public restrooms are available in the Divinity School. To access them, exit the Chapel through the main front doors, turn to the left, and enter the Divinity School. Restrooms are along the hallway in the Divinity School.

Lunch Today | Join other worshipers for lunch today in the Brodhead Center immediately after worship. The Brodhead Center, which is a short walk from the Chapel, provides a wide array of dining options. Participants will purchase their own lunch then gather in the dining area by The Skillet, on the main floor, to share a time of fellowship and food. Volunteers will be holding signs after worship to provide directions. Everyone is welcome.

Choral Evensong Today | The Chapel’s Choral Evensong worship service will be held today at 4:00 p.m. Evensong is a historic liturgy derived from Vespers and Compline, ancient monastic prayer services of the Christian church. Evensong at the Chapel follows the *Book of Common Prayer*.

Choir Auditions | Students, staff, and community members are invited to audition for one of the Chapel’s three choirs. The Chapel Choir, Evensong Singers, and Vespers Ensemble lead different worship services and perform concerts at the Chapel throughout the year. Visit chapel.duke.edu/sing or email chapelmusic@duke.edu to learn more.

Young Adult Bible Study and Dinner Tomorrow | University graduate students, other young adults, and their partners are invited to dinner and Bible
study on the second and fourth Mondays of the month. The next gathering will be tomorrow, September 12, at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel kitchen located in the lower level of the Chapel. Come for a light supper and good conversation. This fall, the group will explore the book of Exodus. Please contact laura.wilson@duke.edu for additional information.

Theology Underground | Students are invited to participate in Theology Underground, a series of guided conversations about how culture, identity, and race impact the way we live out our faith and beliefs. The Rev. Racquel Gill, the Chapel’s minister for intercultural engagement, will lead the discussions, with campus partners across various identities serving as conversation partners. Each month, the group will engage with a different cultural community and learn about their unique and creative ways of imagining God and living out their faith. Theology Underground begins this Tuesday, September 13, at 6:30 p.m. in the Mary Lou Williams Center Underground Multipurpose Room. Learn more at chapel.duke.edu/TheologyUnderground.

Chapel Scholars | Among the many students who connect with the Chapel, a select group embarks on a journey of faith and learning related to questions of purpose, meaning, and calling. These students are the Chapel Scholars. Chapel Scholars form an interdenominational community of Christian students connected to the Chapel. Together, they ask and seek answers to life’s deepest questions. Through study, service, counsel, and worship, Chapel Scholars build community across traditions and are formed together in faith. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Learn more and apply at chapel.duke.edu/scholars.

‘Agrarian Spirit’ Book Groups | Starting Wednesday, September 14, book groups will meet to discuss Norman Wirzba’s newest book, *Agrarian Spirit: Cultivating Faith, Community, and the Land*. This refreshing work offers a distinctly agrarian reframing of spiritual practices to address today’s most pressing social and ecological concerns. Norman Wirzba is the Gilbert T. Rowe Distinguished Professor of Christian Theology at Duke Divinity School and senior fellow at the Kenan Institute for Ethics. Book groups will meet on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. over Zoom. Please contact congregation@duke.edu for additional information.
Workshop on Racial Healing | In collaboration with the nonprofit Community Empowerment Fund and Episcopalians United Against Racism, Duke Chapel will hold a half-day workshop on Saturday, September 17, on “Healing Our Communities from Racialized Trauma.” The in-person workshop is from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of Elizabeth Street United Methodist Church (1209 N. Elizabeth St. in Durham). It will present concepts, practices, and community-building exercises based on the book *My Grandmother’s Hands* by therapist Resmaa Menakem. Participants are invited to see how these skills for racial healing and racial justice can be applied in their contexts, especially within faith communities. To learn more and register, contact the Chapel’s community minister, the Rev. Breana van Velzen, at breana.van.velzen@duke.edu.

Back Pew Collection | The mission of Reality Ministries is to create opportunities for adults with and without developmental disabilities to experience belonging, kinship, and the life-changing reality of Christ’s love. Relationships flourish through a variety of activities, such as communal meals, outings around town, music, fitness, dances, community service, and many organic expressions of friendship. The ministry welcomes donations of sharpies, postage stamps, dry erase markers, coloring books, dishwasher detergent, all-purpose cleaner, dish rags, disinfectant wipes, coffee, paper plates, cups, napkins, forks, paper towels, and dish soap. Donations for Reality Ministries may be placed on the back pew today or Sunday, September 18.

