



# *Last Sunday after the Epiphany*

*Sunday, February 15, 2026*

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

*Also Live Streaming at*

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

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## **VOLUNTARY**

Chaconne in E Minor

Dietrich Buxtehude

*(Please stand)*

## **PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

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.**

**GLORIA (10:15 Service)**

*Mass for Grace, Carl Haywood*



Glo-ry, Glo-ry, hal - le-lu - jah, Lord we praise your Ho - ly Name. —

All: *Refrain*

Choir: 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.

All: *Refrain*

Choir: 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 the Father.

All: *Refrain*

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Presider*      The Lord be with you.  
*People*        **And also with you.**  
*Presider*      Let us pray.

O God, who before the passion of your only begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

## FIRST READING

Exodus 24.12-18

*Lector*        A Reading from Exodus

The Lord said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.”

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

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

## PSALM 99

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.*



Pro - claim the great - ness of the Lord. He is the Ho - ly One.

The Lord is king; let the earth tremble;  
he is throned upon the cherubim; let the earth shake.

The Lord is great in Zion;  
he is high above all peoples. **Antiphon**

Moses and Aaron among his priests;  
and Samuel among those who call upon his name,  
they called upon the Lord, and he answered them.  
He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud;  
they kept his testimonies and the decree that he gave them. **Antiphon**

O Lord our God, you answered them indeed;  
you were a God who forgave them,  
yet punished them for their evil deeds.  
Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God  
and worship him upon his holy hill;  
for the Lord our God is the Holy One. **Antiphon**

## SECOND READING

2 Peter 1.16-21

*Lector*      A Reading from the Second Letter to Peter

We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

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

(Please stand)

## SEQUENCE HYMN

Song of the Transfiguration

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Jordan Tickner, cantor

(Cantor sings v. 1, congregation sings v. 2, the Gospel is read, then v. 3 is sung)

## HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 17.1-9

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

(Please be seated)

## SERMON

The Rev. Michael K. Fincher

(Silent reflection)

**NICENE CREED** (*All standing*)

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** (*Please remain standing or kneel*)

Let us offer our prayers to God whose glory is a devouring fire, a light shining out of darkness,  
saying, "O Savior, hear us."

For the holy catholic church throughout the world, sharing the death and resurrection of Christ,  
we pray.

**O Savior, hear us.**

For Sean our Presiding Bishop, for John our Bishop, for Antonio our Bishop-elect, for Michael our Rector, for our parish lay leaders, for all who minister in Christ, and for all the people of God, we pray.

**O Savior, hear us.**

For those in authority, for Donald our President, Gavin our Governor, Rex our Mayor; for all the nations and peoples of the earth, and for justice, mercy, and peace, we pray.

**O Savior, hear us.**

For those who are needy, desolate, forgotten, suffering, lonely, disconsolate, and sick, we pray.

**O Savior, hear us.**

For those who have gone before us under the sign of faith, and for all the departed, we pray.

**O Savior, hear us.**

That all the world may reflect the splendor of God and share in the divinity of Christ, we pray.

**O Savior, hear us.**

*The Presider says the concluding collect:*

Blessed are you, God of light eternal. Hear our prayers for all peoples and let your glory shine through us this day, that our lives may proclaim your goodness and our works give you honor. Glory to you for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## **CONFSSION 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 Risen 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.

## HOLY COMMUNION

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

T. Frederick Candlyn

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,  
Christ, the true, the only Light,  
Sun of Righteousness, arise,  
Triumph o'er the shades of night;  
Dayspring from on high, be near;  
Day-star, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn  
Unaccompanied by Thee;  
Joyless is the day's return  
Till Thy mercy's beams I see;  
Till they inward light impart,  
Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine,  
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
Fill me, Radiancy divine,  
Scatter all my unbelief;  
More and more Thyself display,  
Shining to the perfect day. Amen. (Charles Wesley)

## PRESENTATION HYMN

This Little Light of Mine

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(Verses 1 & 2)

# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

### *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:*

*Missa Simplex*. Peter Hallock

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise.

Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

**Dying, you destroyed our death.  
Rising, you restored our life.  
Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with [blessed \_\_\_\_\_, and] all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

**Blessed are you now and for 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 Celebrant breaks the host)*

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

**Therefore let us keep the feast.**

## FRACTION ANTHEM – S169

*Cantor or Choir*

My flesh is food in - deed, and my blood is drink in -

deed, says the Lord. *All* My Lord. Those who eat my

*Cantor or Choir*

flesh and drink my blood dwell in me and I in them. *All* My

flesh is food in - deed, and my blood is drink in - deed, says the Lord.

