

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost ***(Proper 15)***

Sunday, August 16, 2026

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

Also Live Streaming at

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

VOLUNTARY

Trio

Christian Reichardt

(Please stand)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Bulletin Page 15

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)

Lauda Anima



Glo - ry be to God in hea - ven, songs of joy and
peace we bring, thank - ful hearts and voi - ces
rais - ing, to cre - a - tion's Lord we sing:
Lord, we thank you, Lord, we bless you,
glo - ry be to God our King.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 56.1, 6-8

Lector A Reading from Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD:

 Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come,
 and my deliverance be revealed.

And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
 to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
 and to be his servants,

all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,
 and hold fast my covenant--

these I will bring to my holy mountain,
 and make them joyful in my house of prayer;

their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
 will be accepted on my altar;

for my house shall be called a house of prayer
 for all peoples.

Thus says the Lord God,
 who gathers the outcasts of Israel,

I will gather others to them
 besides those already gathered.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 67

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.



May God be merciful to us and bless us,
show us the light of his countenance and come to us.

Let your ways be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations. **Antiphon**

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations upon earth. **Antiphon**

The earth has brought forth her increase;
may God, our own God, give us his blessing.

May God give us his blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him. **Antiphon**

SECOND READING

Romans 11.1-2a, 29-31

Lector A Reading from the Letter to the Romans.

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand)

SEQUENCE HYMN

We Come to You for Healing, Lord

Bulletin Page 16

(The congregation sings vv. 1 -3, the Gospel is read, then vv. 4 & 5 are sung)

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 15.10-28

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

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

Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

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 *(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 *(Please remain standing or kneel)*

Let us cry out to the Son of David with our prayers for the Church and the world.

Give your Church wisdom and strength, that we may do the Baptismal work you have called us to do. We pray for our Michael our priest, for Antonio our bishop, for Sean our Presiding Bishop, and for all the people of God in every place.

Have mercy, O Christ.

Give our nation and every community just and wise leadership, that Donald our President, Gavin our Governor, Rex our Mayor, and all those in authority may seek your will.

Have mercy, O Christ.

Reconcile us one to another, Gracious God, in a time of division and strife. Help us to see and reject the sin of white supremacy and racism, in our community, our nation, our Church, and the world.

Have mercy, O Christ.

Grant relief and your abiding presence and protection for all those who are oppressed for their race, ethnicity, or skin color; hear their cry and move your people to action.

Have mercy, O Christ.

Convict the consciences, by your Holy Spirit, of all those who benefit from these systems of racism and injustice, that they may hear your call to confront and dismantle them.

Have mercy, O Christ.

Sustain and restore all those in danger and need: the sick and the dying, the poor and the marginalized, prisoners and their families, victims of terror and violence.

Have mercy, O Christ.

Bless the relationships of our lives, in our city and every community, and among our families, companions, and all we love. We especially pray for those we mention now, silently or aloud [or in the comment section].

(pause)

We cry to you, O Lord.

Have mercy, O Christ.

Be with us in all our comings and goings, with school staffs and all students and teachers returning to classes; with travelers and those on vacation; and with all those who are visiting our community this day.

Have mercy, O Christ.

Give rest, O Christ, to your servants who have died. We especially pray for those we mention now, silently or aloud [or in the comment section].

(pause)

We cry to you, O Lord.

Have mercy, O Christ.

Presider Almighty God, who calls us to love one another, grant us that redemptive love that knows no bounds, that we may be transformed more and more into your holy people this day and always; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **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

Be Thou My Vision

Bob Chilcott

Dylan Wicks, soloist

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Be all else but naught to me, save that thou art—
Be thou my best thought in the day and the night,
Both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word;
Be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;
Be thou my great Father, and I thy true son;
Be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

