

# ***Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 21)***

***Sunday, September 28, 2025***

8:00 AM (spoken) & 10:15 AM (with music)

***Also Live Streaming at***

**<https://www.facebook.com/stgregoryslongbeach/>**

---

## **VOLUNTARY**

Prelude in G Major

Felix Mendelssohn

*(The people stand)*

## **PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Bulletin Page 16

## **OPENING ACCLAMATION**

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

*People* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

## **COLLECT FOR 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.**

**GLORIA (8:00 service)**

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.

**SONG OF PRAISE (10:15 service)**

*Festival Eucharist, Craig Phillips*

Glo - - - - - ry.                      glo - - - -  
Glo - - - - - ria,                      glo - - - -

- - ry to God in the high - - - - - est.  
- - ria a Dios en el cie - - - - - lo.

*Choir:* 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.

***Refrain***

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.

***Refrain***

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

***Refrain***

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

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

*Presider* Let us pray.

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*(The people are seated)*

## FIRST READING

Jeremiah 32.1-3a, 6-15

*Lector* A Reading from Jeremiah.

The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD in the tenth year of King Zedekiah of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadrezzar. At that time the army of the king of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was confined in the court of the guard that was in the palace of the king of Judah, where King Zedekiah of Judah had confined him.

Jeremiah said, The word of the LORD came to me: Hanamel son of your uncle Shallum is going to come to you and say, "Buy my field that is at Anathoth, for the right of redemption by purchase is yours." Then my cousin Hanamel came to me in the court of the guard, in accordance with the word of the LORD, and said to me, "Buy my field that is at Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, for the right of possession and redemption is yours; buy it for yourself." Then I knew that this was the word of the LORD.

And I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel, and weighed out the money to him, seventeen shekels of silver. I signed the deed, sealed it, got witnesses, and weighed the money on scales. Then I took the sealed deed of purchase, containing the terms and conditions, and the open copy; and I gave the deed of purchase to Baruch son of Neriah son of Mahseiah, in the presence of my cousin Hanamel, in the presence of the witnesses who signed the deed of purchase, and in the presence of all the Judeans who were sitting in the court of the guard. In their presence I charged Baruch, saying, Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and this open deed, and put them in an earthenware jar, in order that they may last for a long time. For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 91.1-16, 14-16

Setting: David York

*The choir sings the antiphon once and the congregation repeats. The choir sings the Psalm verses. The choir and congregation then sing the antiphon following each section of verses.*



He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High,  
abides under the shadow of the Almighty.

He shall say to the LORD,

"You are my refuge and my stronghold,  
my God in whom I put my trust." **Antiphon**

He shall deliver you from the snare of the hunter  
and from the deadly pestilence.

He shall cover you with his pinions,  
and you shall find refuge under his wings;  
his faithfulness shall be a shield and buckler.

You shall not be afraid of any terror by night,  
nor of the arrow that flies by day;

Of the plague that stalks in the darkness,  
nor of the sickness that lays waste at mid-day. **Antiphon**

Because he is bound to me in love,  
therefore will I deliver him;  
I will protect him, because he knows my Name.

He shall call upon me, and I will answer him;  
I am with him in trouble;  
I will rescue him and bring him to honor.

With long life will I satisfy him,  
and show him my salvation. **Antiphon**

## SECOND READING

1 Timothy 6.6-19

*Lector* A Reading from the First Letter to Timothy.

There is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will bring about at the right time-- he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

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

*(The people stand)*

## **SEQUENCE ANTHEM**

Poor Man Lazarus

Traditional Spiritual, arr. Alan J. Hommerding

Brianna Zucker, Andrea Hilliard, Dylan Wicks, soloists  
Sean Dunnahoe, percussion

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

Luke 16.19-31

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

Jesus said, "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.' But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' He said, 'Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house-- for I have five brothers-- that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.'

Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' He said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

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

*(The people are seated)*

**SERMON**

The Rev. Michael K. Fincher

*(Silent reflection)*

**NICENE CREED** *(Please stand)*

**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**

Sisters and brothers, let us set our hope on God and pray to our God, saying, “God, our refuge and stronghold, we put our trust in you.”

We pray for your one holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. May we and your whole Church pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness.