*The Presider says the following or a similar 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 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 as 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

O One with God the Father

David York

Brianna Zucker, Andres Hilliard, soloists

O One with God the Father  
In majesty and might,  
The brightness of His glory,  
Eternal Light of Light;  
O'er this our home of darkness  
Thy rays are streaming now;  
The shadows flee before Thee,  
The world's true Light art Thou.

Yet, Lord, we see but darkly:  
O heavenly Light, arise!  
Dispel these mists that shroud us,  
And hide Thee from our eyes!  
We long to track the footprints  
That Thou Thyself hast trod:  
We long to see the pathway  
That leads to Thee our God.

O Jesus, shine around us  
With radiance of Thy grace;  
O Jesus, turn upon us  
The brightness of Thy face.  
We need no star to guide us,  
As on our way we press,  
If Thou Thy light vouchsafest,  
O Sun of Righteousness. (William Walsham How)

## COMMUNION HYMN

Fairest Lord Jesus

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## 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 God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, ☧ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## RECESSATIONAL HYMN

Alleluia, Song of Gladness

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## DISMISSAL

*Presider*      Let us go forth in the name of Christ.  
*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

## VOLUNTARY

Toccata in D Minor

Johann Eberlin

*If you choose 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

**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 & Preacher	Fr. Michael Fincher	Fr. Michael Fincher
Organist	—	David York
Crucifer	—	David Luebben-Morrill
Lector	Peter Davis	Michael Johnston
Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs)	Kathy Gupton Tamera Benedict	Cheryl Rodi Dorothy Edwards

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

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PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Hymnal 1982, Hymn 135

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

Salzburg

1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Jes - us, Lord, to thee we raise,  
 2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, Pro-phet, Priest, and King su - preme;  
 3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole pal - sied limbs and faint - ing soul;  
 4 Man - i - fest on moun - tain height, shin - ing in re - splen-dent light,

man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far;  
 and at Ca - na, wed - ding - guest, in thy God-head man - i - fest;  
 man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell - ing all the dev - il's might;  
 where dis - ci - ples filled with awe thy trans - fi - gured glo - ry saw.

branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem;  
 man - i - fest in power di - vine, chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine;  
 man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring - ing good from ill;  
 When from there thou led - dest them stead - fast to Je - ru - sa - lem,

an - themes be to thee ad-dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.  
 an - themes be to thee ad-dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.  
 an - themes be to thee ad-dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.  
 cross and Eas - ter Day at - test God in man made man - i - fest.

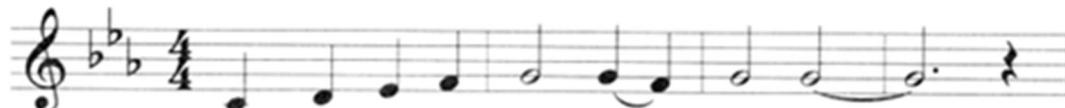
## SEQUENCE HYMN

Song of the Transfiguration

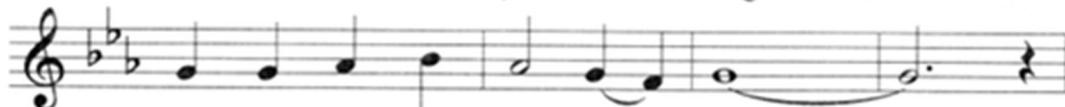
Sylvia Dunstan, David Haas

Jordan Tickner, cantor

*(Cantor sings v. 1, congregation sings v. 2, the Gospel is read, then v. 3 is sung)*



*Solo* 1. Trans-form us as you, trans - fig - ured,  
*All* 2. Trans-form us as you, trans - fig - ured,  
*All* 3. Trans-form us as you, trans - fig - ured,



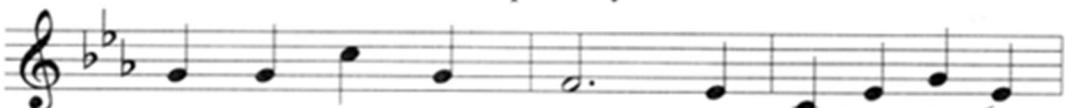
stood a - part on Ta - bor's height.  
 once spoke with those ho - ly ones.  
 would not stay with - in a shrine.