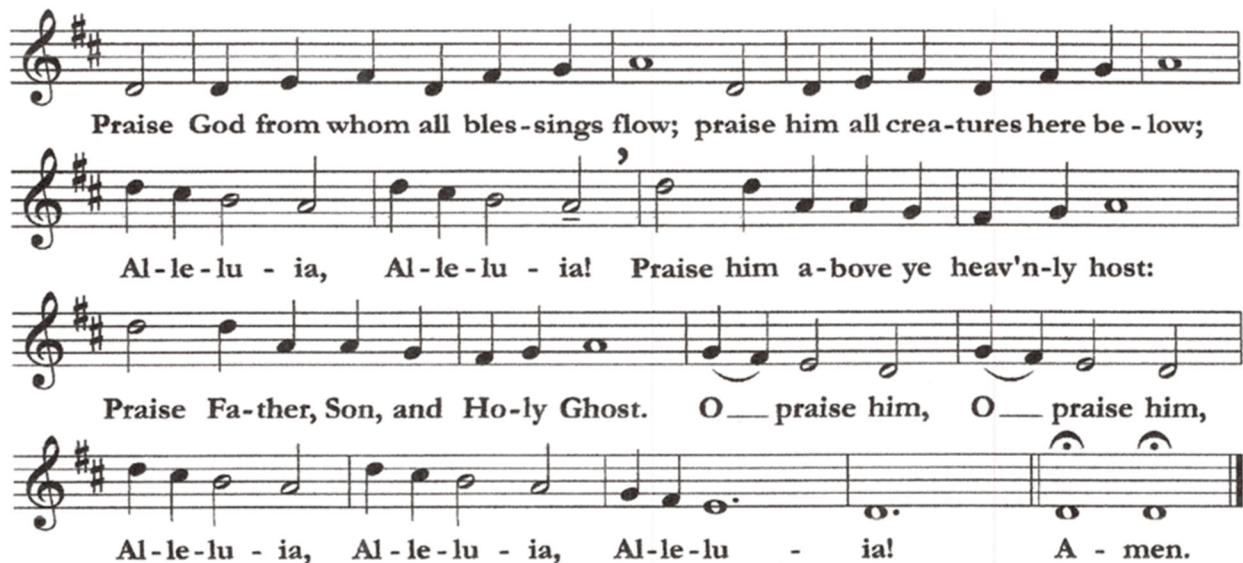
Be thou and thou only the first in my heart;
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art;
Great heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

Words: Irish, ca. 700; versified Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1880-1931)

PRESENTATION HYMN

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Lasst uns erfreuen



Praise God from whom all bles-sings flow; praise him all crea-tures here be - low;
Al-le-lu - ia, Al-le-lu - ia! Praise him a-bove ye heav'n-ly host:
Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. O — praise him, O — praise him,
Al-le-lu - ia, Al-le-lu - ia, Al-le-lu - ia! A - men.

Words: Thomas Ken (1637-1711)

Music: *Lasst uns erfreuen*, melody from *Auserlesene Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng*, 1623; adapt. R.V. Williams (1872-1958)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give 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.

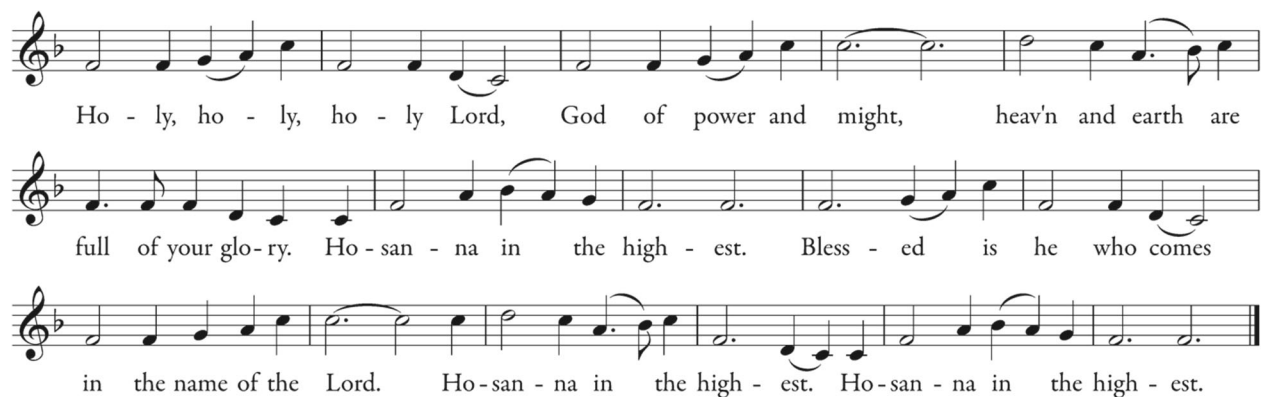
And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing (say):

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:

Land of Rest, arr. Richard Proulx



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. Bless - ed 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 Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

(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!

