Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 28)

Sunday, November 15, 2026

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

Also Live Streaming at
https://www.facebook.com/stgregoryslongbeach/

VOLUNTARY

Partita on "St. Anne" — Paul Manz

(Please stand)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

O God, Our Help in Ages Past — Bulletin Page 17

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider Blessed be God: ✠ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

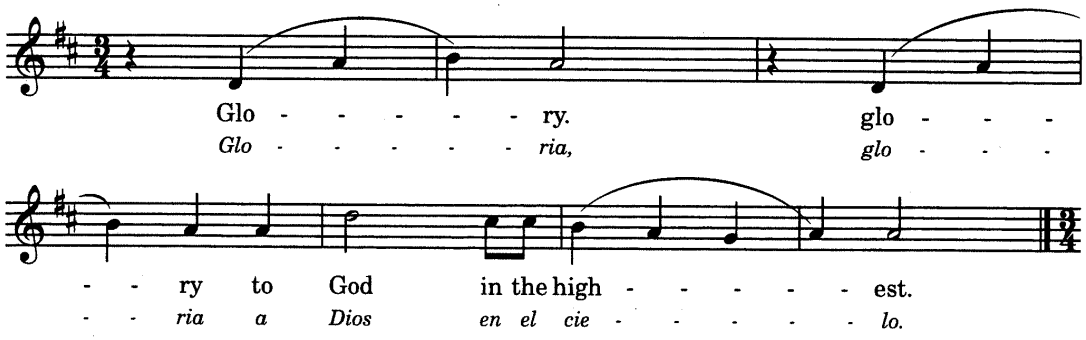
COLLECT FOR PURITY

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



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.

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**.

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING

Zephaniah 1.7, 12-18

Lector A Reading from Zephaniah.

Be silent before the Lord God!
For the day of the Lord is at hand;
the Lord has prepared a sacrifice,
he has consecrated his guests.
At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,
"The Lord will not do good,
nor will he do harm."
Their wealth shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.
The great day of the Lord is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter,
the warrior cries aloud there.
That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
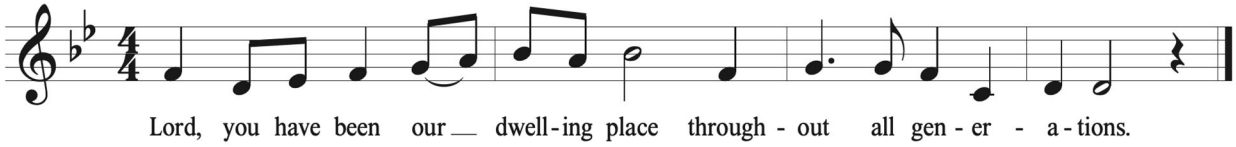
and against the lofty battlements.
I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the Lord,
their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.
Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the Lord's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

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

PSALM 90 Setting: David York

Brianna Zucker, cantor

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.



Before the mountains were born,
or you brought the whole world,
from age to age you are God. ***Antiphon***

You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Turn back, O child of earth."
For a thousand years in your sight are like a day when it is past
or like a watch in the night. ***Antiphon***

You sweep them away like a dream;
they fade away suddenly like the grass:
in the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered. ***Antiphon***

Teach us to number our days,
that we may gain a heart of wisdom. ***Antiphon***

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11

Lector A Reading from the First Letter to the Thessalonians.

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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

(Please stand)

SEQUENCE HYMN

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending Bulletin Page 18

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

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 25.14-30

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

Jesus said, "It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things,

I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

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)*

Jesus said, "In my Father's house there are many dwelling places." Trusting in God's abundance and welcome, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all creation.

Gracious God, you have made plenty good room for us in your household. Inspire your church to be a place of welcome, generosity, and love. We thank you for the resources you have entrusted to us, and we pray for wisdom to use them in service of your mission.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of community, you bind us together in relationships of care and compassion. Strengthen the bonds within this congregation, and guide us to extend hospitality to our neighbors near and far.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of abundance, you invite us to respond with gratitude for all your gifts. Bless our stewardship campaign, that our pledges of time, talent, and treasure may be faithful signs of our trust in you.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of creation, you have made a world with plenty good room for all living things. Teach us to care for the earth and to share its resources with justice and joy.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of mercy, your dwelling place has room for all who suffer. Be present with those who are sick, lonely, grieving, or in any kind of need, especially those we mention now, silently or aloud [or in the comment section].

(Pause)

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of hope, you prepare a place for us in your eternal home. We remember before you those who have died, confident that they now rest in your embrace, especially those we mention now, silently or aloud [or in the comment section].

(Pause)

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Presider Loving God, you call us into your abundant life and promise that there is plenty good room for all your children. Hear our prayers and accept the offerings of our hearts, 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

