

St. Luke's Episcopal Church – Stephenville, TX
The Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
November 15th, 2026
8:00 am & 10:00 am & 5:30 pm

To All Who Are Joyful And Thankful, To All Who Mourn And Need Comfort
To All Who Are Weary And Need Rest, To All Who Are Friendless And Wish Friendship
To All Who Pray And Who Do Not But Ought, To All Who Sin And Need A Savior.
And To Whoever Will, The Church Opens Wide The Door
And In The Name Of Christ, The Lord Says Welcome.

The Processional Hymn
The Hymnal 1982 #561 Stand up, Stand up for Jesus
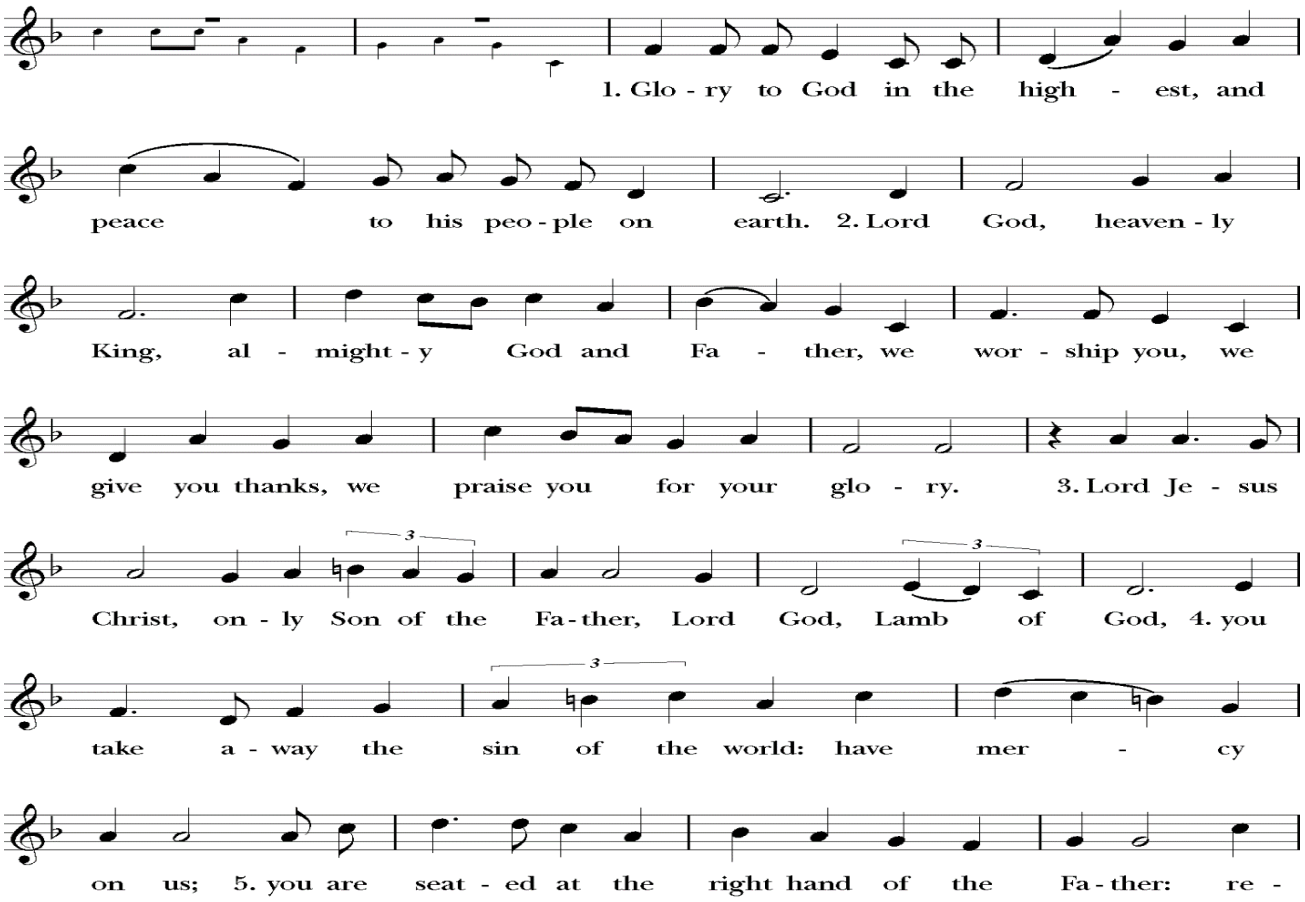
The people standing, the Celebrant says