Bach Cantata Series Begins Sept. 18 | The first concert in this year’s Bach Cantata Series is Sunday, September 18, at 5:00 p.m. There is no charge for admission. The program features music for the Magnificat, including one of J. S. Bach’s greatest masterpieces, the celebratory setting of the *Magnificat in D*, complete with trumpets and drums. The concert also presents the *German Magnificat*, in a rarely heard cantata written for the Feast of the Purification, and Bach’s great *Fugue on the Magnificat* for organ. The program consists of Bach’s *Ouverture in D major*, BWV 1068; *Meine Seele erhebt den Herrn* (German Magnificat), BWV 10; *Fuga sopra il Magnificat*, BWV 733; and *Magnificat in D major*, BWV 243. Families with young children are invited to attend the open rehearsal from 1:00–4:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 17, in Duke Chapel.
Livestream Available for Bryan Stevenson Event Sept. 21 | The author and human rights lawyer Bryan Stevenson will hold a public conversation, titled “Seeking Justice and Redemption in the Public Square,” with Chapel Dean Luke A. Powery on Wednesday, September 21, at 6:00 p.m. The free tickets to attend the event in-person at the Chapel are sold out but registration is open to watch the livestream; no recording will be available. Learn more and register at chapel.duke.edu/stevenson.

Fall New Member Class | The four-week New Member Class will next be held on Sundays, October 2, 9, 16, and 23 from 9:45 a.m.–10:45 a.m. in Westbrook 0014. All those who wish to explore membership in the Congregation at Duke Chapel are welcome to attend. For more information, please contact carol.gregg@duke.edu.

Sunday Morning Classes | Sunday morning Christian Education classes are available for all ages are offered from 9:45–10:45 a.m., with coffee and refreshments provided at 9:30 a.m. Classes meet in the lowest level of the Westbrook building. New participants are welcome at any time. Please contact congregation@duke.edu for additional information. Classes are as follows:

- **Wee Praise:** Music and movement for children ages 0–3 with parents or caregivers in person in room 0011 Westbrook.
- **Godly Play:** Spiritual formation for children ages 4 through 5th grade in person in room 0050 Langford.
- **Youth Bible Study:** Youth in 6th–12th grades will explore Exodus in person in room 0015 Westbrook.
- **Adult Bible Study:** Adults will meet in 0013 Westbrook to discuss the book of Genesis.
- **Adult Forum:** Guest speakers address a variety of topics each week in Westbrook 0012
Emilee Ogden
Duke Divinity Intern, Congregation at Duke Chapel

Emilee Ogden is a first-year master of divinity student at Duke Divinity School and a certified candidate for ministry in the United Methodist Church. Before moving to Durham, she lived along State Road 30A in the Florida panhandle, where she served as the director of children’s ministry in a local church. Originally from Texas, she loves Tex-Mex and good conversations, watching baseball (Go Braves!), musical theatre, and Disney World.

Laura Catherine Wilson
Pastoral Assistant for Youth and Young Adults, Congregation at Duke Chapel

Laura Catherine Wilson was born and raised in Fort Worth, Texas, before attending the University of St. Andrews in Scotland for her undergraduate degree. After graduating, she moved to New York City and worked in ad sales for three years. She is starting her first year of the master of divinity program at Duke and is so excited for this new chapter. She has a Dalmatian, Louis, who is the best!
Philemon Abel  
*Intern for Religious Life and Community Engagement, Duke University Chapel*

Philemon Abel was born and raised in Kansas City, Missouri, where he grew up in a Black Baptist church founded and pastored by his grandfather. He graduated from Williams College in 2019 with a degree in Political Science concentrating in Africana Studies. His coursework focused on the intersections of race, faith, and politics, and he was involved with the gospel choir, the Christian Fellowship, jazz band, poetry club, and the ballroom dancing club. In 2021, he completed a master of education at Johns Hopkins, while also teaching high school language arts in Baltimore. He continued teaching for another year before receiving God’s call to apply to divinity school. He is now a student in Duke Divinity School and looks forward sharing his passions and hobbies with the Duke and Durham community.

Mitchell Eithun  
*Intern for Worship and Student Engagement, Duke University Chapel*

A student at Duke Divinity School, Mitchell Eithun is a composer, mathematician, and lover of bells. He holds a bachelor of arts in mathematics and computer science and a minor in music from Ripon College and a master of science in computational mathematics, science and engineering from Michigan State University. He has over sixty published pieces of handbell music and has received commissions from community and church handbell ensembles. He has ministry experience as a handbell director, digital ministry intern, and campus pastor. His current interests lie in hymnody, digital ministry, and spiritual formation in music ensembles. He is a member of the Handbell Musicians of America and an associate member of the Guild of Carillonneurs in North America. In addition to serving as the intern for worship and student engagement, he plays the Chapel carillon on Sunday mornings.
LET’S KEEP IN TOUCH

We would like to get to know you. What are your questions? What is your story? Take a moment to fill out a brief form, and a Chapel minister or other staff member will contact you soon. Scan the QR code or visit chapel.duke.edu/connect.

The Congregation at Duke University Chapel joyfully welcomes all persons regardless of age, race, class, origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other distinction and invites membership and participation in all of its ministries.

Please email congregation@duke.edu to receive the weekly eNews.