A Song of Paul — Scottish Traditional, arr. Alfred V. Fedak

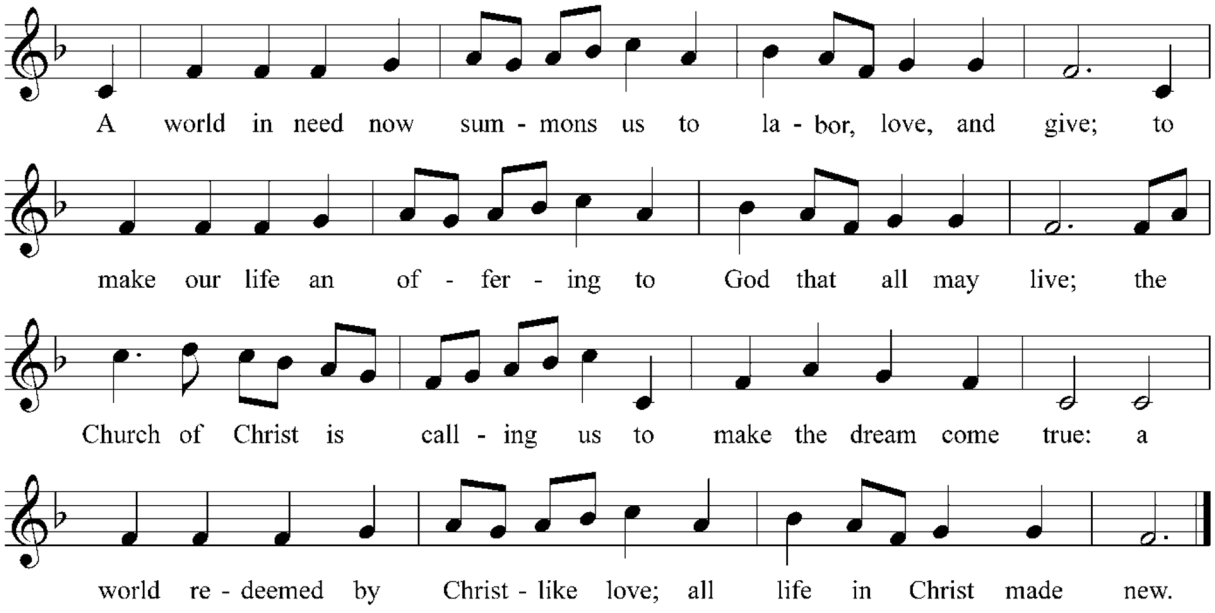
Should I rehearse with human voice the words which angels make their choice, devoid of love, my song resounds magnificent but empty. And should I preach with earnest tone and know whatever can be known and move the hills by faith alone if I lack love I'm nothing.

In love is patience always found, for love kind hearts make common ground, from love, conceit and pride take flight and jealousy is banished. Love keeps no score of what's gone wrong, nor sings a pessimistic song nor lets regret or guilt prolong, for love expects tomorrow.

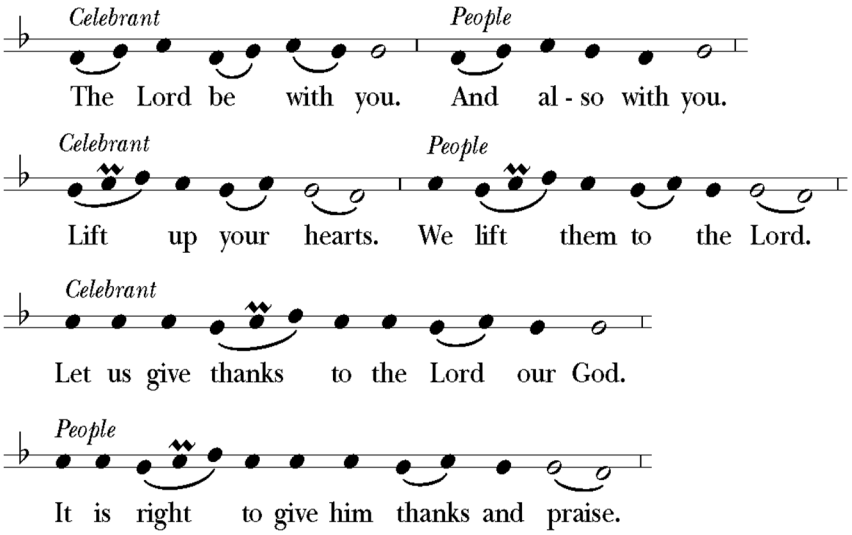
Let strange and startling language cease, let tongues their ecstasies release, let knowledge come and go in peace these things are not eternal. For all the thought and skill we show are but a stage through which we grow till, face to face with God, we'll know that love which lasts forever. (I Corinthians 13, paraphrase by John Bell)