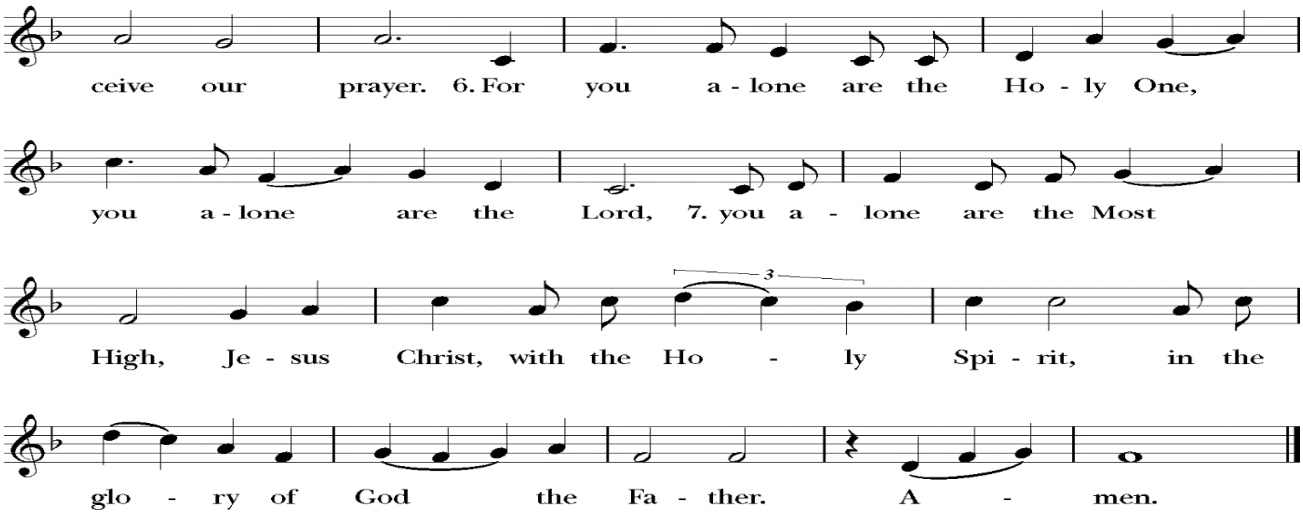
Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The 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**.

The Gloria
The Hymnal 1982, Service Music - #280 Canticle 20, Glory to God: Gloria in excelsis





The Collect of the Day

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

The Readings
All are seated.

A reading from the Book of Judges. (Judges 4:1-7)

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, after Ehud died. So the Lord sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years.

At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, "The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you, 'Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand."

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 123 *Ad te levavi oculos meos* (Read responsively by half verse)

1 To you I lift up my eyes, *
to you enthroned in the heavens.
2 As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, *
and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,
3 So our eyes look to the Lord our God, *
until he show us his mercy.
4 Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy, *
for we have had more than enough of contempt,
5 Too much of the scorn of the indolent rich, *
and of the derision of the proud.

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians. (1 Thessalonians 5:1-11)

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 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.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

All stand as are able.

Gradual Hymn

The Hymnal 1982 #9 (vs 1-3), Not Here for High and Holy Things

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

Matthew 25:14-30

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."

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

The Sermon The Rev. Mark Witte
A brief time of reflection follows the sermon

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

The intercessor and people pray responsively.
In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For the peace and unity of your Church throughout the world;
For all ministers, and all who herald your Gospel and serve You.

For all who read, teach, and proclaim the Holy Scriptures;
That through your Holy Spirit, Your word alone may be heard.

For all who are entrusted with positions of leadership and responsibility;
That we may be granted wisdom, courage, and discernment in the service of your people.

For Stephenville, the United States, and the world;
For those who labor for justice, freedom, and peace, and for all who suffer by oppression, violence, and the abuse of power.

For all who have been entrusted with gifts, talents, and resources;
That we may be delivered from fear and complacency, and find the courage to use what you have given us in the service of others.

For all who await the second coming of your Son;
That we may live and encourage one another in the hope of Your redemption.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who are sick, grieving, lonely, or in any need, and for those who care for them.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. We pray especially for Jane, Oma T., Bruce, Tami, Brenda, Eddy & Cissy, Betty, Marion, Mary, Jose, Robert, June, Sandy, Evelyn, James, Jessica, Tommy, Sam, Steve, Nancy, Adelaide, Micah, Emma, Jennifer, Shirley, Grace, Kim Reed,

Jill, Pete, Sue Ann, Eloy, Gwen, Tatum, William, Aiden, Carl, Angie, and those we hold in our hearts.

Silence. The People may add their own petitions.

