



SAINT PETER'S EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

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THE HOLY EUCHARIST The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost August 24, 2025, 9:00 AM

MINISTERS SERVING TODAY

Presider and Preacher: *The Rev. Robin Biffle*
Organist: *John Goodwin*
Lectors: *Jean O'Connor & Ann Dooling*
Prayers of the People: *The Towery family*
Eucharistic Minister: *Aubrey Curtis*
Ushers / Oblation Bearers: *Mark Kelley & Grace Berger*

Welcome

Our liturgy is drawn from a variety of approved resources. Please see endnotes for references and permissions.

The People's responses are printed in boldface.

The Holy Eucharist

PRELUDE

"Prelude No. 3"

César Franck (1822-1890)

OPENING HYMN, H-304

I come with joy to meet my Lord

Tune: *Land of Rest*

THE WORD OF GOD

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Blessed be the one, holy, and living God. **Glory to God forever.**

THE GLORIA

Jaques Berthier (1923-1994)



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

God be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: Jeremiah 1:4-10

The word of the Lord came to me saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a boy'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord." Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me, "Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

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

THE RESPONSE: Psalm 71:1-6 (*Together*)

- ¹ In you, O God, have I taken refuge; *
let me never be ashamed.**
- ² In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free; *
incline your ear to me and save me.**
- ³ Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe; *
you are my crag and my stronghold.**
- ⁴ Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, *
from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.**
- ⁵ For you are my hope, O God, *
my confidence since I was young.**
- ⁶ I have been sustained by you ever since I was born;
from my mother's womb you have been my strength; *
my praise shall be always of you.**

THE NEW TESTAMENT: The Letter to the Hebrews 12:18-29

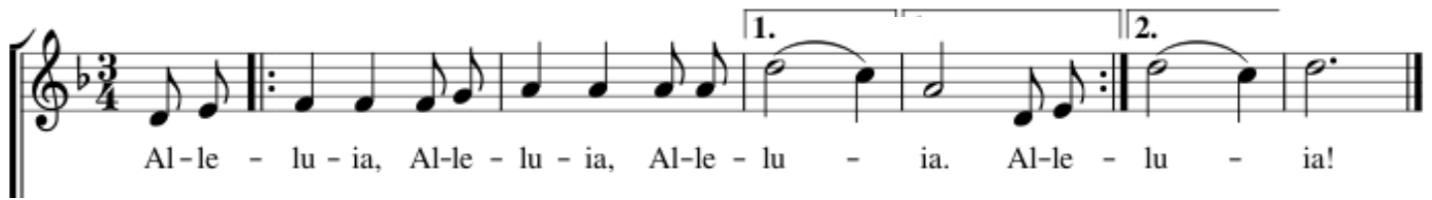
You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. (For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death." Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear.") But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking; for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! At that time his voice shook the earth; but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven." This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

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

THE ALLELUIA

Jaques Berthier (1923-1994)



THE GOSPEL Luke 13:10-17

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Now Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day." But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?" When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

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

THE SERMON The Rev. Robin Biffle

THE NICENE CREED

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Today's prayers were crafted by the Towery family (especially Audrey and Vera) and they bid them for us this morning.

Let us pray.

For the harmony and solidarity of the Church of God;

For everyone who declares the gospel, and for all those in pursuit of the truth.

For Sean our Presiding Bishop, for Marty our Bishop, for Kendra our Interim Rector, for all bishops and ministers, and for our teachers, especially Sarah;

For everyone who serves in God's church.

For everyone in their daily life and professional activities, and for those returning to school;

For our loved ones, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are lonely.

For the welfare and prosperity of this vibrant community, our nation, and the world;

For all who strive for righteousness, freedom, and harmony.

For the president, governor, all elected leaders, and military leaders;

And for all in authority.

For the fair and appropriate care of your creation;

For those suffering from starvation, oppression, discrimination, or cruelty.

