



# ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH + SCHOOL

Worship | Study | Friendship | Compassion

July 5, 2026—10:00AM

If you are watching online, please fill out an online Connection Card by clicking the link in the comments. If you are in person, you can find a Connection Card in the church pews.

## Ice Cream After Church

I Scream, You Scream, We all Scream for Ice Cream! Join us every Sunday after church this summer for an ice cream under the sails.

## Volunteer Opportunity: San Antonio Food Bank

Saturday, July 18th, 9:00am - 11:30am  
5200 Enrique Barrera Pkwy

St. Thomas is seeking 12 volunteers, ages 8 and up to volunteer at the San Antonio Food Bank. (*Ages 8-15 must be accompanied by a parent*). Help us support the San Antonio community by sorting and packing food to be distributed to those in need. If you are interested in volunteering, email the Church Office at [stthomaschurch@tom1604.org](mailto:stthomaschurch@tom1604.org). In your email include names of each volunteer and age. Volunteers will be contacted to confirm and to provide registration instructions.

## Youth Group Summer Hangout

Sunday, July 26th, 4:00pm-6:00pm  
in the Youth Room (Woehler Family Center)

Calling all students in 6th–12th grade! Join us for our Summer Hangout. Come enjoy games, snacks, fellowship, and summer fun with friends. Whether you're new or have been coming for years, we'd love to see you there. Bring a friend and join us for a great afternoon together.

## Daughters of the King Meeting

Monday, July 6th at 12:00pm, in the Parlor  
Join us for the meeting, a time of prayer, and fellowship.

## Family Night Out

Thursday, July 30th, 5:00pm –7:00pm  
Big'z Burger Joint - 2303 N Loop 1604 W.

Everyone is welcome for an evening of food, fun, and fellowship. Big'z offers gourmet burgers, fries, shakes, and outdoor dining in a family-friendly atmosphere. Bring your whole family and enjoy a great time together as we connect and build community. We look forward to seeing you there.

## GriefShare: Grief Support Group

Wednesdays at 10:00am, in the Parlor

GriefShare is a caring, faith-based support group designed to help you navigate the journey of grief. Come find comfort, hope, and healing among others who understand.

**Access to the Parlor:** Participants may enter through the courtyard gate near the flagpole or Church Office building. Please buzz in for entry.

## Wear a Name Tag

Do you have a St. Thomas nametag? We encourage you to wear one on Sunday. Don't have a nametag? Visit the Welcome Table in Gosnell Hall and we'll make you one. All name tags will be ready in 2-3 weeks from sign up date. Please look at our name tag display in Gosnell Hall (near the Parlor) for pick-up.

## Save the Date:

**Blessing of the Backpacks**  
Sunday, August 9th



# The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

## The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 5, 2026 • 10:00 AM

**W**orship lies at the heart of the Christian life. It is in worship that we express our theology and define our identity. It is through encountering God within worship that we are formed and transformed as the people of God. One of the glories of the Episcopal Church is its liturgical worship. Liturgy refers to the patterns, forms, words, and actions through which public worship is conducted.

The people's responses are in **bold**.

This type of note, offering directions about the service is called a "rubric," which comes from the Latin word *rubrica* (red) referring to a time when these instructional notes were always written in red.

## THE ENTRANCE RITE

THE VOLUNTARY • *The Stars and Stripes Forever*

J. P. Sousa

THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HYMN • 717

*America*



1 My coun - try, 'tis of thee, sweet land of  
2 My na - tive coun - try, thee, land of the  
3 Let mu - sic swell the breeze, and ring from  
4 Our fa - thers' God, to thee, au - thor of

lib - er - ty, of thee I sing; land where my  
no - ble free, thy name I love; I love thy  
all the trees sweet free - dom's song; let mor - tal  
lib - er - ty, to thee we sing; long may our

fa - thers died, land of the pil - grim's pride,  
rocks and rills, thy woods and tem - pled hills;  
tongues a - wake, let all that breathe par - take,  
land be bright with free - dom's ho - ly light;

from ev - ery moun - tain - side let freed - om ring.  
 my heart with rap - ture thrills like that a - bove.  
 let rocks their si - lence break, the sound pro - long.  
 pro - tect us by thy might, great God, our King.

Words: Samuel Francis Smith (1808-1895). Music: *America*, from *Thesaurus Musicus*, 1745.

## THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER 355

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

## THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

*The collect is the prayer appointed for each Sunday that “collects” or captures the theme of the day or season of the Church year. It summarizes the attributes of God as revealed in the scriptures for the day.*

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 • S 280

Robert Powell

*The ordinary of the mass employs texts that remain the same for every mass. In the Latin mass the Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus and Benedictus, and the Agnus dei are the five parts of the mass that remain the same every week.*

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
 peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly  
 King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we  
 give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus  
 Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you

take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy  
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -  
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,  
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most  
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the  
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## THE WORD OF GOD

*The proper of the mass are the scriptural texts that change with the liturgical calendar. The collect, lessons, psalm, Gospel and preface to the communion liturgy are propers. Our lessons come from a prescribed cycle of readings called the lectionary. The lectionary consists of a three year cycle: Year. Each year we retell the story from Advent through Pentecost.*

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*The collect is the prayer appointed for each Sunday that “collects” or captures the theme of the day or season of the Church year. It summarizes the attributes of God as revealed in the scriptures for the day.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Lord God Almighty, in whose Name the founders of this country won liberty for themselves and for us, and lit the torch of freedom for nations then unborn: Grant that we and all the people of this land may have grace to maintain our liberties in righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## THE CHILDREN’S SERMON

*We invite your child to join our Children’s Church program this morning! Children ages 3 through 5th grade are invited to come up for the children’s sermon and then follow our Children’s Church Leader, to a classroom down the hallway in our education wing. After the exchange of the peace, children are ushered back to their seats.*

## THE FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 10:17-21

*This reading is typically from the Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures) which Jesus knew and from which he often referred or quoted.*

<sup>17</sup>For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, <sup>18</sup>who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. <sup>19</sup>You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. <sup>20</sup>You shall fear the LORD your God; him you shall serve; to him you shall hold fast; and by his name you shall swear. <sup>21</sup>He is your praise; he is your God who has done for you these great and awesome things that your own eyes have seen.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## THE ANTHEM

*Arr. Aaron Copeland*

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free,  
'Tis the gift to come down where I ought to be;  
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,  
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.  
When true simplicity is gained,  
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed;  
to turn, turn, will be my delight.  
Till by turning, turning we come round right.

## THE EPISTLE

Hebrews 11:8-16

*This reading from the New Testament is typically from a letter (epistle) from Paul to the early Church, the Acts of the Apostles, or the Revelation to John.*

<sup>8</sup>By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup>By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup>For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. <sup>11</sup>By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup>Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

<sup>13</sup>All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, <sup>14</sup>for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup>If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup>But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

1 O beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, for am - ber waves of grain,  
 2 O beau - ti - ful for he - roes proved in lib - er - at - ing strife,  
 3 O beau - ti - ful for pa - triot dream that sees be - yond the years

for pur - ple moun - tain ma - jes - ties a - bove the fruit - ed plain!  
 who more than self their coun - try loved, and mer - cy more than life!  
 thine al - a - bas - ter ci - ties gleam, un - dimmed by hu - man tears!

A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,  
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - ery flaw,  
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,

and crown thy good with bro - ther - hood from sea to shin - ing sea.  
 con - firm thy soul in self - con - trol, thy lib - er - ty in law.  
 and crown thy good with bro - ther - hood from sea to shin - ing sea.

Words: Katherine Lee Bates (1859-1929), alt. Music: *Materna*, Samuel Augustus Ward (1848-1903).

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 5:43-48

*This reading is taken from one of the four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, which depict the life, teachings, death, resurrection, and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Gospel is the summit of the Liturgy of the Word and means “good news” and specifically the good news of Jesus. We stand for the Gospel reading to show respect for the particular importance of Jesus’ words and actions.*

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

<sup>43</sup> “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ <sup>44</sup> But I say to you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup> so that you may be children of your Father in heaven, for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. <sup>46</sup> For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? <sup>47</sup> And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the gentiles do the same? <sup>48</sup> Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## THE SERMON

The Rev. Mike Michie

*The sermon directly follows the Gospel because it illuminates the scriptural readings and relates them to daily life.*

## THE NICENE CREED

BCP 358

*The word “creed” comes from the Latin word “credo” which means I believe. First formulated at the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD and confirmed in 381 AD, the Nicene Creed is said at the Holy Eucharist and reflects the Christian belief in the Holy Trinity and the relationship between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*

**W**e 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.**

*We pray for ourselves and particularly on behalf of others. In our prayers we pray for the for Universal Church, the nation and all who govern, the welfare of the world, the concerns of our community of faith, including those who are in need or suffer, and for the departed. We are reminded in prayer that we are part of a larger fellowship, the Church—the Body of Christ.*

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence*

For all people in their daily life and work;

**For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

For this community, the nation, and the world;

**For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

For the just and proper use of your creation;

**For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

**For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

**For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, for David and Angela, our Bishops, and for all bishops and other ministers;

**For all who serve God in his Church.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

*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.

