

SAINT GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THE HOLY EUCHARIST - RITE II
The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Beach Eucharist with Holy Baptism

SEPTEMBER 20, 2026
6:30 AM
THE REVEREND ANDREW J. SHERMAN, *CELEBRANT*
THE REVEREND CHRISTOPHER HARDING, *PREACHER*

Welcome to Saint Gregory's Episcopal Church!
We invite you to join us in active participation in the worship of God.
Please silence all cell phones.

THE GATHERING MUSIC

THE OPENING HYMN — *OPEN THE EYES OF MY HEART*

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You

To see You high and lifted up
Shinin' in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy, holy, holy

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You

The People remain standing for

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

CELEBRANT Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
PEOPLE ***And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever, AMEN.***

The Celebrant continues

There is one Body and one Spirit;
PEOPLE ***There is one hope in God's call to us;***
CELEBRANT One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
PEOPLE ***One God and Father of all.***
CELEBRANT The Lord be with you.
PEOPLE ***And also with you.***
CELEBRANT Let us pray.

The Salutation and Collect of the Day

CELEBRANT The Lord be with you.
PEOPLE ***And also with you.***
CELEBRANT Let us pray.

O Lord, make us have perpetual love and reverence for your holy Name, for you never fail to help and govern those whom you have set upon the sure foundation of your loving-kindness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***AMEN.***

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians *[1:21-30]*

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.***

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew *[20:1-16]*

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."

GOSPELLER The Gospel of the Lord.
PEOPLE ***Praise to You, Lord Christ.***

The Reflection *The Reverend Christopher Harding*

THE PRESENTATION AND EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATE

The Candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

The candidate unable to answer for himself is presented by his Parents and Godparents, as follows.
PARENTS AND GODPARENTS I present *Zamariel Elias Sanchez Rodriguez* to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

After the child is presented, the Celebrant asks the parents and godparents the following:
CELEBRANT Will you be responsible for seeing that *Zamariel* is brought up in the Christian faith and life?
PARENTS AND GODPARENTS We will, with God's help.

CELEBRANT Will you by your prayers and witness help *Zamariel* to grow into the full stature of Christ?
PARENTS AND GODPARENTS We will, with God's help.

Then the Celebrant asks the following questions of the parents and godparents who speak on behalf of the candidates.

Question Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?
Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?
Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?
Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?
Answer I do.

Question Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?
Answer I do.

Question Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?
Answer I do.

After each child has been presented, the Celebrant then addresses the congregation, saying
Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support *this person* in *his* life in Christ?
PEOPLE ***We will.***

All stand as the Celebrant says,
Let us now stand and join *Zamariel* who is committing *himself* to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant

CELEBRANT Do you believe in God the Father?
PEOPLE ***I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.***

CELEBRANT Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
PEOPLE ***I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.***
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
CELEBRANT Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
PEOPLE ***I believe in the Holy Spirit,***
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

CELEBRANT Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?
PEOPLE ***I will, with God's help.***

CELEBRANT Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
PEOPLE ***I will, with God's help.***

CELEBRANT Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
PEOPLE ***I will, with God's help.***

CELEBRANT Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
PEOPLE ***I will, with God's help.***

CELEBRANT Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?
PEOPLE ***I will, with God's help.***

The Prayers for the Candidate

The Celebrant then says to the congregation,
Let us now pray for *Zamariel* who *is* to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

A Lay Leader leads the following petitions.

LEADER Deliver *him,* O Lord, from the way of sin and death.
PEOPLE ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

LEADER Open *his heart* to your grace and truth.
PEOPLE ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

LEADER Fill *him* with your holy and life-giving Spirit.
PEOPLE ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

LEADER Keep *him* in the faith and communion of your holy Church.
PEOPLE ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

LEADER Teach *him* to love others in the power of the Spirit.
PEOPLE ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

LEADER Send *him* into the world in witness to your love.
PEOPLE ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

LEADER Bring *him* to the fullness of your peace and glory.
PEOPLE ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

The Celebrant says,

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. ***AMEN.***

THE THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Celebrant blesses the water, first saying,

The Lord be with you.
PEOPLE ***And also with you.***
CELEBRANT Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
PEOPLE ***It is right to give him thanks and praise.***

The Celebrant continues.

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life. We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water.

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. ***AMEN.***

THE BAPTISM

The candidate is presented by name to the Priest, who then immerses, or pours water upon the candidate, saying,
Zamariel,I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. ***AMEN.***

Then the Priest places a hand on the person's head, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross [using Chrism if desired] and says,
Zamariel, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. ***AMEN.***

A candle is then presented to the candidate as the Priest says, "Receive the Light of Christ".

When this action has been completed, the Priest, at a place in full sight of the congregation, prays over the candidate, saying
Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon *this* your *servant,* the forgiveness of sin, and have raised *him* to the new life of grace. Sustain *him,* O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give *him* an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. ***AMEN.***

All stand as able as the Celebrant says
Let us welcome the newly baptized.