God, our refuge and stronghold,

**We put our trust in you.**

We pray for the leaders of this and every nation. Remind us that they are fallible human beings, fellow children of the earth. May they put their trust in you, even as we trust in you for our help.

God, our refuge and stronghold,

**We put our trust in you.**

Creating God, you made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them. Make us good stewards of your bounty, that there may be food enough for all who hunger.

God, our refuge and stronghold,

**We put our trust in you.**

Open our eyes to see the poor at our gates. Give us compassion for those suffering in our community. You, O Lord, care for the stranger; you sustain the orphan and widow. May our work reflect your heart.

God, our refuge and stronghold,

**We put our trust in you.**

We pray for the hungry, the sick and the dying. Grant comfort and mercy to those who now experience evil things. We pray for those in need, especially those we mention now, silently or aloud [or in the comment section].

*(Pause)*

God, our refuge and stronghold,

**We put our trust in you.**

We pray for those who have died. May all the departed find new life in the presence of their God, the one who alone has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light. We pray especially those we mention now, silently or aloud [or in the comment section].

*(Pause)*

God, our refuge and stronghold,  
**We put our trust in you.**

*Presider* Almighty God, shower your blessing of lovingkindness upon our world community and outlook. Help us to discern and uphold lasting values of peace and sharing abundantly. Be present with us here and home, and for the men and women serving our country throughout the world; challenge us with enduring goals to fulfill the needs of others. Allow us quiet courage to strike forward with compassionate and tolerant hearts, empowered by your everlasting grace. **Amen.**

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

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

*Silence may be 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.**

*Presider* 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 the Lord be always with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**

*(Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.)*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SPECIAL BLESSINGS

**Birthday and Anniversary Prayer:** Watch over your *children*, O Lord, as *their* days increase; bless and guide *them* wherever *they* may be. Strengthen *them* when *they* stand; comfort *them* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *them* up if *they* fall; and in *their* hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of *their* lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Fight the Good Fight

John Gardner

Fight the good fight with all thy might,  
Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right;  
lay hold on life, and it shall be  
thy joy and crown eternally.

Run the straight race  
through God's good grace,  
lift up thine eyes and seek his face;  
life with its way before us lies,  
Christ is the path and Christ the prize.

Cast care aside, lean on thy Guide;  
his boundless mercy will provide;  
trust, and thy trusting soul shall prove  
Christ is its life and Christ its love.

Faint not nor fear, his arms are near;  
he changeth not, and thou art dear;  
only believe, and thou shalt see  
that Christ is all in all to thee.

(John Samuel Bewley Monsell)

### PRESENTATION HYMN

I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me

*African American Spiritual*



1 I'm so glad I'm so glad  
2 Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift-ed me. Sa - tan had me bound,  
3 When I was in trou - ble, When I was in trou - ble,



Je - sus lift-ed me. I'm so glad  
Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift-ed me,  
When I was in trou - ble,



sing-ing glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! Je - sus lift - ed me.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The musical notation is arranged in four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff is for the Celebrant, with the lyrics "The Lord be with you. And al - so with you." The second staff is for the People, with the lyrics "Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord." The third staff is for the Celebrant, with the lyrics "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." The fourth staff is for the People, with the lyrics "It is right to give him thanks and praise." The notation includes various note values, rests, and slurs to indicate the melody and phrasing of the text.

*Celebrant*  
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

*Celebrant*  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

*Celebrant*  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People*  
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing (say):

*At the 8:00 Service:*

**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.**

*At the 10:15 Service:*

*St. Anne's Mass, James MacMillan*

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord,  
God of power and might. Heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-  
san - na in the high - est. Bles-sed is he, O bles-sed is he, who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself, yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, 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. Again, he gave thanks to you, 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."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with [ ] and] all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

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 pray:

Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed  
be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our  
dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,  
as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead  
us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us  
from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the power,  
and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*(A period of silence is kept after the Presider breaks the host)*