PRESENTATION HYMN

As Those of Old Their First Fruits Brought — *Forest Green*



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.
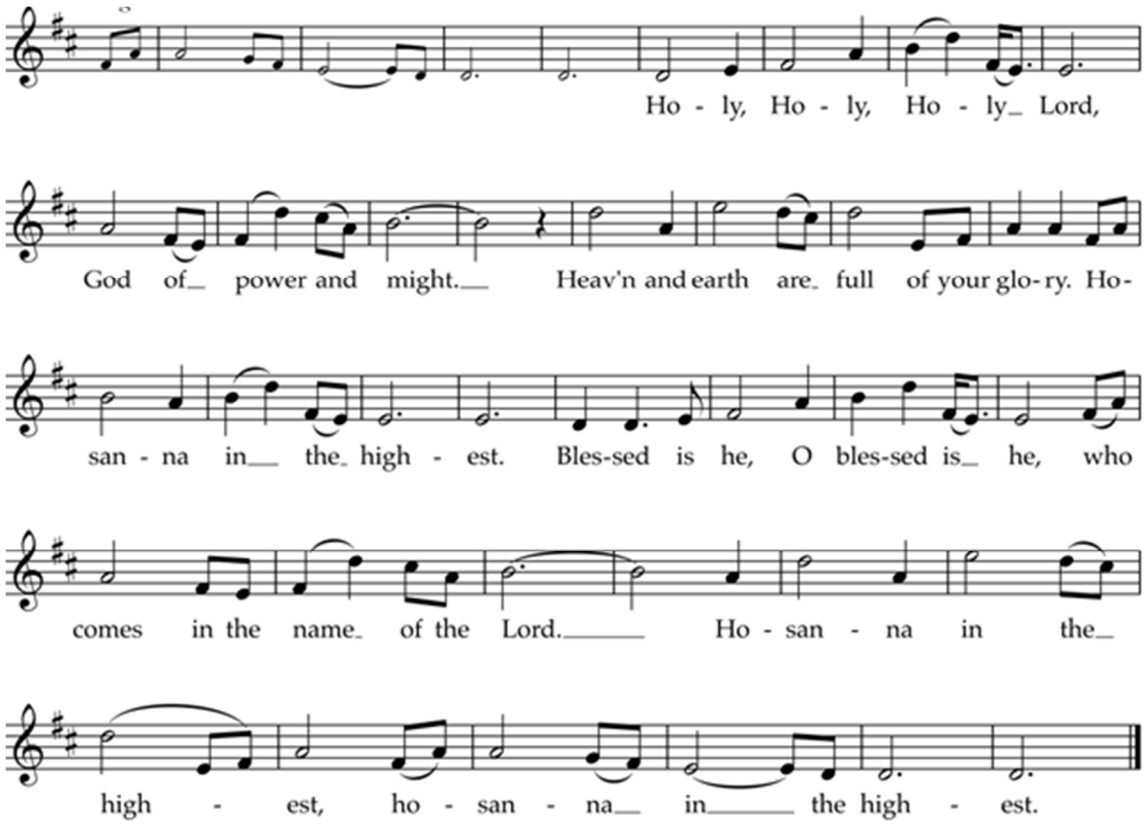
You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

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



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."

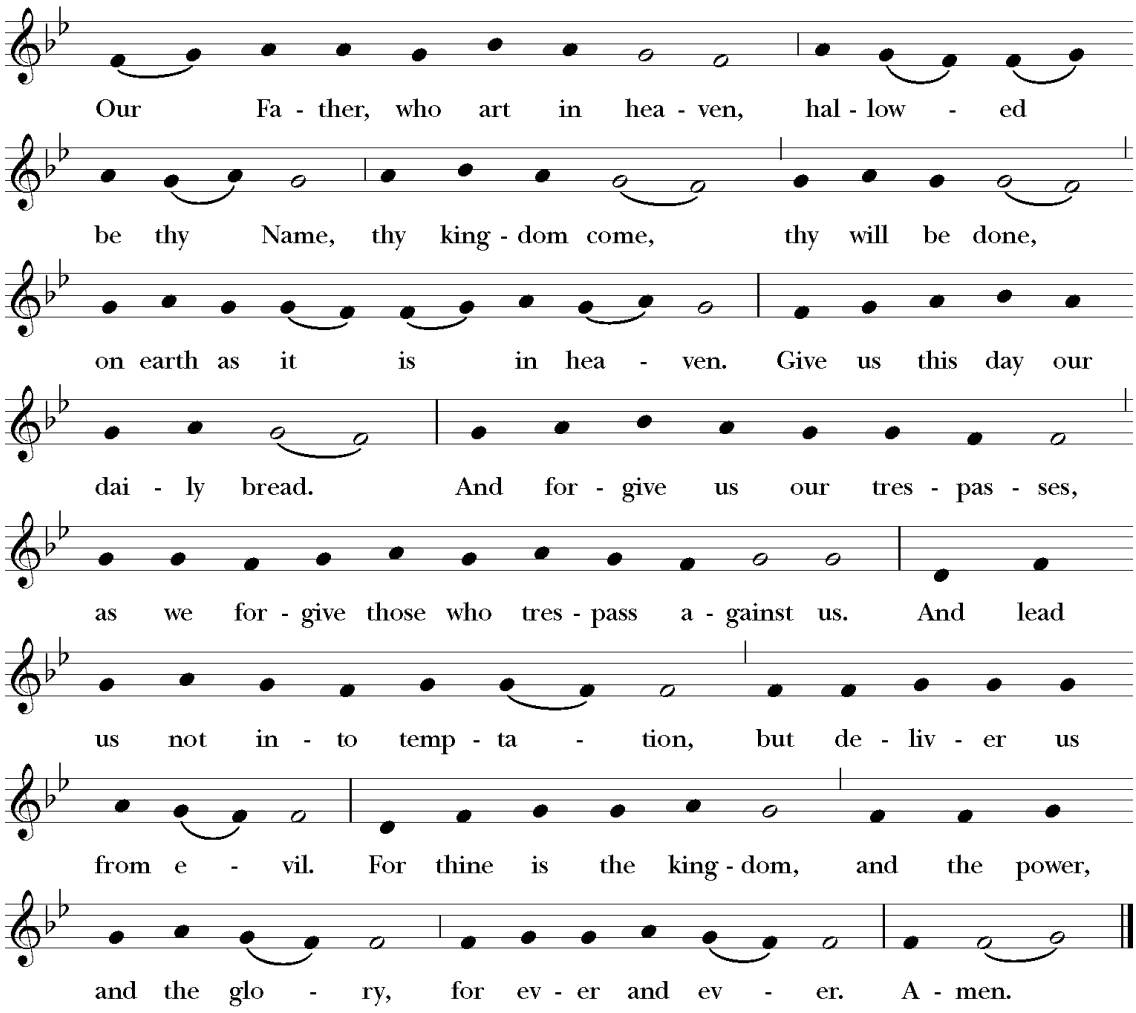
Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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:
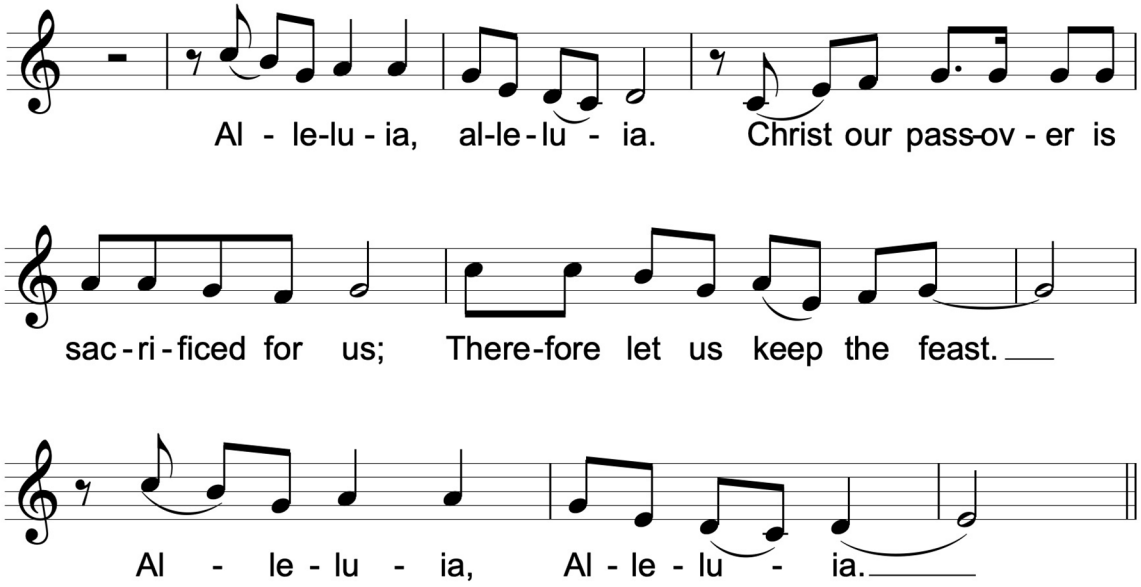


THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

At the 8:00 Service:

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

FRACTION ANTHEM *(10:15 Service)* David York



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

Plenty Good Room — African American Spiritual

St. Gregory's Quintet
Kelsey Reynolds, soloist

COMMUNION HYMN

Christ Be Our Light — Bulletin Page 19

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

On Jordan's Stormy Bank I Stand — Bulletin Page 20

THE DISMISSAL

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

VOLUNTARY

"Final" from *Lyric Suite* — Alfred V. Fedak

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

	8:00 SERVICE	**10:15 SERVICE**
Presider & Preacher	Fr. Michael Fincher	Fr. Michael Fincher
Organist	—	David York
Crucifer	—	David Luebben-Morrill
Lector	Alfonso Lemus	Michael Johnston
Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs)	Dana Lindsay David Luebben-Morrill	Fran Luebben-Morgan Holly Graham

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

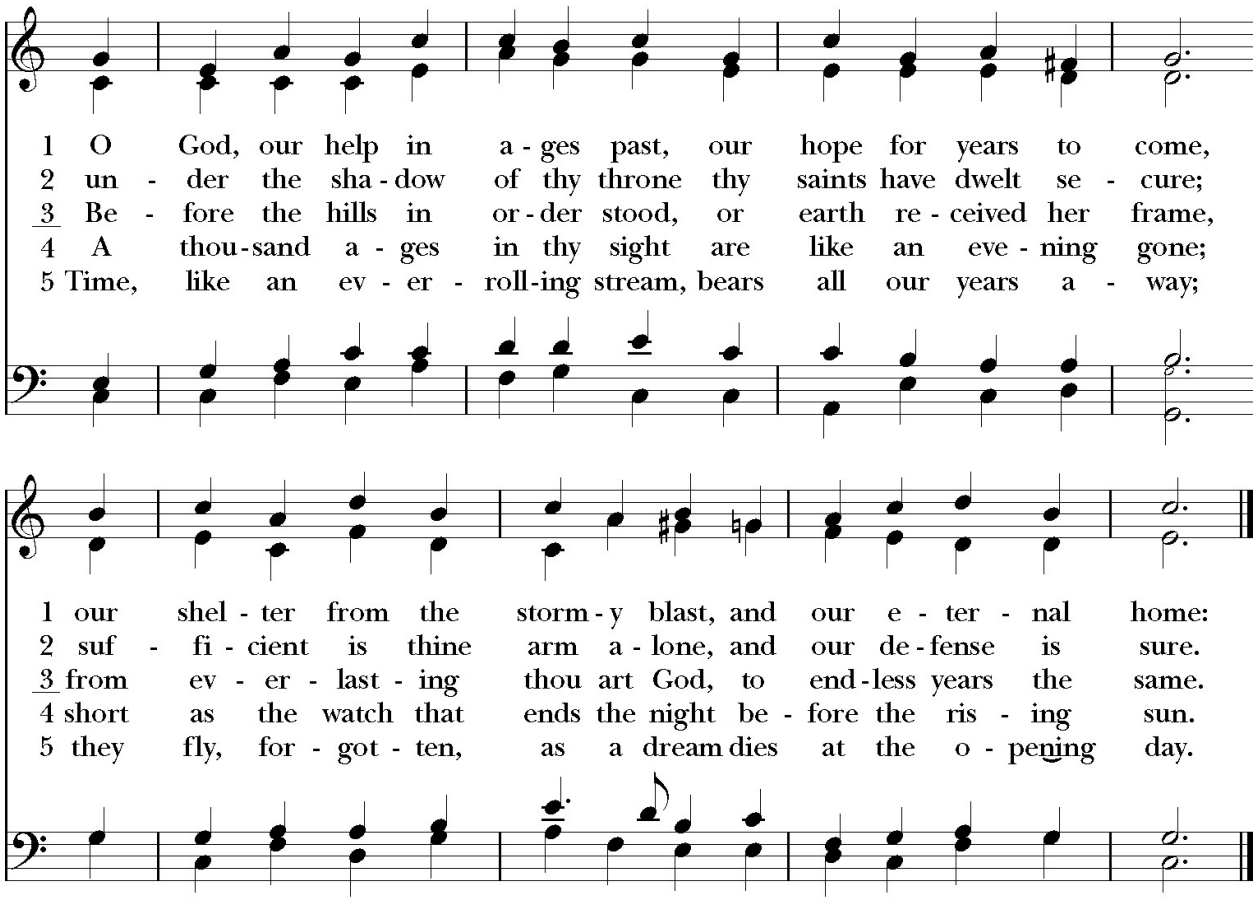
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PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Hymnal 1982, Hymn 680