Celebrant and People
We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

The Peace

CELEBRANT The peace of the Lord be always with you.
PEOPLE ***And also with you.***

The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord. All are welcomed formally as announcements are made.

The Holy Communion

An offering will be collected at this time. To make an electronic offering via your phone, simply scan this QR Code with your camera application, and follow the prompts, or text SGEgive to: 833-672-4095. Your gifts make a meaningful difference. Thank you for walking in love and responding in faith.

The Offertory Hymn — *The Doxology* — *Old 100th*

The Great Thanksgiving

The Celebrant faces the people and 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.

Jesus came to bring Light into the world, to teach people the truth of God's love for them and for all people, and to share the joy of living in God's presence. He walked in Light, sharing his power and his Spirit by healing, teaching, sharing, and feeding the crowds with the food that brings true life. He had compassion for the lonely, the sick, the brokenhearted, the poor, the naked, the imprisoned, and he asked his friends to care for them as much as they cared for themselves. Around the table, every life mattered, whether one was religious or nonreligious, man or woman, young or old, sinner or saint. Around the table, people met together at the level of their most basic need – not just for food, but also for the Bread of Life. And so we gather at this table. We remember the stories of bread broken and shared, of Jesus feeding the crowds, of unlikely guests revealing the face of God. It was on a night of both celebration and betrayal that he took the bread on the table, blessed it, broke it, and gave it as his body given for them.
He said to them and to us, "This is my body. Do this to remember me."

Then he took the cup on the table, and shared it with them as his blood, to be the life given for the life of the world. He said to them and to us, "This is my blood. Do this to remember me."

He offered himself as a witness to the power of love, showing us the way to live. Breathe upon us, Spirit of life, and upon this bread and this wine, that these gifts may be transformed, and that we may be filled with your Spirit's power and transformed into your people. Unite us to you and to your Son, Jesus, alive and empowered in the presence of the Holy Spirit, that we all may be one. We give you thanks and join together to proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is Risen. Christ will come again and again.

Give us the power to serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All of this we offer to you through your Son Jesus Christ: 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 pray,

The Lord's Prayer

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

CELEBRANT Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
PEOPLE ***Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.***

The Invitation to Communion

Facing the people, the celebrant says

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.

In the Episcopal Church all baptized Christians are invited to receive Holy Communion. In Jesus' name, all are welcome! At the time of Holy Communion, please follow the direction of the ushers. Both the Host (the blessed wafer) and the Chalice will be offered. If you prefer to receive only the Host, it is full communion. We also provide gluten-free Hosts. Please indicate your preference for a gluten-free Host to the Eucharistic Minister at the altar. Should you not wish to receive Holy Communion, you are still invited to come to the altar for a blessing.
Please cross your arms over your chest to indicate your preference for a blessing.

The Communion Hymn *Let us Break Bread Together* *Spiritual*

Let us break bread together on our knees…
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.
Let us drink wine together on our knees…
Let us praise God together on our knees…

The Blessing *Beannacht (Blessing) by John O'Donohue*

On the day when the weight deadens on your shoulders and you stumble, may the clay dance to balance you. And when your eyes freeze behind the grey window and the ghost of loss gets into you, may a flock of colors, indigo, red, green and azure blue, come to awaken in you a meadow of delight. When the canvas frays in the currach of thought and a stain of ocean blackens beneath you, may there come across the waters a path of yellow moonlight to bring you safely home. May the nourishment of the earth be yours, may the clarity of light be yours, may the fluency of the ocean be yours, may the protection of the ancestors be yours. And so may a slow wind work these words of love around you, an invisible cloak to mind your life. And may the blessing of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit be with you this day and always. ***AMEN.***

The Dismissal

Deacon Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People ***Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!***

The Final Hymn *Amazing Grace! How sweet the sound* *Newton/ New Britain*

Amazing Grace! How sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see.

Though many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less adays to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

We appreciate the talents of Nick Rosa for his musical contributions!

Clergy and Staff

Rector *The Reverend Andrew J. Sherman*
Assistant Rector *The Very Reverend Dr. Mary Ellen Cassini*
Assistant Rector *The Reverend Christopher Harding*
Pastoral Counselor and Clergy Associate *The Reverend Elizabeth Pankey-Warren*
Clergy Associate *The Reverend Jean Bruno*
Clergy Associate *The Reverend Dr. Emilio Rosolen*
Clergy Associate Emeritus *The Reverend Dr. R. Craig Burlington*
Co-Ordinator for Liturgy and the Arts,
Director of Music Ministry, Organist and Choirmaster *Timothy J. Brumfield*
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Lay Ministry Associate for Worship,
Formation and Translation *Christel Bruno*
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Transforming Hearts and Community through Jesus' Love

Saint Gregory's Episcopal Church
The Cultural and Sacred Hub of Arts and Service

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