

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 20)

Sunday, September 20, 2026

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

Also Live Streaming at

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

VOLUNTARY

Two Pieces

Jean Langlais

(Please stand)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

We Will Extol You, Ever-Blessed Lord

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.

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; 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

Jonah 3.10--4.11

Lector A Reading from Jonah.

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 145.1-8

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.



I will exalt you, my God and king,
and bless your name forever and ever.

Every day will I bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.

Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!
There is no end to your greatness. **Antiphon**

One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power.

I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all of your marvelous works. **Antiphon**

They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will recount your greatness.

They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. **Antiphon**

SECOND READING

Philippians 1.21-30

Lector A Reading from the Letter to the Philippians.

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well-- since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand)

SEQUENCE HYMN

For the Fruit of All Creation

Bulletin Page 17

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

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 20.1-16

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

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

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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 offer prayers for all who labor in the vineyard of the Lord and for all in every danger and need.

For this holy gathering, and for the people of God in every place.
Lord, have mercy.

For the Universal Church, its members and our mission in the world; for this congregation, for Michael our parish clergy, for Antonio our bishop, and for Sean our Presiding Bishop.

Lord, have mercy.

For all peoples and their leaders, for Donald our President, Gavin our Governor, and Rex our Mayor, for all candidates for office, and for justice, mercy, and peace in the world.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who work for daily wages, and for their employers and managers. For all those seeking a just wage and full employment.

Lord, have mercy.

For abundant fruits of the earth, and for safety from violent storms.

Lord, have mercy.

For the sick and the suffering, travelers and the victims of war, prisoners and refugees, and the dying and dead. We especially pray for those we mention now, silently or aloud [or in the comment section].

(pause)

We pray to you,

Lord, have mercy.

For our city and those who live in it, and for our families, companions, and all those we love.

Lord, have mercy.

Presider Gracious and merciful God, who honors the last as well as the first, hear the prayers we offer this day and welcome your people into your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

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

Silence may be kept.

**God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. 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

Christ Hath a Garden

Gerald Near

Christ hath a garden walled around, A paradise of fruitful ground,
Chosen by love and fenced by grace From out the world's wide wilderness.

Like trees of spice his servants stand, there planted by his mighty hand;
By Eden's gracious streams, that flow To feed their beauty where they grow.

Awake, O wind of heav'n, and bear Their sweetest perfume through the air:
Stir up, O South, the boughs that bloom, Till the beloved Master come:

That he may come, and linger yet Among the trees that he hath set;
That he may evermore be seen To walk amid the springing green. (Robert Bridges)

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,

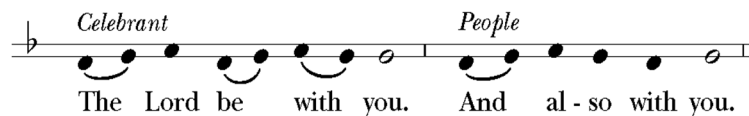


Je - sus lift-ed me. I'm so glad
Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift-ed me,
When I was in trou - ble,



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

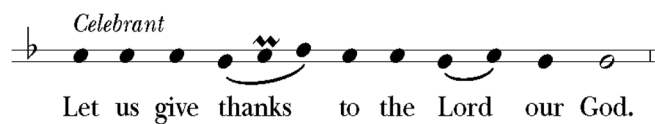
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



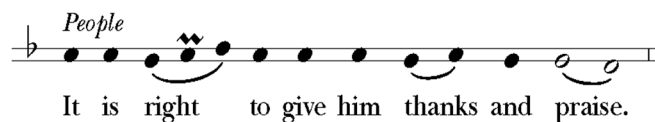
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



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



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation 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.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, 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, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with [_____ and] all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

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 *(10:15 Service)*

David York

Jordan Tickner, cantor

We who are man-y are one bo-dy, for we all share in the one - bread. _____

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

When Angels Sing

Mark Miller

Brianna Zucker, soloist

Within each lifetime an angel's voice is heard;
celestial sounds pierce time and space.
For just a moment, the breathless beauty
of heaven's song reveals God's grace.