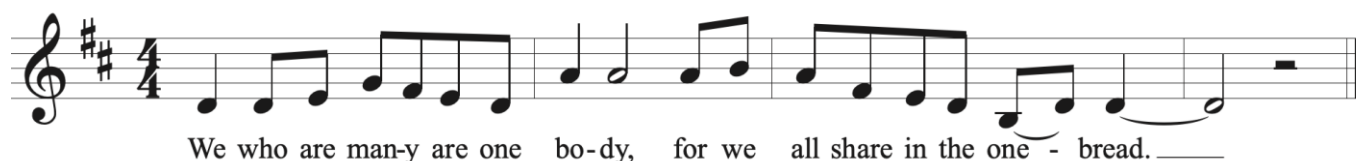
Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

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

## FRACTION ANTHEM

David York

Dylan Wicks, cantor



*Refrain sung first by the cantor, then repeated by all*

Verse: We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Refrain: We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

*The Presider says the following invitation*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

## COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*All are welcome to receive Holy Communion at this Altar. Holy Communion will be distributed from a single Communion Station at the foot of the chancel steps. The Ushers will release people by row to receive Communion. **Gluten free wafers are available upon request.***

### PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

*Those who are participating in the live streamed service and therefore not able to receive communion may wish to say the following prayer in recognition that the desire to receive communion carries the same spiritual benefits of actually consuming the consecrated elements.*

Lord Jesus Christ, you have instituted for us a great sacrament in your promise of life and love, which we remember now as we hear your words again: "This is my body; this is my blood — given for you." Feed us in our hearts with faith and trust, draw us closer to you and to each other, and strengthen us for service to our neighbor. We come before you now, with hearts you have fed all our lives with the promise that you have given yourself for us. Keep us strong in that faith until we can meet at your table again. Amen.

## COMMUNION MUSIC

On Eagle's Wings I Lift You

Felix Mendelssohn

Andrea Hilliard, Dylan Wicks, soloists

On eagle's wings I lift you;  
my hands will bear you up.  
I will be your refuge:  
I will guard your life and keep you.

(Psalm 92, Isaiah 40)

## COMMUNION HYMN

Guide My Feet Lord

Bulletin Page 17

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

*Presider* Let us pray.

**God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## BLESSING

The peace of God, which passes 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 Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## RECESSIONAL HYMN

O What their Joy and their Glory Must Be

Bulletin Page 18

## THE DISMISSAL

*Presider* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## **VOLUNTARY**

Grand Triumphal Chorus

Alexandre Guilmant

*If you wish to leave during the Voluntary, please do so quietly,  
out of courtesy for those staying to listen.*

### **FLOWERS TODAY ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD**

*and*

*In thanksgiving for the birthday of R. Scott Morgan  
by Fran Luebben-Morgan & David Luebben-Morrill*

*and*

*In memory of Max & Poppy and all our beloved pets  
who've crossed over into eternity*

**Please join us in Francis Hall for refreshments and fellowship  
following the worship service**

(Francis Hall is out the main church doors and to the left)

### **TODAY'S WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

	<b>8:00 SERVICE</b>	<b>10:15 SERVICE</b>
Presider and Preacher	Fr. Michael Fincher	Fr. Michael Fincher
Music Director	—	David York
Acolyte	—	David Luebben-Morrill
Lector	Holly Graham	Kimberly Bouzguenda
Lay Eucharistic	Holly Graham	Carol Bernstein
Ministers (LEMs)	David Luebben-Morrill	Dorothy Edwards

Permission to reprint the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-736712. All rights reserved.

# PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*Hymnal 1982, Hymn 423*

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

*St. Denio*

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
 3 To all life thou giv - est, to both great and small;  
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry, thou rul - est in light,

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;  
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;  
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
 we blos - som and flour - ish, like leaves on the tree,  
 all laud we would ren - der: O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - tor - ious, thy great Name we praise.  
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
 then with - er and per - ish; but nought chan - geth thee.  
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.