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life, including *[thanks on the St. Luke's prayer list]*.

Silence. The People may add their own thanksgivings.

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, including Ken Morrison, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence. The People may add their own remembrances.

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord;
And let light perpetual shine upon them.

The Celebrant adds the concluding collect.
Almighty God, whose Son calls us to watchfulness, faithfulness, and hope: hear our prayers, which we offer in Christ's name, and grant that they may also fashion our hearts in his love; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
Silence may be kept.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Celebrant says
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
All stand as are able.
Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Announcements
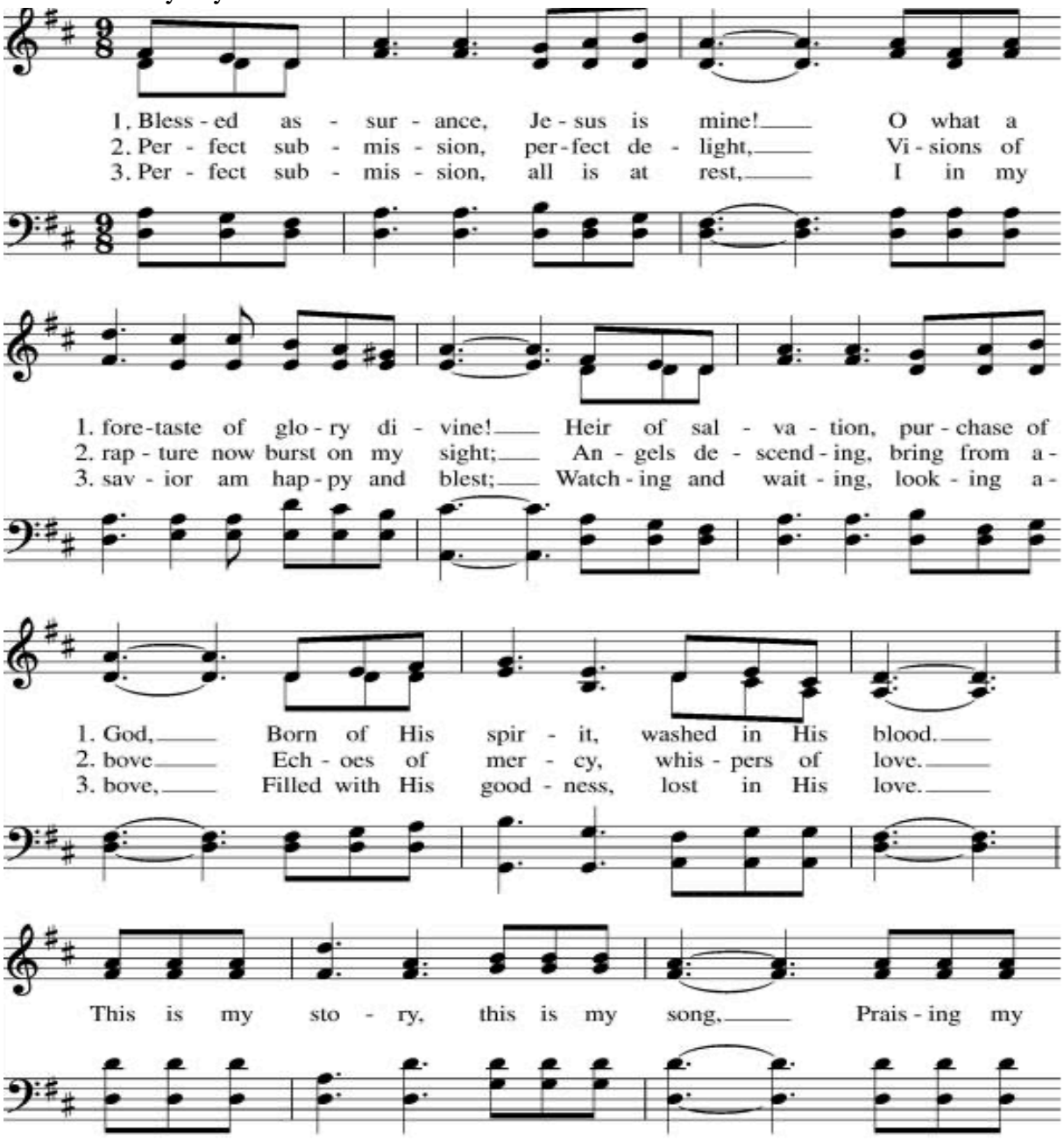
Birthdays & Anniversaries
Mark Blackburn (15th), Lexi McLemore (15th), Metta Collier (16th), Doug McLemore (17th), Angel Carter "Gotcha Day" (20th)
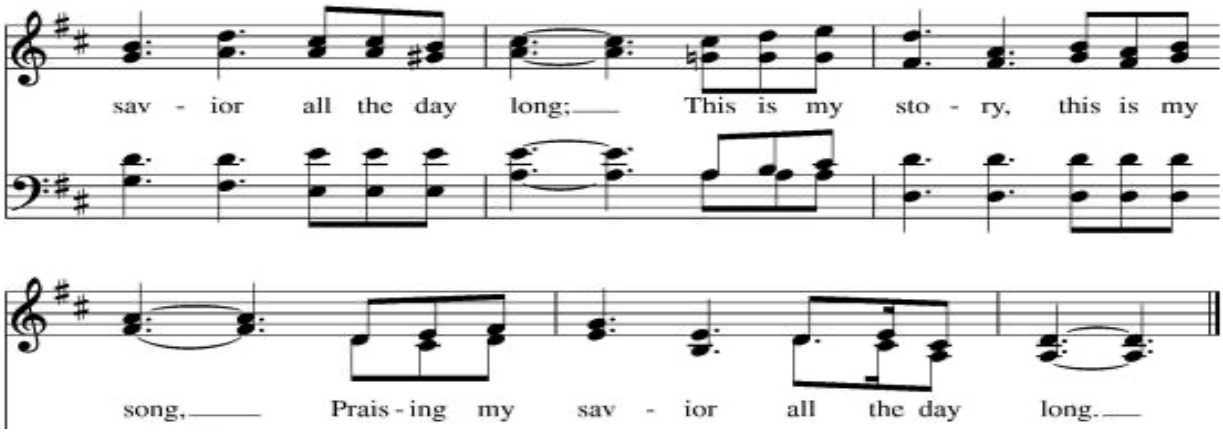
Celebrant and People
Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may the peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant
If you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. *Matthew 5:23, 24*