*Peace in our hearts, peace when angels sing,
peace, be still and listen heart.
Listen when angels sing.*

Despite our sorrows, the dawn brings life anew;
and raging storms begin to cease.
For just a moment, the breathless beauty
of heaven's song brings us peace. (Herb Frombach. B. 1940)

COMMUNION HYMN

For the Bread Which You Have Broken

Bulletin Page 18

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Presider Let us pray.

God of blessing, at this table we have seen you face to face, and in the gift of Christ's body and blood, our hearts have been refreshed. Send us now to shine with your goodness and bear witness to the one we have received: Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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

Come, Labor On

Bulletin Page 19

THE DISMISSAL

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY

A Processional

Gerald Near

FLOWERS TODAY ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

And

By Nita Scott

In loving memory of her grandmother Laura P. Curti

**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	Kris Brooks	Michael Johnston
Lay Eucharistic	Dana Lindsay	Cheryl Rodi
Ministers (LEMs)	David Luebben-Morrill	Elizabeth Spencer

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 404

We Will Extol You, Ever-Blessed Lord

Old 124th

1 We will ex - tol you, ev - er - bless - ed Lord; your ho - ly
 2 Age shall to age pass on the end - less song, tell - ing the
 3 You, Lord, are gra - cious, mer - ci - ful to all, close to your

Name for ev - er be a - dored; each day we live our
 won - ders which to you be - long, your might - y acts with
 chil - dren when on you they call; and slow to an - ger,

psalm to you we raise; you, God and King, are wor - thy of all
 joy and fear re - late; praise we your glo - ry while on you we
 mer - ci - ful and kind, in your com - pas - sion we your bless - ings

praise, great and un - search - a - ble in all your ways.
 wait, glad in the know - ledge of your love so great.
 find. We love you with our heart and strength and mind.

The first stanza may be repeated at the end.

SEQUENCE HYMN

For the Fruit of All Creation

Ar Hyd Y Nos

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



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional

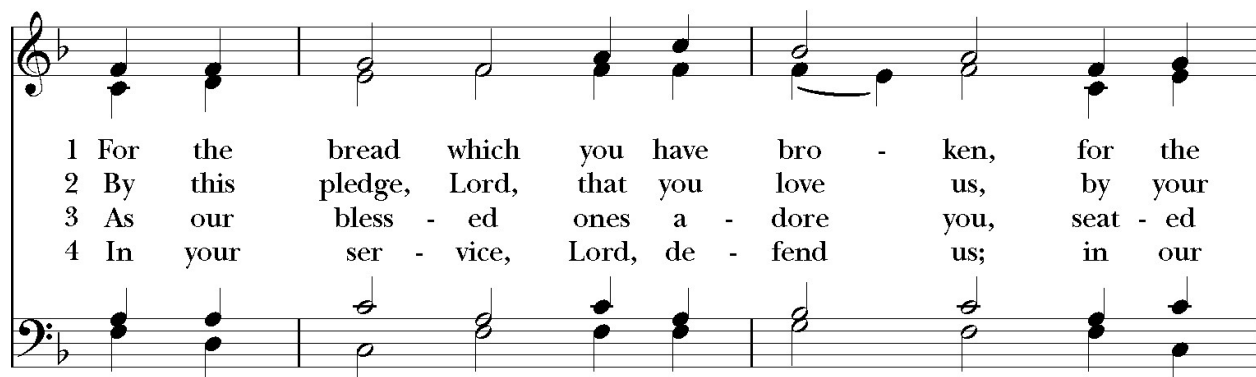
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COMMUNION HYMN