O God, Our Help in Ages Past — *St. Anne*

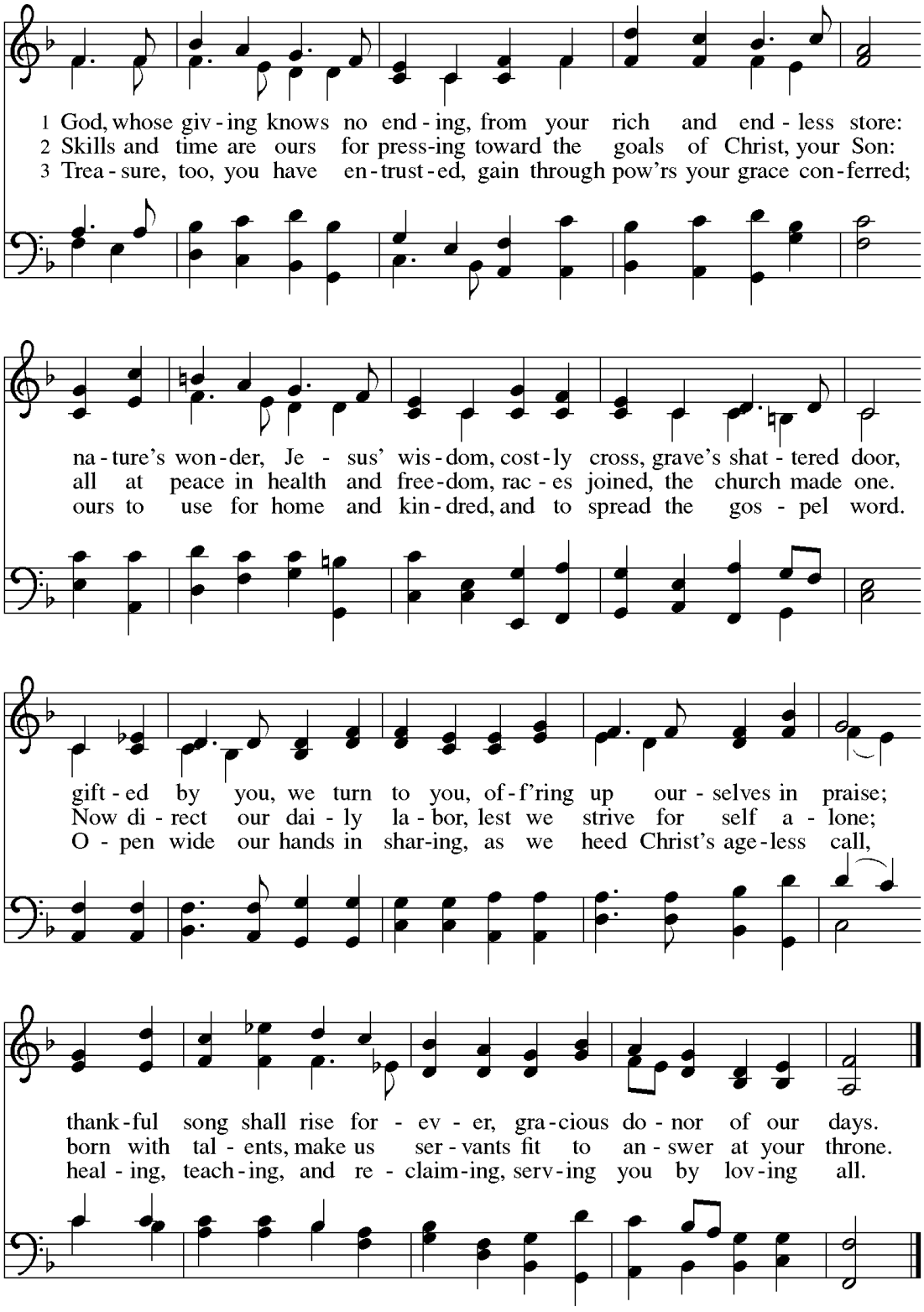


6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guide while life shall last,
and our eternal home.