# COMMUNION HYMN

Wonder, Love & Praise, Hymn 819

Guide My Feet Lord

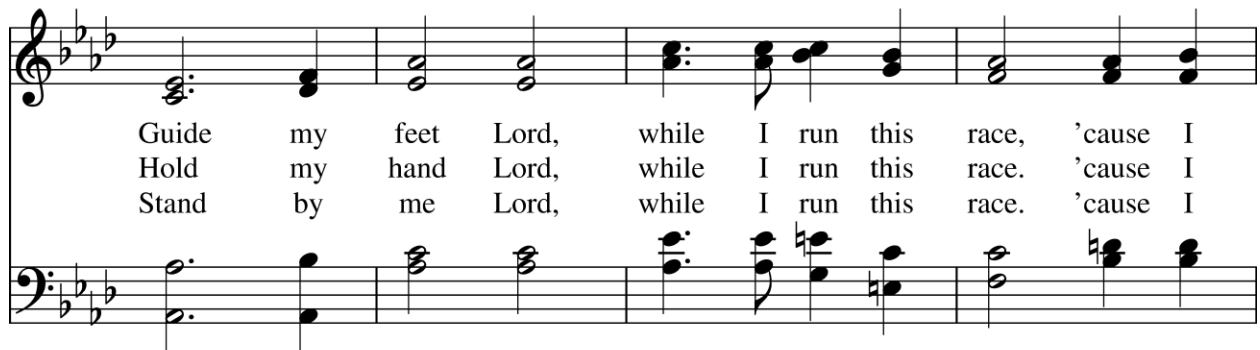
*African American Spiritual*



1. Guide my feet Lord, while I run this race.  
 2. Hold my hand Lord, while I run this race.  
 3. Stand by me Lord, while I run this race.



Guide my feet Lord, while I run this race.  
 Hold my hand Lord, while I run this race.  
 Stand by me Lord, while I run this race.



Guide my feet Lord, while I run this race, 'cause I  
 Hold my hand Lord, while I run this race, 'cause I  
 Stand by me Lord, while I run this race, 'cause I



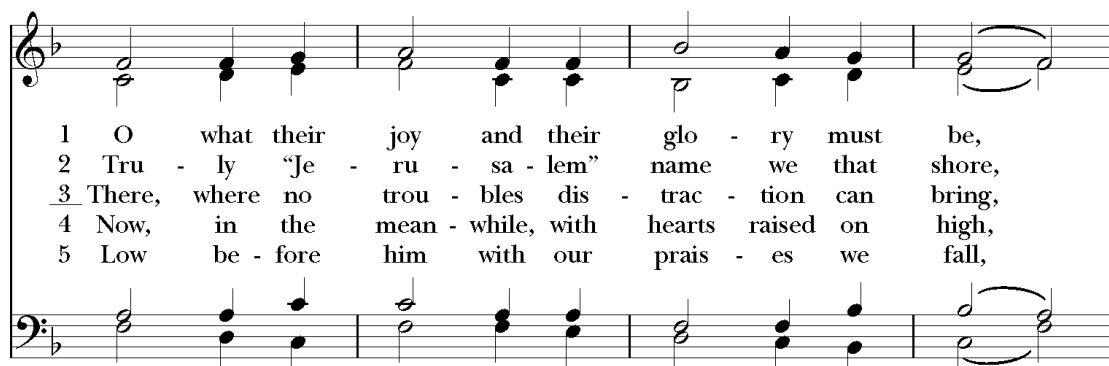
don't want to run this race in vain. \_\_\_\_\_  
 don't want to run this race in vain. \_\_\_\_\_  
 don't want to run this race in vain. \_\_\_\_\_

Music: African-American spiritual, arr. Carl Harris, Jr. (b. 1935).