Lead us up our sa - cred moun - tains,  
 We, sur-roun-ded by the wit - ness  
 Keep us from our great temp - ta - tion—



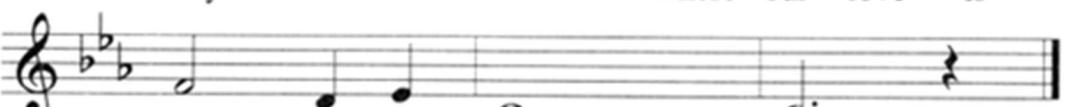
search us with re - veal - ing light.  
 of those saints whose work is done,  
 time and truth we quick - ly bind.



Lift us from where we have fall -  
 live in this world as your Bod -  
 Lead us down those dai - ly path -



en, full of ques - tions,  
 y, cho - sen daugh - ters,  
 ways where our love is



filled with fright.  
 cho - sen sons.  
 not con - fined.

## PRESENTATION HYMN

## This Little Light of Mine

## *This Joy*

(Verses 1 & 2)

1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

oh, oh,

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

oh,

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,

oh,

let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text: African American spiritual

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer, b. 1935

Music: THIS IS I, African American Spiritual, arr. H. Arr. © Horace Clarence Boyer, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

COMMUNION HYMN  
Hymnal 1982, Hymn 383

Fairest Lord Jesus

*St. Elizabeth*

1 Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Ru - ler of all na - ture, O thou of  
2 Fair are the mea - dows, fair - er still the wood - lands, robed in the  
3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair - er still the moon - light, and all the

God and man the Son; thee will I cher - ish,  
bloom - ing garb of spring: Je - sus is fair - er,  
twink - ling, star - ry host: Je - sus shines bright - er,

thee will I hon - or, thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.  
Je - sus is pur - er, who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.  
Je - sus shines pur - er, than all the an - gels heaven can boast.

## RECESSATIONAL HYMN

Alleluia, Song of Gladness

*Praise My Soul*



1 Al - le - lu - ia, song of glad - ness, voice of joy that can - not die;  
 2 Al - le - lu - ia you are sound - ing, true Je - ru - sa - lem and free;  
 3 Al - le - lu - ia can - not al - ways be our song while here be - low;  
 4 In our hymns we pray with long - ing: Grant us, bless-ed Trin - i - ty,



al - le - lu - ia is the an - them ev - er dear to choirs on high;  
 al - le - lu - ia, joy - ful moth-er, bring us to your ju - bi - lee;  
 al - le - lu - ia our trans-gres-sions make us for a while for - go;  
 at the last to keep glad Eas - ter with the faith-ful saints on high;



in the house of God a - bid - ing thus they sing e - ter - nal - ly.  
 here by Bab - y - lon's sad wa - ters mourn-ing ex - iles still are we.  
 for the sol - emn time is com - ing when our tears for sin shall flow.  
 there to you for - ev - er sing - ing al - le - lu - ia joy - ful - ly.



Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.  
 Music: PRAISE, MY SOUL, John Goss, 1800-1880

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

### **Tuesday, February 17**

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** from **5:00 to 8:00 PM** in the Parish Hall.

### **Wednesday, February 18 – Ash Wednesday**

**Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes** (spoken service) at **8:00 AM** in the Church.

**Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes** (choral service) at **7:00 PM** in the Church.

### **Thursday, February 19**

**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.

### **Sunday, February 22 – First Sunday in Lent**

**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)***

**Music at Four – Lenten Evensong** at **4:00 PM** in the Church. A reception will follow.

### **Evening Prayer (Tuesday through Thursday)**

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

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

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Tuesday, February 17 – Shrove Tuesday**

Pancake Supper from 5:00 to 8:00 PM in the Parish Hall.

### **Wednesday, February 18 – Ash Wednesday**

**Services of Holy Eucharist with imposition of ashes** will be held at 8:00 AM (spoken service) and 7:00 PM (choral service).

### **Sunday, February 22 – Music at Four**

**Lenten Evensong** at 4:00 PM in the Church. Start your Lenten journey with this service of choral music presented by St. Gregory's Choir and oboist Dave Champagne. Through readings, prayers and music we explore the themes of Lent. Music by Adrian Batten, Maurice Greene and Robert Hobby.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Soles 4 Souls Returns to St. Gregory's:** We are again offering an outreach option for a Soles 4 Souls Shoe Drive during the month of February. You may bring gently used or new shoes to church any Sunday from February 1<sup>st</sup> through March 1<sup>st</sup>, and leave them in the boxes labeled Soles 4 Souls. If they have laces, please tie them together. Your old shoes provide new opportunities in our area, as well as in poverty-stricken areas of the United States, Africa, Haiti and other nations. Your gently used or new shoes will help those in need walk towards a brighter future. Give Hope.