Gifts may be placed in the offering plate, given by text by sending an amount to (254) 282-0706, or given online. Mailed checks may be sent to the address printed at the end of the bulletin.

The Offertory Hymn LEVAS #184 Blessed Assurance





Doxology *(sung to The Hymnal 380)*

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye Heavenly Host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving
Eucharistic Prayer B
The people remain standing, as are able. The Celebrant says

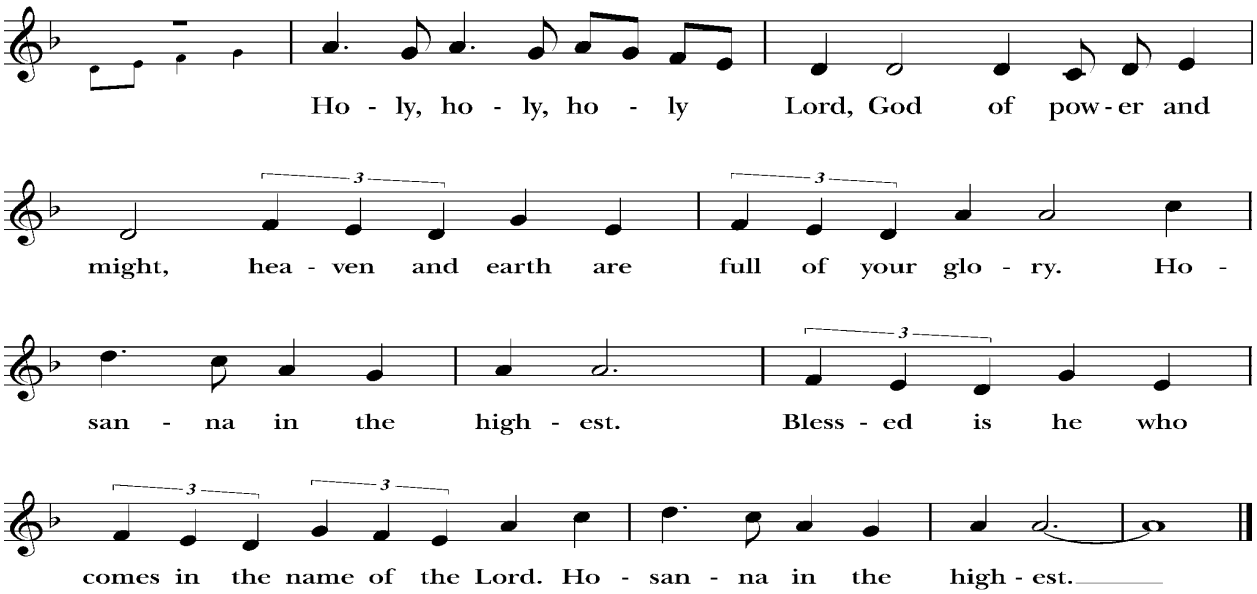
	The Lord be with you.
People	**And also with you.**
Celebrant	Lift up your hearts.
People	**We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People	**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant proceeds
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