For those who are sick, poor, unsheltered, and those who are grieving;

For those who provide care to the ill, the lonely, and those in need.

For those who are afraid, oppressed, unemployed, and those who are destitute;

For prisoners and captives, and all who keep them in their memory and care for them.

For the unique needs and concerns of this congregation. *(Please add your own prayers.)*

Hear us, O Lord;

For we long for your everlasting mercy.

We express our gratitude to you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. *(Please add your own prayers.)*

We shall glorify you, O God;

And exalt your Name for eternity.

We offer our prayers for all those who have died and come into your nearer presence, that they may find their place in your everlasting kingdom. Bestow on them your loving kindness;

We place our trust in you.

We also pray to you for the forgiveness of our sins.

Have mercy on us, merciful Father; forgive our sins, known and unknown; uphold us by your spirit to live and serve you in newness of life, for the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE ABSOLUTION

THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

(All may share with one another a sign of peace.)

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PRAYER FOR BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant *N.* as *she* begins another year. Grant that *she* may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *her* trust in your goodness all the days of *her* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE PRAYER FOR A NEW DEAN

Almighty God, look graciously on the people of St. Peter's Cathedral. Be with us and lead us as we seek the next Dean for our church. Enlighten with your grace the Search Committee. We ask for discernment, wisdom, and guidance. We pray for whom you guide to our parish, that they hear your calling and join our congregation swiftly, with joy in their hearts. We pray for the life of our parish, that we may joyfully continue to be strengthened in our mission to "Love God and Our Neighbor and Make Disciples for Christ." Give us courage to respond and act as you lead us. We pray this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory sentence

The people stand, as able, as the oblation bearers bring the people's offering of bread and wine to the altar.

OFFERTORY HYMN, H-368

Holy Father, great Creator

Tune: Regent Square

The people stand, as able, while the oblation bearers bring the people's monetary gifts to the altar.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

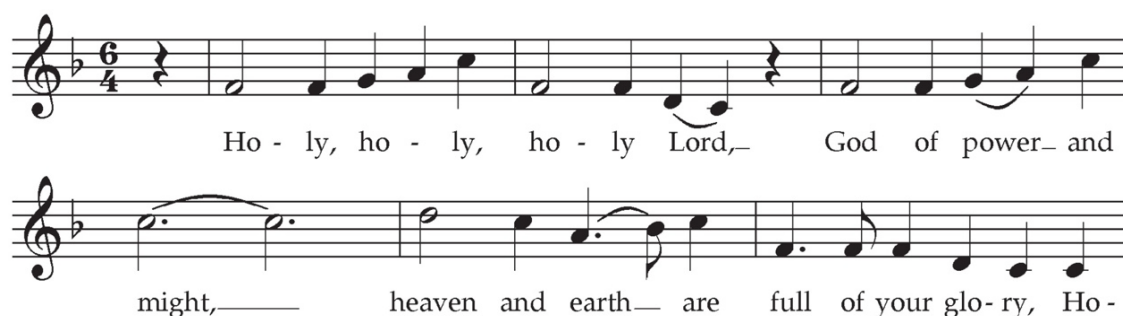
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