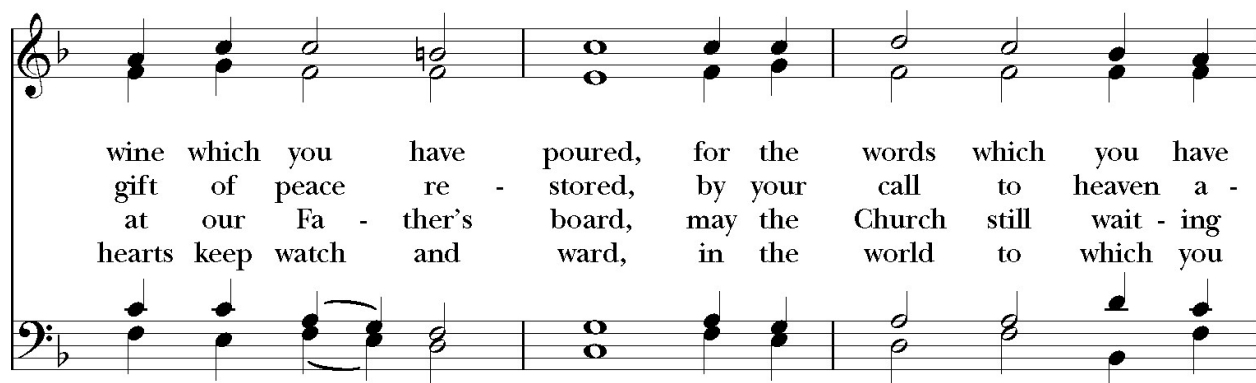
Hymnal 1982, Hymn 341

For the Bread Which You Have Broken

Omni die



1 For the bread which you have bro - ken, for the
2 By this pledge, Lord, that you love us, by your
3 As our bless - ed ones a - dore you, seat - ed
4 In your ser - vice, Lord, de - fend us; in our



wine which you have poured, for the words which you have
gift of peace re - stored, by your call to heaven a -
at our Fa - ther's board, may the Church still wait - ing
hearts keep watch and ward, in the world to which you



spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.
bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord.
for you keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord.
send us let your king - dom come, O Lord.

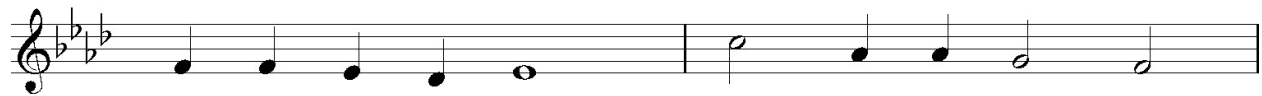
RECESSIONAL HYMN
Hymnal 1982, Hymn 541

Come, Labor On

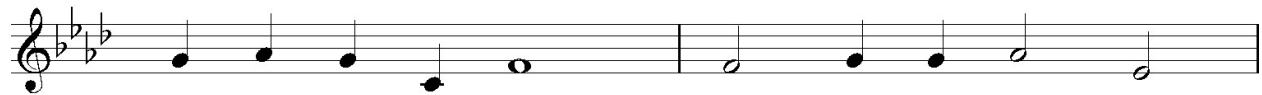
Ora Labora



1	Come,	la - bor	on.	Who	dares	stand	i - dle
2	Come,	la - bor	on.	The	en - e -	my	is
3	Come,	la - bor	on.	A -	way	with	gloom - y
4	Come,	la - bor	on.	Claim	the	high	call - ing
5	Come,	la - bor	on.	No	time	for	rest, till



1	on	the	har - vest	plain,	while	all	a - round	us
2	watch - ing	night	and	day,	to	sow	the	tares, to
3	doubts	and	faith - less	fear!	No	arm	so	weak but
4	an - gels	can - not	share—		to	young	and	old the
5	glows	the	west - ern	sky,	till	the	long	sha - dows



1	waves	the	gold - en	grain?	And	to	each	ser - vant
2	snatch	the	seed	a - way;	while	we	in	sleep our
3	may	do	ser - vice	here:	by	feeb - lest	a -	gents
4	Gos - pel	glad - ness	bear:		re - deem	the	time;	its
5	o'er	our	path - way	lie,	and	a	glad	sound comes



1	does	the	Mas - ter	say,	“Go	work	to	- day.”
2	du - ty	have	for - got,	he	slum - bered	not.		
3	may	our	God	ful - fill	his	right - eous	will.	
4	hours	too	swift - ly	fly.	The	night	draws	nigh.
5	with	the	set - ting	sun,	“Ser -	vants,	well	done.”