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 HYMN

Prayer for Peace

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

Christ for the World We Sing!

Bulletin Page 18

THE DISMISSAL

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

VOLUNTARY

Fugue in G Minor

J.S. Bach

FLOWERS TODAY ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

and

**by Alvin and Carol Bernstein
in celebration of their 44th wedding anniversary**

**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

	8:00 SERVICE	10:15 SERVICE
Presider & Preacher	Fr. Michael Fincher	Fr. Michael Fincher
Organist	—	David York
Crucifer	—	David Luebben-Morrill
Lector	Patty Rohling	Michael Johnston
Lay Eucharistic	Tamera Benedict	Dorothy Edwards
Ministers (LEMs)	David Luebben-Morrill	Carol Bernstein

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

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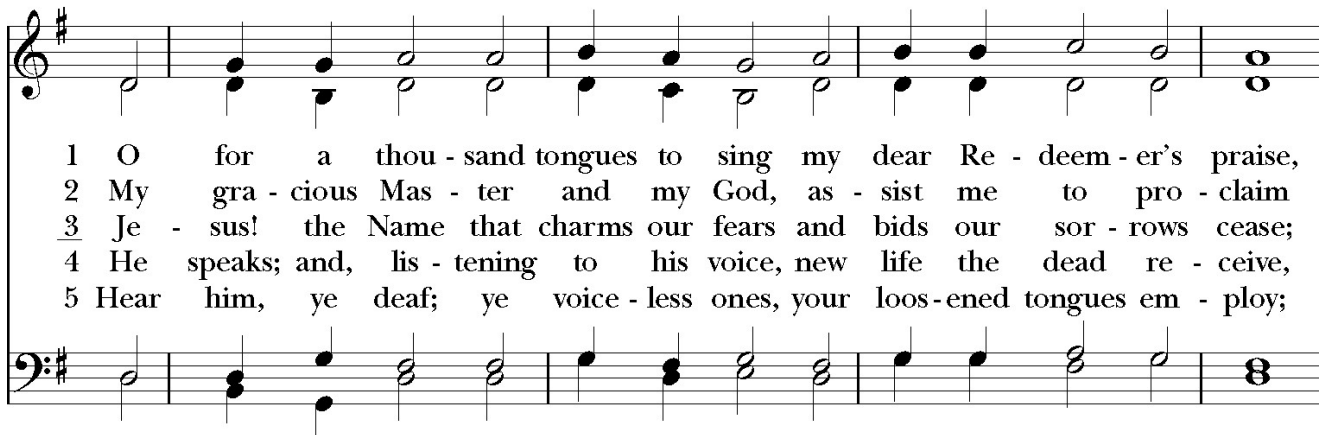
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PROCESSIONAL HYMN