**RECESSIONAL HYMN**  
*Hymnal 1982, Hymn 623*

O What their Joy and their Glory Must Be

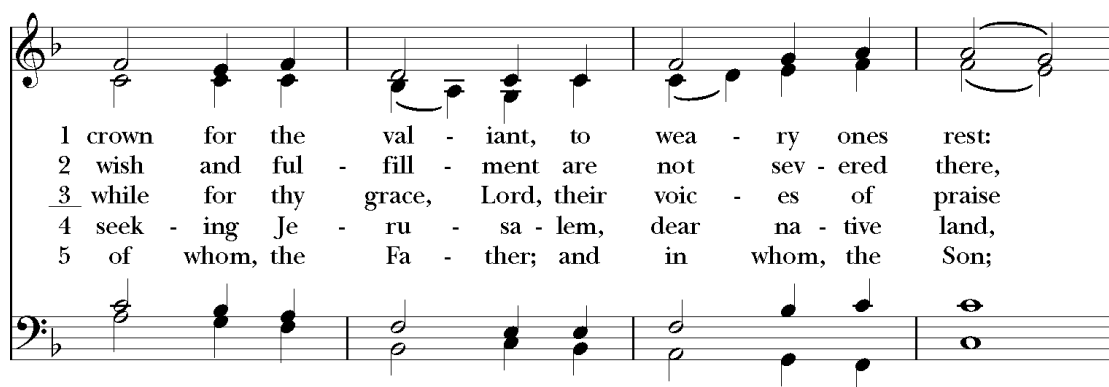
*O quanta qualia*



1 O what their joy and their glo - ry must be,  
 2 Tru - ly "Je - ru - sa - lem" name we that shore,  
 3 There, where no trou - bles dis - trac - tion can bring,  
 4 Now, in the mean - while, with hearts raised on high,  
 5 Low be - fore him with our prais - es we fall,



1 those end - less Sab - baths the bless - ed ones see;  
 2 ci - ty of peace that brings joy ev - er - more;  
 3 we the sweet an - thems of Zi - on shall sing;  
 4 we for that coun - try must yearn and must sigh,  
 5 of whom, and in whom, and through whom are all;



1 crown for the val - iant, to wea - ry ones rest:  
 2 wish and ful - fill - ment are not sev - ered there,  
 3 while for thy grace, Lord, their voic - es of praise  
 4 seek - ing Je - ru - sa - lem, dear na - tive land,  
 5 of whom, the Fa - ther; and in whom, the Son;



1 God shall be all, and in all ev - er blest.  
 2 nor do things prayed for come short of the prayer.  
 3 thy bless - ed peo - ple e - ter - nal - ly raise.  
 4 through our long ex - ile on Bab - y - lon's strand.  
 5 through whom, the Spi - rit, with them ev - er One.

## ***THIS WEEK AT ST. GREGORY'S***

### **Tuesday, September 30**

**Centering Prayer at 6:30 PM** on Zoom. Contact Fr. Michael for access information.

### **Thursday, October 2**

**Holy Eucharist and Healing Service at 10:00 AM** in the Chapel.

**Bible Study at 11:00 AM** in the Fireside Room.

**Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 PM** in the Choir Room. Contact David York for more information.

### **Saturday, October 4 – Feast of St. Francis of Assisi**

**Blessing of the Animals at 10:00 AM** in the Courtyard.

### **Sunday, October 5 – Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Holy Eucharist (spoken) at 8:00 AM** in the Church.

#### **Sunday School**

**Seniors** (ages 11 to 18) at **9:30 AM** in the Youth Room.

**Juniors** (ages 8 to 10) at **10:15 AM** in the Youth Room.

**Beginners** (ages 5 to 7) at **10:15 AM** in the Youth Room.

**Holy Eucharist (with music) at 10:15 AM** in the Church and live streamed on the St. Gregory's Facebook page (<https://facebook.com/stgregoryslongbeach/>).

***Nursery Care is available on Sundays, starting at 7:45 AM, in the Nursery (Room 3)***

### **Daily Offices (Tuesday through Thursday)**

**Daily Morning Prayer:** Tuesday through Thursday at **9:00 AM** on the St. Gregory's Facebook page (<https://facebook.com/stgregoryslongbeach/>).

**Daily Evening Prayer:** Tuesday through Thursday at **5:00 PM** on the St. Gregory's Facebook page (<https://facebook.com/stgregoryslongbeach/>).

*For the Daily Offices, you will need either a Book of Common Prayer or you can download the Morning and Evening Prayer liturgies and the Psalms for the week from the St. Gregory's website ([www.stgregoryschurch.com](http://www.stgregoryschurch.com)).*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Saturday, October 4 – Blessing of the Animals

We will have our annual Blessing of the Animals on **Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM**. The brief service will include several prayers attributed to St. Francis followed by individual blessings of all animals present. For the comfort and safety of all concerned, human and non-human guests alike, we do ask that a few ground rules be honored. Please restrain all animals. They should be on leashes (if appropriate) or in carriers. And please clean up any messes your pet makes. If you are not able to, or are uncomfortable bringing your pet, or if your pet is uncomfortable coming out, you can bring a picture of your pet or one of your pet's favorite toys, which we will bless instead.