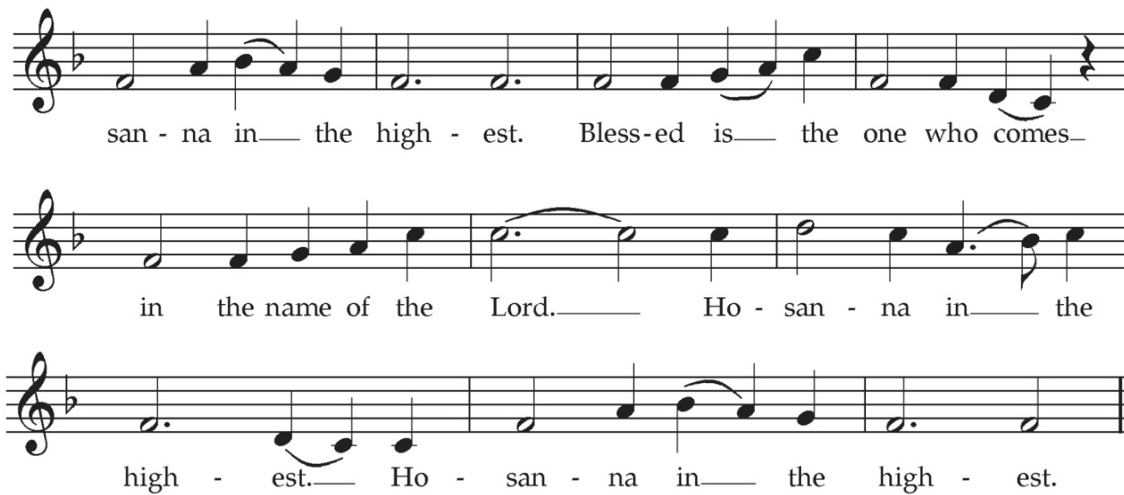
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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.

Sanctus and Benedictus, sung by all

Tune: Land of Rest
arr. Marcia Pruner, (1936-2013)





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 St. Peter, St. Luke, the woman Jesus released from bondage 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.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*Offer the version of this prayer that dwells in your heart; one of these or another.*)

**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.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as weafraid forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Bread is broken and silence is observed

THE FRACTION ANTHEM (*Spoken*)

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

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

Christ welcomes all to communion. ■ Receive the bread in open and outstretched hands and sip the wine, guiding the chalice to your lips. ■ If you do not want to sip the wine, it is also perfectly appropriate to receive the bread only. ■ You may respond to communion by saying "Amen." ■ If you prefer a blessing, cross your hands over your chest. ■ Tell the minister if you require gluten-free elements. ■ In the Episcopal Church Baptism generally precedes communion and is offered several times a year; speak to a priest or the Interim Rector to learn more. ■

THE PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION on behalf of those participating remotely

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

Verset Des Psaumes, No. 3

Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)

Hymns: G-638 "Jesus, heal us"

David Haas (b. 1957)

G-588 "Eat this bread, drink this cup"

Taizé Community

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE CHILDREN'S MOMENT — *Blessing of the backpacks / bookbags*

H-412 "Earth and all stars" (*stanzas 5 & 6 only*)

Holy and gracious God, we give thanks for these young people, for their teachers, friends, and fellow students as the school year begins. We give thanks for the ways these children teach us and help to expand our universe. Give us all grace to continue to learn and grow, and be signs of your love in the world. **Amen.**

May God bless these bags and packs, bless the hopes and dreams they hold. May God bless each of you and keep you as you learn, grow, and explore the world around you; may God bless the homes and families that support these children in this holy journey. May each of you continue to bless the world with the gifts God has given you: love and kindness, curiosity and joy, and the courage to will and to persevere; we pray with Jesus in our hearts. **Amen.**

THE CLOSING BLESSING

THE DISMISSAL

Let us go into the world in the power of the Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

From "25 Choralvorspiele," 7th movement

Helmut Walcha (1907-1991)

LITURGICAL NOTE

Throughout the Episcopal Church, and at St. Peter's Cathedral, we observe the Season after Pentecost, sometimes called Ordinary Time. Godly Play calls the season after Pentecost "the great green growing season," reminding us that God is present in ordinary times – and reminding us that all time is holy in God. It is the season in which we are invited to renew and strengthen our witness to Jesus in the world and to examine the ways we live into our discipleship. The Season after Pentecost begins after the last day of the Easter Season (i.e., the Day of Pentecost) and extends until the beginning of the new year in the church's calendar, the First Sunday of Advent. This year, Advent begins on November 30. The Season after Pentecost is the longest season in the liturgical calendar.



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