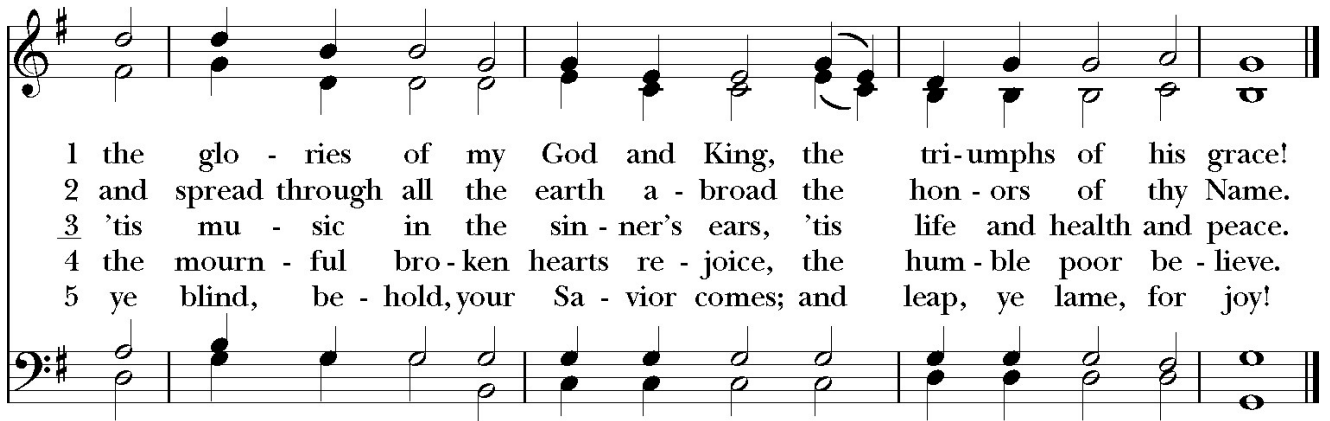
Hymnal 1982, Hymn 493

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Azmon



1 O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my dear Re - deem - er's praise,
2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim
3 Je - sus! the Name that charms our fears and bids our sor - rows cease;
4 He speaks; and, lis - tening to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive,
5 Hear him, ye deaf; ye voice - less ones, your loos - ened tongues em - ploy;



1 the glo - ries of my God and King, the tri - umphs of his grace!
2 and spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy Name.
3 'tis mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.
4 the mourn - ful bro - ken hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.
5 ye blind, be - hold, your Sa - vior comes; and leap, ye lame, for joy!

6 Glory to God and praise and love
be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above,
the Church in earth and heav'n.

SEQUENCE HYMN

We Come to You for Healing, Lord

Martyrdom

(The congregation sings vv. 1 - 3, the Gospel is read, then vv. 4 & 5 are sung)

1 We come to you for heal - ing, Lord, of
 2 As once you walked through an - cient streets and
 3 You touch us through phy - si - cians' skills, through
 4 When nights are long with wake - ful - ness, through
 5 We come to you, O lov - ing Lord, in

bod - y, mind, and soul, and pray that by your
 reached toward those in pain, come, ris - en Christ, a -
 nurs - es' gifts of care, and through the love of
 days when strength runs low, grant us your gift of
 our dis - tress and pain, in trust that through our

Spir - it's touch we may a - gain be whole.
 mong us still with pow'r to heal a - gain.
 faith - ful friends who lift our lives in prayer.
 pa - tience, Lord, your calm - ing peace to know.
 nights and days your grace will heal, sus - tain.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923

Music: MARTYRDOM, Hugh Wilson, 1764-1824

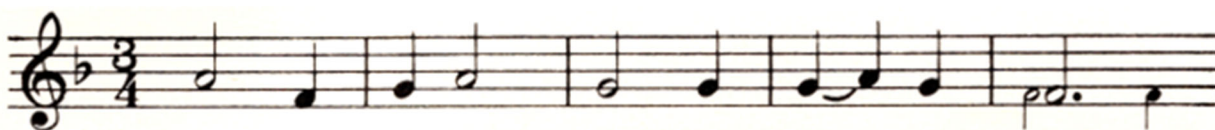
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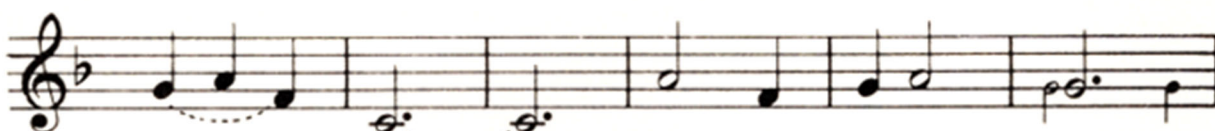
COMMUNION HYMN