The Hymnal 1982, Service Music, #129



Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932). Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

The people stand or kneel, as are able.
The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he 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 shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."
Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People
We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;
The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Mary, Luke, Herman, Margaret, Hugh, Hilda, Elizabeth, Edmund, Mechtilde, and Gertrude and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

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

The Breaking of the Bread

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

Facing the people, the Celebrant 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.

The Distribution of Holy Communion

Concerning Holy Communion
"This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord.
It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more.
So come, you who have much faith, and you who have little,
you who have been here often and you who have not been here long,
you who have tried to follow and you who have failed.

Come, because it is the Lord who invites you.
It is his will that those who want him should meet him here."

❧

If you do not wish to receive the sacrament, we invite you to come forward for a blessing.
Simply cross your arms over your chest and the priest will bless you.

❧

Gluten free wafers are available upon request.

❧

If after receiving Communion or a blessing you would like special prayers for healing, you are invited to go to the votive stand at the rear of the church where someone will pray with you.

Communion Hymn
The Hymnal 1982 #302 Father, We Thank Thee

After Communion, the Celebrant says
Let us pray.

Celebrant and People
Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Priest gives the blessing

Blessing
May God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Processional
The Hymnal 1982 #680, O God Our Help in Ages Past

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

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From the Calendar of Saints

November 15 Herman of Alaska *Missionary, 1837*

Born in Russia, he is known only by his monastic name. In 1793 along with a small group of colleagues, Herman set out to do missionary work in Alaska. He settled near Kodiak and advocated for and defended the native Aleut against sometimes-oppressive authorities. He cared lovingly and sacrificially for all who came to him. He especially loved children, for whom he often baked biscuits and cookies. Though not formally educated, he developed a reputation for being a good teacher. He was known as the North Star to those he served.

November 16 Margaret *Queen of Scotland, 1093*

A zealous reformer, Margaret sought to change old fashioned and careless practices among the Scottish clergy. While conscientiously fulfilling the roles of wife and mother of eight, she encouraged the founding of schools, hospitals, and orphanages.

November 17 Hugh *Bishop of Lincoln, 1200*

Even as bishop, Hugh lived as much as he could under the strict discipline of the Carthusian Order. Loved by his people, he championed the poor, the oppressed, and outcasts, especially lepers and Jews.

November 18 Hilda *Abbess of Whitby, 680*

Founder of an order of nuns and monks at Whitby, Hilda was known by everyone as "mother." Her prudence and good sense led kings and other public men to seek her advice and counsel.

November 19 Elizabeth *Princess of Hungary, 1231*

With Louis of France, Elizabeth shares the title of patron of the Third Order of St. Francis. Wife and mother of three, she spent her dowry and sold her jewels to found a hospital for the sick and poor during a famine and epidemic.

November 20 Edmund *King of East Anglia, Martyr, 870*

At age twenty-nine, Edmund was tortured, beaten, shot through with arrows, then beheaded by the Danes invading England. His shrine at Bury St. Edmonds became a traditional pilgrimage site for England's kings.

November 21 Mechthilde and Gertrude *the Great Mystics and Theologians, 1298 and 1302*

Mechthilde and Gertrude were both Benedictine nuns at St. Mary's Monastery in Helfta, which was renowned for fostering the intellectual gifts of sisters. Mechthilde directed a choir, served a library, and illuminated manuscripts along with her own original works. Gertrude was also at Helftra and at a young age given to Mechthilde to raise. Gertrude was fluent in Latin and was a theologian, writing a number of works touching on mysticism and theology, her most famous being The Herald of Divine Love.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

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Clergy

The Rev. Bradley C. Dyche – Rector
The Rev. Mark Witte – Curate
The Rev. Leslie Guinn – Assisting

Staff

Kara Barnes – Parish Administrator
Duncan McMahan – Organist
Gail Johnson & Kelly Barbee – Altar Guild Directresses
The Rev. Mark Witte – ECM Missioner
Neely Carter – Vestry Secretary
Emma Gomez – Technology Minister

Vestry

Term Ending 2026 – Kelly Barbee, Malcolm Cross
Term Ending 2027 – Doug McLemore & Allison Haynes
Term Ending 2028 – Gail Johnson & Dylan Dowell