### Music at Four – October 19, 2025

**10:15 AM** – Drums and bass guitar, soloists and choir offer African American composer Robert Ray's *Gospel Mass* during the Sunday morning Eucharist. Although this setting of the mass was premiered in 1979, it remains fresh in 2025 with rock, jazz, funk, blues and pop influences.

**4:00 PM** – Local homegrown cellist Daniel Smith shares works of personal significance from his life in *A Cellist's Musical Journey*. Starting at the first chapter of his cello journey at age 11, to his life's current chapter as a thirty-something professional cellist, come experience an intimate representation of a musical life well lived.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Candidates for Bishop:** At our Diocesan Convention in November, we will elect a new bishop who will succeed Bishop Taylor when he retires in 2026. The Diocese has scheduled four meet-and-greet gatherings the week of October 20, when the candidates for bishop will tour the diocese and engage in question-and-answer sessions (there are additional clergy-only sessions). You are welcome to attend any of the following sessions, even if you are not a voting delegate at Diocesan Convention.

- **Tuesday, October 21, 7 PM** St. Columba's Parish, 1251 Las Posas Rd., Camarillo 93010 (Zoom link will be provided.)
- **Wednesday, October 22, 7 PM** (Spanish-language translation available) Christ the Good Shepherd Parish 3303 W. Vernon Ave., Los Angeles 90008 (Zoom link will be provided.)
- **Thursday, October 23, 7 PM** All Saints' Parish, 3847 Terracina Drive, Riverside 92506 (Zoom link will be provided.)
- **Friday, October 24, 7 PM** (Spanish-language translation available) St. Thomas Mission, 15694 Tetley St., Hacienda Heights 91745 (Zoom link will be provided.)

**Pet Food and Sundries Outreach Project:** We are collecting donations for the Long Beach Animal Shelter. The list of their needs can be found in the flyer on page 25 of this bulletin. This collection will end with the Blessing of the Animals here at St. Gregory's on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Monetary donations can be placed in the offering plate or sent in through the usual methods. Please join us in this much appreciated collection, and bring your beloved pets to the Blessing of the Animals in October. Thank you from the Outreach Committee.

**Stitches of Faith:** Are you looking for a space to share your creativity, enjoy fellowship, and be inspired? Stitches of Faith is a new gathering for anyone who loves to craft—or wants to learn! Whether you knit, crochet, quilt, paint, or want to try your hand at another craft, this group is open to all skill levels, including beginners eager to discover something new. We'll meet on Sundays from 1:00–3:30 PM in the Conference Room, beginning October 12th. Each week, we will enjoy time for projects, encouragement, and conversation in a relaxed, faith-filled environment. Light refreshments will be provided. Bring your supplies, your curiosity, and your kind spirit. Come create, connect, and grow in community with us!

**Lend a Hand:** Like any older building, St. Gregory's constantly needs maintenance and touching up. Fred Cornett has made up a list of things to do in the near future: Cleaning and arranging the janitor's closet and the storage areas, cleaning the trash cans, etc. Many hands make light work, and most of the jobs won't take much time if two or three people join in. There is a signup sheet in the narthex, and Fred is always available for consultation or questions: (562) 308-6955. Thanks, Fred, for getting the projects going!

### **Episcopal Relief & Development is Responding to Deadly Texas Hill Country Flooding**

Episcopal Relief & Development is helping local diocesan partners in Texas provide support to those impacted by the catastrophic July 4-5 Texas Hill Country flooding, which killed over 100 people, with many more still missing.

"This disaster is still unfolding. We will learn much more in the days and weeks ahead," said the Very Rev. David Read, Bishop of West Texas and the Very Rev. Angela Cortiñas, Bishop Suffragan of West Texas, in a joint statement released on July 5. "The recovery of the Hunt, Ingram, Comfort and Kerrville communities will not happen overnight. It will take time to catalog the loss of homes, businesses, livelihoods, and lives, and the best ways we can tangibly be part of healing, hope and recovery."