SEQUENCE HYMN

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending *Rustington*

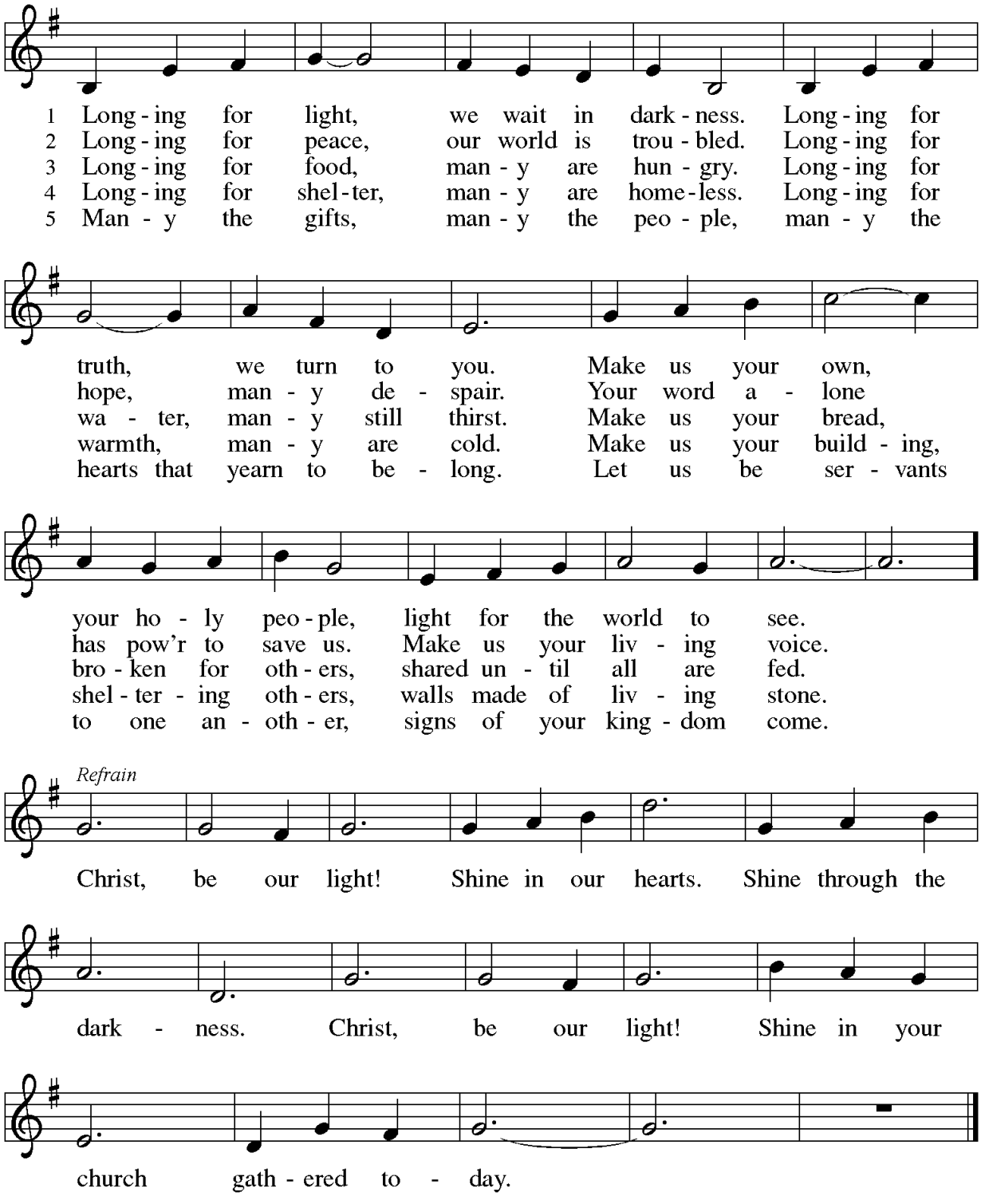
(The congregation sings vv. 1 & 2, the Gospel is read, then v. 3 is sung)



Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1915–2006
Music: RUSTINGTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918
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COMMUNION HYMN
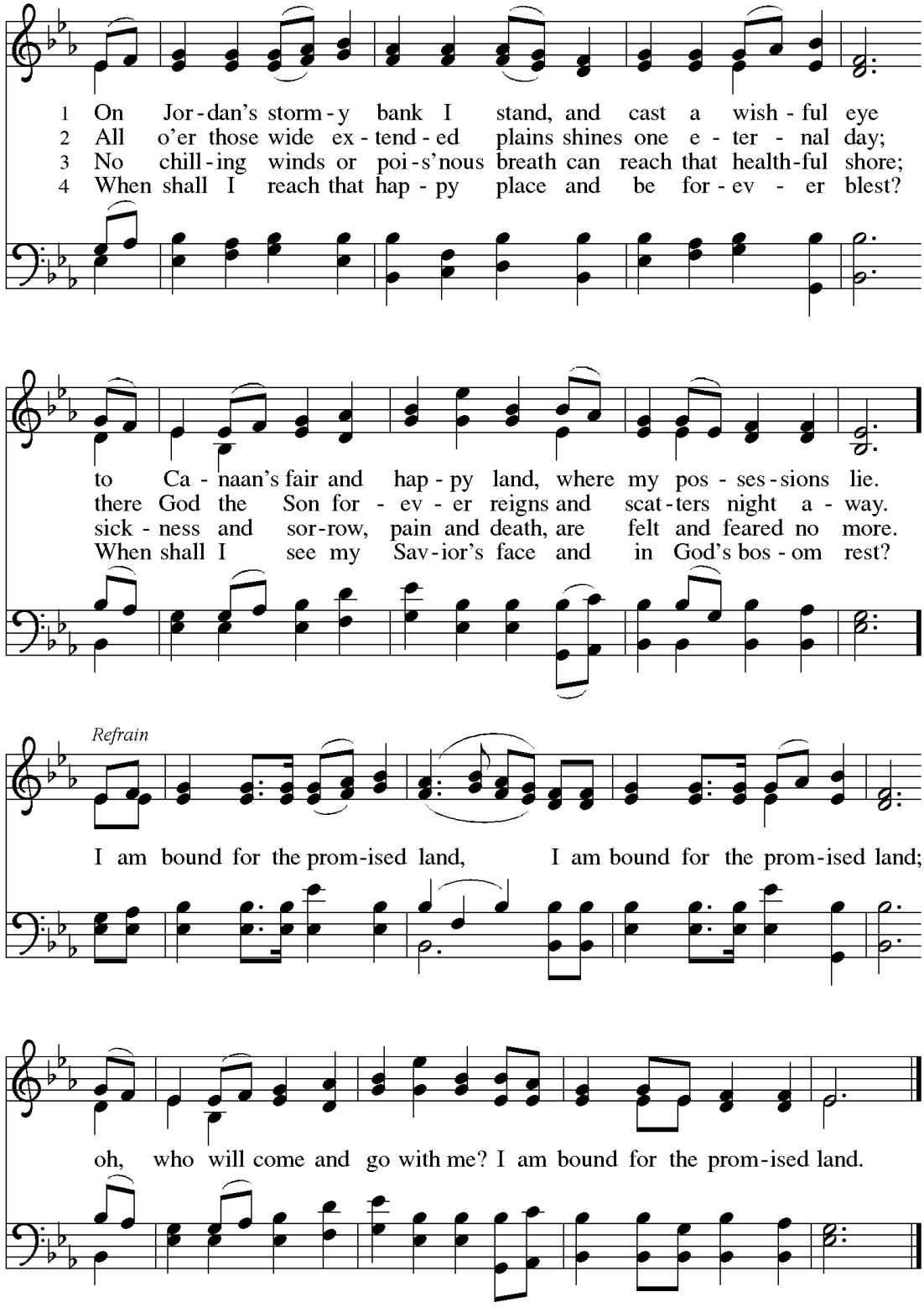
Christ Be Our Light *Christ Be Our Light*



Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell
Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell.Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.
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RECESSIONAL HYMN

On Jordan's Stormy Bank I Stand *Promised Land*



Text: Samuel Stennett, 1727–1795
Music: PROMISED LAND, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; adapt. Rigdon M. McIntosh, 1836–1899

THIS WEEK AT ST. GREGORY'S

Tuesday, November 17

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

Thursday, November 19

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, November 22 – Christ the King (Proper 29)

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).*

SCHEDULE OF SPECIAL SERVICES FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMASTIDE

Sunday, December 13 – A Service of Lessons & Carols for Advent

This traditional service of readings and music is inspired by services held at King's College, Cambridge for over 100 years. Stories from biblical prophecies foretelling the birth of Christ are interspersed with familiar Advent hymns and carols. St. Gregory's Choir sings music by G.F. Handel, John Gardner, and Richard Shephard. Note that we only have one service at 10:15 AM on this day.

Sunday, December 20 – Music at Four: Blessing of the Crèche

Join us at 4:00 PM for a service of the blessing of the crèche. The crèche is a traditional symbol of the Advent and Christmas seasons, depicting the manger scene in Bethlehem, changing over the weeks of Advent in preparation for Jesus' birth. As the crèche is assembled, the Choir and members of our Sunday School will present carols, music, and readings for the season. The annual parish Christmas dinner will follow the concert.

Thursday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

Christmas Carols and Anthems at 6:30 PM

Choral Christmas Eve Service with Holy Eucharist at 7:00 PM.

Friday, December 25 – Christmas Day

Holy Eucharist at 10:00 AM.

Sunday, December 27 – First Sunday after Christmas

Holy Eucharist at 8:00 AM (spoken) and 10:15 AM (sung).

Sunday, January 3 – Second Sunday after Christmas

Holy Eucharist at 8:00 AM (spoken) and 10:15 AM (sung).

UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY, Sunday, November 15 – Music at 4 - Kirkin' of the Tartan Evensong

The sound of Bagpipes fills the church in this festive Evensong service honoring St. Andrew, the patron saint of Scotland. St. Gregory's Choir sings music by Alfred V. Fedak, Richard Shephard, and Thomas Tallis. Come join us later today, Sunday, November 15 at **4:00 PM** in the Sanctuary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

United Thank Offering UTO Ingathering: November is a month of sharing our abundance with others such as family friends and our community as we begin our UTO ingathering this month, please remember that UTO grants often focus on urgent human needs meaning your individual gratitude gift help racial reconciliation efforts, to end poverty and so much more. The ingathering will continue until **November 29, 2026** Please give generously to this amazing program.