Prayer for Peace

David Haas



1. Peace	be - fore us,	peace	be - hind_ us,	peace
2. Love	be - fore us,	love	be - hind_ us,	love
3. Light	be - fore us,	light	be - hind_ us,	light
4. Christ	be - fore us,	Christ	be - hind_ us,	Christ
5. Al - le - lu - ia,		al - le - lu - ia,		al - le -
6. Peace	be - fore us,	peace	be - hind_ us,	peace



un-der our	feet._____	Peace	with - in us,	peace
un-der our	feet._____	Love	with - in us,	love
un-der our	feet._____	Light	with - in us,	light
un-der our	feet._____	Christ	with - in us,	Christ
lu - ia.	_____	Al - le - lu - ia,		al - le -
un-der our	feet._____	Peace	with - in us,	peace



o-ver us,	let all a - round us be	peace._____
o-ver us,	let all a - round us be	love._____
o-ver us,	let all a - round us be	light._____
o-ver us,	let all a - round us be	Christ._____
lu - ia,	al - le - lu - ia.	_____
o-ver us,	let all a - round us be	peace._____



Let all a - round us be peace._____



Let all a - round us be peace._____

RECESSIONAL HYMN
Hymnal 1982, Hymn 537

Christ for the World We Sing!

Moscow

1 Christ for the world we sing! The world to
 2 Christ for the world we sing! The world to
 3 Christ for the world we sing! The world to
 4 Christ for the world we sing! The world to

Christ we bring with lov - ing zeal; the poor, and
 Christ we bring with fer - vent prayer; the way - ward
 Christ we bring with one ac - cord; with us the
 Christ we bring with joy - ful song; the new - born

them that mourn, the faint and o - ver - borne,
 and the lost, by rest - less pas - sions tossed,
 work to share, with us re - proach to dare,
 souls, whose days, re - claimed from er - ror's ways,

sin - sick and sor - row - worn, whom Christ doth heal.
 re - deemed at count - less cost from dark de - spair.
 with us the cross to bear, for Christ our Lord.
 in - spired with hope and praise, to Christ be - long.

THIS WEEK AT ST. GREGORY'S

Tuesday, August 18

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

Thursday, August 20

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

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

Sunday, August 23 – Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 16)

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

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)

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.stgregorychurch.com).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, September 13 – Welcome Back Sunday/Patronal Festival/Parish Picnic/Ministry Fair

Some of you have noticed that we did not do our annual Mass in the Grass and Parish Picnic at the beginning of summer. For a variety of reasons, we decided to try something different. On Sunday, September 13th, we will have a festive event wrapping together our patronal feast day for St. Gregory the Great (slightly transferred), a “welcome back” celebration, and (back by popular demand) a ministry fair. **We will have one service that day at 10:15 AM**, followed by a parish lunch and ministry fair. And whatever else our Parish Life Committee has in store for us.

Saturday, September 19 – Deanery 8 Welcoming of Bishop Gallardo

On Saturday, September 19th at 11:00 AM, St. Gregory's will host the Deanery 8 event welcoming our new bishop, the Rt. Rev. Antonio Gallardo. This will be an opportunity to meet

and get to know Bishop Antonio and to hear a little about his vision for his episcopacy. A buffet lunch will be served.

Saturday, September 26 – Blessing of the Animals

We will have our annual Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, October 3rd 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.

Sunday, October 4 – Episcopal Visitation

It is the practice in the Diocese of Los Angeles that every congregation have an official visitation by a bishop every two years. This is our year. On Sunday, October 4th, we will have a visitation by the Rt. Rev. Frank Brookhart, retired Bishop of Montana and one of the Assisting Bishops in the Diocese of Los Angeles. **We will have one service at 10:15 AM.** The service will include the baptism of Henry Scott and the confirmation of Carrick Ahland. A parish lunch will follow the service.

Saturday, October 10 – Funeral for Gloria Neal

The funeral and celebration of life for Gloria Neal (Drew) will be held on Saturday, October 10th at 10:00 AM. A reception will follow in the Parish Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School Returns from Summer Hiatus: Sunday School will begin on September 27 at 10:15. We are excited to announce that we will have three classes based on the students we had in June and may need to be adjusted depending on enrollment. The classes are as follows: Beginners, grades K-2; Juniors, grades 3-4; and Seniors, grades 5-6. The beginners will focus on traditional Bible stories, while the juniors and seniors will study Lesson Plans that Work from the Episcopal Church based on the Gospel for that Sunday. We need four additional volunteers to be the second adult in our "new" room. Contact Tamera Benedict or Dana Linday with any questions and to sign up to volunteer.