Episcopal Relief & Development is working with longstanding local partners in the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas to help people most in need. Working through trusted relationships, Episcopal Relief & Development is helping partners to offer their financial resources, physical property and spiritual support in places where it is most useful after a disaster of this scale. If you'd like to help, please follow this link: <https://www.dwtx.org>

**Altar Flower Donations:** Need a wonderful way to honor or remember a loved one or friend? Make a flower donation. There is a flower donation chart located on the Narthex wall that you can use to sign up for special dates to donate altar flowers. Simply fill out a donation form attached to the bottom of the chart and return the form to the Parish Office. Payment for flowers can be made by check or online at <https://stgregoryschurch.com/4721-2>. Make sure you specify your donation is for Altar Flowers. The Altar Guild thanks you.

**Episcopal News Updates:** The Diocese provides weekly email updates to help you keep informed about what's happening all over our six-county diocese. If you want to receive the Episcopal News, visit <https://diocesela.org/episcopal-news/contact/> and enter your email address in the box provided.

**Feed My Lambs and Food Bank:** THANK YOU for your generosity and your donations. Here's the latest news on our parish feeding programs.

- **Feed My Lambs**
  - **Homemade cookies can be dropped off any time.** Please put your homemade cookies in Ziploc Bags and label them with the date and "FML" (this way we know they are for Feed My Lambs and not other purposes).
  - **Please do not bring hardboiled eggs.** Due to issues with eggs, we now have a dedicated team responsible for providing hardboiled egg.
  - **Volunteers** – If you are interested in helping out Feed My Lambs, contact Tamera Benedict at ([tlbenedict4@gmail.com](mailto:tlbenedict4@gmail.com), 562.301.6800).
- **Food Bank** The Food Bank relies on your financial support and appreciates all donations of funds or non-perishable food items. We also can use more volunteers at:
  - Bagging and distribution the THIRD WEDNESDAY of each month from 8:30 to 11:00 AM
  - Any other time you may have available and could assist with assembling our bags (e.g. on Sunday before or after service, or any time the office is open for access)Please contact Kevin in the Parish Office ([info@stgregoryschurch.com](mailto:info@stgregoryschurch.com), 562.420.1311) or Bill Eldon ([billeldon@gmail.com](mailto:billeldon@gmail.com), 562.234.9920) for more information about the Food Bank.

Your continued support of our feeding ministries, through product and monetary contributions, is greatly appreciated!

**Gratitude for Your Support of the Parish:** We continue to be humbled and so incredibly grateful for your generosity in supporting our parish and its ministries! While you may not be able to drop your donation in a real offering plate, there are still ways you can make sure your donation gets to the parish:

- You can mail your check to the parish office.
- Make donations through our online payment account, accessible through the parish website at <http://stgregoryschurch.com/4721-2/>.
- Scan the QR code found in the Sunday bulletin.

And again, THANK YOU for your continued support!

**Parish Directory:** Our online parish directory is at <https://www.instantchurchdirectory.com/>. This is a secure site and can be accessed using the email address you had published in the parish directory. You can also download the "Instant Church Directory" on your smart phone. Versions are available for Android, iPhone, iPad, and Kindle.

**One Body & One Spirit Annual Appeal:** The Diocese has established an ongoing campaign focused on raising funds to assist congregations, schools, affiliated institutions, and their communities who are faced with unprecedented challenges. We are invited to prayerfully consider making a donation to help others in our Diocese who may have unmet needs. More information is available at <https://diocesela.org/annual-appeal/>.

**Forward Day By Day:** For those who use the Forward Day By Day booklet for personal devotions and need the newest edition mailed, please contact Kevin at 562-420-1311 or [info@stgregoryschurch.com](mailto:info@stgregoryschurch.com).

**In Case of Emergency . . . Notify Your Priest!** In the event of a hospital stay, illness, death in the family, or other pastoral emergency, please call Fr. Michael on his cell phone (909-373-6478). And PLEASE, no excuses about not wanting to bother me. That's why we are here – for YOU!