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper:** Join us in the Parish Hall on February 17 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM as we prepare for the Lenten season. There will be pancakes with all the trimmings and sausages, all cooked by the Men's Fellowship Ministry. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please see Diane Kela or Lizz Spencer. We look forward to seeing you there.

**Lenten Soup Suppers:** We will begin our annual Lenten soup and salad suppers on February 26 at 6:00 PM in the Parish Hall. We will have suppers on the following Thursdays: February 26, March 5, March 12, March 19, and March 26. This year we are asking for members of the parish to sign up and bring their favorite soups, enough to feed 20 people. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please see Diane Kela or Lizz Spencer.

**Lenten Program: Rule of Life:** Following on our study of the Rule of Benedict last summer, our Lenten program this year will be on the development of a personal Rule of Life. Since the early Church, we have lived by a Rule of Life. God lovingly invites us to pursue our shared calling as a Christian community and our unique vocation as individual disciples. In living a Rule, we are being intentional about the personal rhythms that shape our days. It is our way of partnering with God for the transformation only God can bring about. The Rule is a guide that supports our

heart's desire to grow in loving God and others. Before creating a rule, we spend serious time reflecting on the whole of our lives, listening to God with attentive, responsive, discerning hearts. Join us as we learn, reflect, discern, and create our individual rules. Bring a journal or notebook. Sessions will be held on the following Thursday evenings: February 26, March 5, March 12, March 19, and March 26, starting about 6:45 PM.

**Pledge Numbers and Envelopes:** Please be advised that the Envelope Number and Pledge Number that you currently have will be remain the same for 2026 (unless you are a new pledge). A list is provided in the Narthex with your pledge number. Envelopes are also available for those who requested them. We ask that when you find your assigned envelopes, please initial on the Envelope Number summary so we know that they went to the right home. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the office or email [info@stgregoryschurch.com](mailto:info@stgregoryschurch.com).

**American Sewing Guild:** Starting on Sunday, January 11, the American Sewing Guild (ASG) Long Beach neighborhood group will be meeting monthly at St. Gregory's in the Parish Hall Conference Room at the same time (1:00 - 3:30) as the Stitches of Faith group. The ASG is a national non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the sewing arts through education and community engagement. ASG aims to preserve and advance sewing as an art and life skill. Members of St. Gregory's, as well as interested people from the community, are welcomed to join us at a meeting. The group is very excited to have a regular meeting home at St. Gregory's and cannot wait to demonstrate their ability to help and promote sewing skills to all levels of sewists who attend. For questions or more information, contact Susan Mora.

**Stitches of Faith:** Are you looking for a space to share your creativity, enjoy fellowship, and be inspired? Stitches of Faith is a 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 meet on Sundays from 1:00–3:30 PM in the Conference Room. 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!

**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. In addition to your support, we are pleased to announce that St. Gregory's has been awarded \$1,000 from the Long Beach Food Access Fund in support of our feeding programs. We have also received 170 prepackaged boxes of nonperishable food from the Los Angeles Area Food Bank.

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 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 the Parish Office 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, Scott Morgan, Fran Luebben-Morgan, Harold Peacock, Rudy Revell, Jared Baker, Kimberly Bouzguenda, Shannon Romano, Ralph Tesla, Anne Cantrell, Matt Burger, 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, Sean Wood, Marina Tesla, Nancy Luebben, Diane Duacsek, Michele Morrill, Kira Dirghalli, Edith Finney, Paige Hardin, Marty Wong, Miriam Edwards, Charles H. Parks, Perry Nelson, Nellie Bell, Ernie and Vickie Morrison, Alison and Mick, Phyllis Comiskey, Brett W., Adan Murillo, Val Kela, Michael Hipsman, Trisha Cookmeyer, Sally Blevins, Sue Davis, Jack Alt, Shizuka Yoda, Linda Elliott, Ron Dixon, Darryl Takaki, Paul Meyer, Juhani Palomaki, Lisa Christensen, Gloria Neal

*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.*



# 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)

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

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