Supper Club: We will be having Supper Club on **Saturday, November 21** at **5:00 pm** in the Parish Hall. John and Susan Mora will be hosting a Thanksgiving-themed dinner. Flyers are available in the Narthex. Please call either Julie Robinson 562-619-9011 or John and Susan Mora for information on what to contribute.

Long Beach American Sewing Guild: The next meeting of our Long Beach American Sewing Guild will be **TODAY**, **Sunday, November 15** in St. Gregory's Room 1 from 1:00pm – 3:30 P.M. If you have any interest in sewing or fabric, please come to our meeting. For more information, contact Susan Mora.

St. Thomas of Canterbury Holiday Bazaar: Our sister congregation of St. Thomas of Canterbury (5306 E. Arbor Road) is having their annual Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, November 21st from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Flyers are available on the Information Table in the Parish Hall.

Advent Devotionals: In the run-up to Christmas, there are always so many things to be done: decorating, shopping, preparing for and attending special holiday parties and events, and so on. It can all be a bit overwhelming at times. The season of Advent is a set-apart time of anticipation and intentional preparation for the birth of Our Lord at Christmas. While we cannot help with all those other preparations, we can help you prepare spiritually. As we do every year, we are making available the Living Well Through Advent daily devotional, with Scripture readings, reflections, and spiritual practices to help focus on the true meaning of the season and to prepare your heart, spirit, body, and mind for the joyous annual celebration of Jesus' birth. Copies are available on the Information Table in the Parish Hall or you can download a PDF version at https://stgregoryschurch.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/11/Living-Well-Through-Advent-2026.pdf.

Christmas Flower Donations: Christmas is just around the corner! If you would like to make a donation to help offset the cost of the wreaths and poinsettias, you can do so by sending a check to the church with "Christmas Flowers" in the memo line. Or you can go through the parish website or the Vanco app and use the Other Designated Gift category (just be sure to put Christmas Flowers in the adjacent box). And if you would like to make your donation in Memory of, in Thanksgiving of, or in Honor of someone, you can call the parish office or send an email to info@stgregoryschurch.com with the appropriate information. We need dedications no later than **Sunday, December 21st** to get information into the Christmas Eve bulletin. Poinsettias will be available for pick-up after Christmas. More on that down the road.

Christmas Music Donations: A lot of special music is planned for the upcoming weeks leading up to Christmas. If you would like to help offset the expenses for the wonderful musicians that will be joining us for the season, please send a check to St. Gregory's with "Christmas Music" as the memo line. You can also donate on our website using the Vanco app. Click the "Other Designated Gift" category, putting "Christmas Music" in the adjacent box. We thank you for your support of our wonderful music ministry!

Return of the Roamin' Gregorians: The Roamin' Gregorians are returning for an upcoming Roamin' Gregorians Prince of Peace Walk on December 6. Contact Susan Mora (310) 894-0731 or sign up in the Narthex after church.

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: Here's How You Can Help

- On the first Saturday of every month, Feed My Lambs serves our neighbors at St. Luke's. There's a lot that happens before Saturday morning—and we would love to have you join us!
- **We Need Hard-Boiled Eggs!** Every Feed My Lambs lunch includes a hard-boiled egg, and we need more egg donors! You do not have to commit every month—even an occasional contribution helps.
  VERY IMPORTANT: Please clearly mark your egg carton "FML." We share refrigerator space with other church ministries, and if the carton isn't marked FML, we won't know the eggs are ours to take early Saturday morning.
- **Bake Homemade Cookies**: Our guests love homemade cookies, and we can always use more! Please place your cookies in Ziploc bags and label them with the date and "FML."
- **Dropping Off Eggs or Cookies**: Donations may be dropped off at the St. Gregory's church office Monday–Friday, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Because our office administrator occasionally needs to leave on church errands, please call ahead to make sure someone will be there to receive your donation.
- **Come Work With Us!** You don't have to do everything—or even stay for the whole day. Pick the job and time that work for you:
  - Friday before Feed My Lambs
    - 11:00 a.m. — Cookie Bagging
    - 12:00 p.m. — Sandwich Building
    - 3:00 p.m. — Lunch Packing
  - First Saturday of the month
    - 6:00 a.m. — Load Out at St. Gregory's
    - 7:00 a.m. — Set Up & Serve at St. Luke's

  Interested in volunteering or have questions? Contact Tamera Benedict at tlbenedict4@gmail.com or 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.

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, Michelle Morrill, Kira Dirghalli, Edith Finney, Marty Wong, Miriam Edwards, Charles H. Parks, Perry Nelson, Nellie Bell, Ernie and Vickie Morrison, Alison and Mick, Phyllis Comiskey, Brett W., Trisha Cookmeyer, Sally Blevins, Linda Elliott, Ron Dixon, Daryl Takaki, Paul Meyer, Juhani Palomaki, Meg Wagner, Annette Ffrench, Barbara Barton, Rosan Curtis, Nick Playter, Mary Playter, David Caffrey, Brigitta Spinocchia Freund, Casey Ramsdell, Maria Cortez, Gloria Smith, Lynda Hartman, Gary Laursen, Vivian Anaya-Outler, Greg Highstand, Keith Johnson, JR Amos, Loretta Scott, Jim Moody, Ruth Contreras, Holly Cardone, Dayna Kinkade, Laurie Baker, Lisa Fincher Bailey, Lori Topps, Dennis La Carra

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