## ***PRAYER LIST***

Lydia Gibbs, Suzan Laverty, Martin Nemitz, Ferdinand Gonzalez, Patrick McDonough, Mike Laverty, Mother Beryl, Eric Graham, Walt Gupton, Scott Morgan, Fran Luebben-Morgan, Harold Peacock, Rudy Revell, Jared Baker, Kimberly Bouzguenda, Shannon Romano, Ralph Tesla, Anne Cantrell, Matt Burger, Kathy Edwards, Darlene Feit-Pretzer, Keeley Gilmore, Betty Peacock, Maria White, Laura Mae Harper, Elizabeth Laursen, Eric Kela, Dodie Martin, Savannah Jimenez, Martha Wong, Joanne Paine, Jonah Culbert, Carlos Cruz, Alexis Cattivera and Family, Sean Wood, Marina Tesla, Barbara Cleantis, Jim Perreten, Nancy Luebben, Diane Duacsek, Michele Morrill, Kira Dirghalli, Abby & Sydney, Mary Hannah, Edith Finney, Bill Henderson, Paige Hardin, Marty Wong, Cypress Walters, Finn Andrews, Amine Nebri and family, Richard Sheffield, Mary Scarlet Picket, Bobbi Teran, Dominic Ginder, Miriam Edwards, Charles H. Parks, Perry Nelson, Nelly Bell, Steve Cleantis, Ernie and Vickie Morrison, Kathryn Courtney, Alison and Mick, Phyllis Comiskey, Marie Romer, Brett W.

*Note: Unless we are aware of on-going concerns, names only stay on the Parish Prayer List for a month. If names need to be re-added, please notify the Parish Office.*

---

---

Texts of Sunday sermons are available on our parish website, at  
<http://stgregoryschurch.com/sermons-archive/>

---

---

**To make secure, online donations to St. Gregory's, simply scan:**





# Long Beach Animal Shelter Urgent Needs



Below is a list of items that are urgently needed at the shelter. Do you prefer to shop online? Many of the items below can be purchased and shipped from Walmart, Amazon and Chewy.

## Food

- Dry, canned, prescription kitten, cat, puppy, and dog food
- Soft, hard unopened dog treats, cat treats, dog chews
- Small animal food and supplies

## Toys

- Cats (durable, washable cat toys, new scratchers)
- Dogs (NEW squeaky toys, KONG, durable puppy toys)
- Cat towers, condos and trees

## Miscellaneous

- Collars, leashes, harnesses, Gentle Leaders
- Travel crates, all sizes
- Cat litter (no scoop or clay-based please)
- Poop scoopers, bags (biodegradable if possible)
- Beds, Kennel Pad dog beds
- Stainless steel dog/cat bowls
- Cat carriers
- Clean, gently used blankets, towels

If you would like to donate something that is not listed, please check their website at <https://spcala.com/donate/needed-items/>. Thank you for your generous donation.



# ST. GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

6201 E. WILLOW STREET, LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90815  
562-420-1311 [WWW.STGREGORYSCHURCH.COM](http://WWW.STGREGORYSCHURCH.COM)

## **WELCOME TO ST. GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH!**

St. Gregory's is a warm and caring community of families and singles, young and old, committed to sharing the good news that Jesus is the Lord of all life. We are an Episcopal Church, having members from all backgrounds and religious traditions. Many of us had no church involvement before coming here. We want to offer to you the same welcome and friendship that were extended to us when we came to St. Gregory's.

## **ST. GREGORY'S MISSION STATEMENT**

God has called us into Christian community and gifted us for ministry:

To worship and glorify God  
To transform faith into action  
To share the love of Jesus Christ

The Right Reverend John H. Taylor  
Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles

The Reverend Michael K. Fincher, Rector  
[rector@stgregoryschurch.com](mailto:rector@stgregoryschurch.com)

The Reverend Sharon K. Sheffield, Associate Priest  
[associate@stgregoryschurch.com](mailto:associate@stgregoryschurch.com)

David York, Music Director & Organist  
[york1635@aol.com](mailto:york1635@aol.com)

Kevin Wood, Parish Administrator  
[info@stgregoryschurch.com](mailto:info@stgregoryschurch.com)

Parish Office Hours: 9:00am-12:00pm, Tuesday – Friday