Summer Pledge Payments: Summer is always a little bit rough for parish finances. Monthly income tends to drop due to parishioners being away on vacation. While our parishioners get to take vacations, the parish does not get a vacation from paying the bills. If at all possible, please keep up with your monthly pledge commitments during the summer months. It will make life a lot easier and less stressful for the Treasurer and the Finance Office. We are very grateful for your efforts to do so!

Air Conditioner Fund: As we recently informed the parish, we are having to replace the heating and air conditioning (HVAC) system in the Sanctuary, to the tune of \$120,000. While we are able to cover the expense out of our reserves, this will greatly deplete those funds. We are asking that parishioners consider giving to help offset the cost of our new HVAC system. You can do so by writing a check to St. Gregory's with "HVAC" in the memo line. Or you can make a donation online through our parish website at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z4WR/campaign/C-12C50> and put HVAC in the note box. Thank you for your generosity.

Columbarium Niches: Many people do not realize we have a columbarium at St. Gregory's. Having your ashes placed in the columbarium is a less expensive option than burial at a cemetery and provides for your continued presence in a place that has been important to you during your life. For more information, contact the Parish Office.

Vestry Minutes and Reports: Following Vestry meetings, the approved minutes and reports are posted on our parish website (<https://stgregoryschurch.com/>). Click on the "About" tab and the last option under the dropdown menu is "Vestry Minutes & Reports." Approved minutes (without reports) are also posted on the bulletin board outside the Fireside Room. In addition, anyone is free to review minutes and reports of previous meetings, available in the Parish Office.

Nursery Attendant Needed: We are seeking a Nursery Attendant to provide loving childcare on Sunday mornings from 7:45 AM to 12:15 PM, plus special holiday services. Experience in early childhood education preferred. First Aid and CPR certification required. This is a paid position, starting at \$17.00/hr, supporting our youngest members and their families. For more information or to apply, please contact Tamera Benedict or Dana Lindsay.

Sewing Guild: The American Sewing Guild group will not be meeting at St. Gregory's in August. Instead, we will be going fabric shopping at the Fabric Outlet in Stanton on Thursday, August 13 starting at 10:00am. We will also go to lunch, and possibly one other sewing related store, if time allows. Carpooling will be available. Please contact Susan Mora if you are interested.

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. 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 eggs.
 - **Volunteers** – If you are interested in helping out Feed My Lambs, contact Tamera Benedict at (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, 562.420.1311) or Bill Eldon (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.

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, Laura Mae Harper, Elizabeth Laursen, Eric Kela, Dodie Martin, Savannah Jimenez, Martha Wong, Carlos Cruz, Sean Wood, Marina Tesla, Nancy Luebben, Diane Duacsek, Michelle 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, Trisha Cookmeyer, Sally Blevins, Sue Davis, Jack Alt, Linda Elliott, Ron Dixon, Daryl Takaki, Paul Meyer, Juhani Palomaki, Jerry Simundson, Meg Wagner, Annette Ffrench, Barbara Barton, Rosan Curtis, Nick Playter, Mary Playter, Holly Smigelsky, Dennis Smigelsky, David Caffrey, Brigitta Spinocchia Freund, Casey Ramsdell, Maria Cortez, Gloria Smith, Lynda Hartman, Gary Laursen, Vivian Anaya-Outler, Lori Touns, Greg Highstand, Keith Johnson, JR Amos

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

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 Rev. Dr. Antonio José Gallardo Lucena
Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles

The Rev. Michael K. Fincher, Rector
rector@stgregoryschurch.com

David York, Music Director & Organist
york1635@aol.com

David Sachs, Parish Administrator
info@stgregoryschurch.com

Parish Office Hours: 9:00am-12:00pm, Monday – Friday
www.stgregoryschurch.com