THIS WEEK AT ST. GREGORY'S

Tuesday, September 22

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

Thursday, September 24

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

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, September 27 – Pentecost 18 (Proper 21)

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/>).

Sunday School at **10:15 AM**, as follows:

Beginners Grades K to 2) in the Youth Room

Juniors (Grades 3 & 4) in the Youth Room

Seniors (Grades 5 & 6) in Room 7

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.stgregoryschurch.com).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, September 26 – Blessing of the Animals

We will have our annual Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, September 26th 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, September 27 – Music at 4

Join us in the Sanctuary on September 27th at 4:00pm-6:00pm to hear the music of Long Beach vocal jazz legend Dewey Erney who brings music from the American Song Book to St. Gregory's in a concert also featuring Tom Ranier- piano, Luther Hughes – bass and Kendall Kay – drums. Join us for an afternoon of musical favorites, performed by world-class local musicians.

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

St. Gregory's Choir: All singers are welcome to join St. Gregory's Choir this fall as we gather to support the congregation in hymns, liturgy and song each Sunday morning. If you enjoy singing you are invited to meet us in the Choir Room on Thursdays at 7:30 pm. For more information, please contact David York: york1635@aol.com.

Sewing Guild: The next meeting for the Long Beach American Sewing Guild group will be on Sunday September 20 from 1:00 – 3:30 PM in the Conference Room. Please notice that we are meeting on the 3rd Sunday of the month, rather than the 2nd Sunday of the month due to room scheduling conflicts. It appears that we will return to our regular 2nd Sunday of the month meeting in October. If you are interested in sewing, fabric arts, quilting or beading,

please drop on in to see what we have to offer with our group. For further information, please contact Susan Mora (310)894-0731.

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.

Air Conditioner Fund: We have recently replaced 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.

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://tinyurl.com/ydxd2jn6> 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 Toups, Greg Highstand, Keith Johnson, JR Amos, Loretta Scott, Jim Moody, Ruth Contreras, Kathy Gupton

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL IS BACK!

Beginning Sunday, September 27 at 10:15am

Growing in faith • Learning together • Asking big questions • Having fun

We are excited to welcome our children and youth back for another year of Sunday School at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church!

OUR NURSERY

Ages 1 through Pre-Kindergarten • 8:00am & 10:15am services

A safe, welcoming, and caring space for our youngest children while their families worship. When children begin Kindergarten, they graduate from the Nursery and join our Sunday School community!

Sunday School

BEGINNERS

KINDERGARTEN - 2ND GRADE

Bible Story Picture Lessons

Engaging, age-appropriate lessons that bring Bible stories to life through stories, pictures, conversation, and activities.

INTERMEDIATES

GRADES 3 & 4

Lesson Plans That Work

Curriculum from The Episcopal Church that helps students explore Scripture and connect the lessons of our faith to everyday life.

SENIORS

GRADES 5 & UP

Lesson Plans That Work

Age-appropriate lessons and discussion that invite older students to explore Scripture, ask questions, and connect faith to the world around them.

THERE'S A PLACE FOR YOU HERE!

Whether your family has been part of Sunday School for years or this will be your very first Sunday, all are welcome.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS SEPTEMBER 27 AT 10:15AM

For more information you can contact:

Dana Lindsey
562-716-6634

Tamera Benedict
562-301-6800

St. Gregory's Episcopal Church • Long Beach



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