*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, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence. The People may add their own petitions.*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

**Who put their trust in you.**

*Silence. The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

## THE CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

BCP 360

*Confessing our sins, receiving forgiveness (absolution), and showing signs of peace to one another prepare us to receive Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.*

*Leader and People*

**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.**

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

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

## THE BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY PRAYERS

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

*Having listened to the Word of God, affirmed our faith, confessed our sins, received forgiveness and shared in the peace, we are prepared for Holy Communion. At the offertory, we gratefully offer back to God some of what God has given us, symbolically in the bread and wine, and in the money we give.*

*All are invited to make a gift to support St. Thomas' ministry of sharing God's love with the world.*

*The altar is prepared for Holy Communion.*

## THE OFFERTORY

Arr. Peter Wilhousky

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;  
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;  
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of this terrible swift sword;  
His truth is marching on.

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!  
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!  
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!  
His truth is marching on.

I have seen Him in the watch-fires of a hundred circling camps;  
They have builded Him an altar in the evening dews and damps;  
I can read the righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps;  
His day is marching on.

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;  
He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judgment seat;  
O be swift, my soul, to answer Him; be jubilant, my feet!  
Our God is marching on.

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,  
With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me;  
As He died to make us holy, let us live to make us free,  
while God is marching on.

## THE DOXOLOGY

*Old 100th*

**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 A

BCP 361

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 him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. (*Here a Proper Preface is sung or said.*) 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 SANCTUS • S 125

Richard Proulx

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and 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 this we ask 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.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 364

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 FRACTION ANTHEM

*The presider breaks the bread.*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

## THE INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

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 people are invited to come forward to receive communion. Gluten-free wafers are available. Inform the priest when they come to you.*

*Individual prayers for healing are offered in the Chapel of the Cross. We encourage you to visit them after receiving communion.*

## THE HYMN • 599

*Lift Every Voice*

*Introduction*

1 Lift ev-ery voice and sing till earth and hea - ven ring, ring with the  
2 Ston-y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas-tening rod, felt in the  
3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears, thou who hast

har - mon - ies of lib - er - ty. Let our re - joic - ing rise  
days when hope un - born had died; yet, with a stead - y beat,  
brought us thus far on the way; thou who hast by thy might

high as the lis - tening skies; let it re - sound loud as the  
have not our wea - ry feet come to the place for which our  
led us in - to the light; keep us for ev - er in the

roll - ing sea. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has  
 par - ents sighed? We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been  
 path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the pla - ces, our God, where we

taught us; sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has  
 wa - tered; we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the  
 met thee; lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for-

brought us; fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new  
 slaugh - tered, out from the gloom - y past, till now we  
 get thee; sha-dowed be - neath thy hand may we for

day be - gun, let us march on, till vic - to - ry is won.  
 stand at last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.  
 ev - er stand, true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

Words: James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938). Copyright © 1921 by Edward B. Marks Music Company. Copyright Renewed. International Copyright Secured. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Lift Every Voice*, J. Rosamond Johnson (1873-1954). Copyright © 1921 by Edward B. Marks Music Company. Copyright Renewed. International Copyright Secured. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,  
 2 un - der the sha - dow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt se - cure;  
 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived her frame,  
 4 A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are like an eve - ning gone;  
 5 Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream, bears all our years a - way;

1 our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:  
 2 suf - fi - cient is thine arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
 3 from ev - er - last - ing thou art God, to end - less years the same.  
 4 short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.  
 5 they fly, for - got - ten, as a dream dies at the o - pening day.

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.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.; para. of Psalm 90. Music: *St. Anne*, melody att. William Croft (1678-1727), alt.; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889).

1 Al - might - y Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm hath bound the  
 2 O Christ, the Lord of hill and plain o'er which our traf - fic  
 3 O Spi - rit, whom the Fa - ther sent to spread a - broad the  
 4 O Trin - i - ty of love and power, our peo - ple shield in

rest - less wave, who bidd'st the might - y o - cean deep its  
 runs a - main by moun - tain pass or val - ley low; wher -  
 firm - a - ment; O Wind of hea - ven, by thy might save  
 dan - ger's hour; from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -

own ap - point - ed li - mits keep: O hear us when we  
 ev - er, Lord, thy peo - ple go, pro - tect them by thy  
 all who dare the ea - gle's flight, and keep them by thy  
 tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall

cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.  
 guard - ing hand from ev - ery per - il on the land.  
 watch - ful care from ev - ery per - il in the air.  
 rise to thee glad praise from space, air, land, and sea.

Words: Sts. 1 and 4, William Whiting (1825-1878), alt.; sts. 2-3, Robert Nelson Spencer (1877-1961), alt. Sts. 2-3, Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Melita*, John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876).

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 SENDING OUT

We send you out to share the communion today.

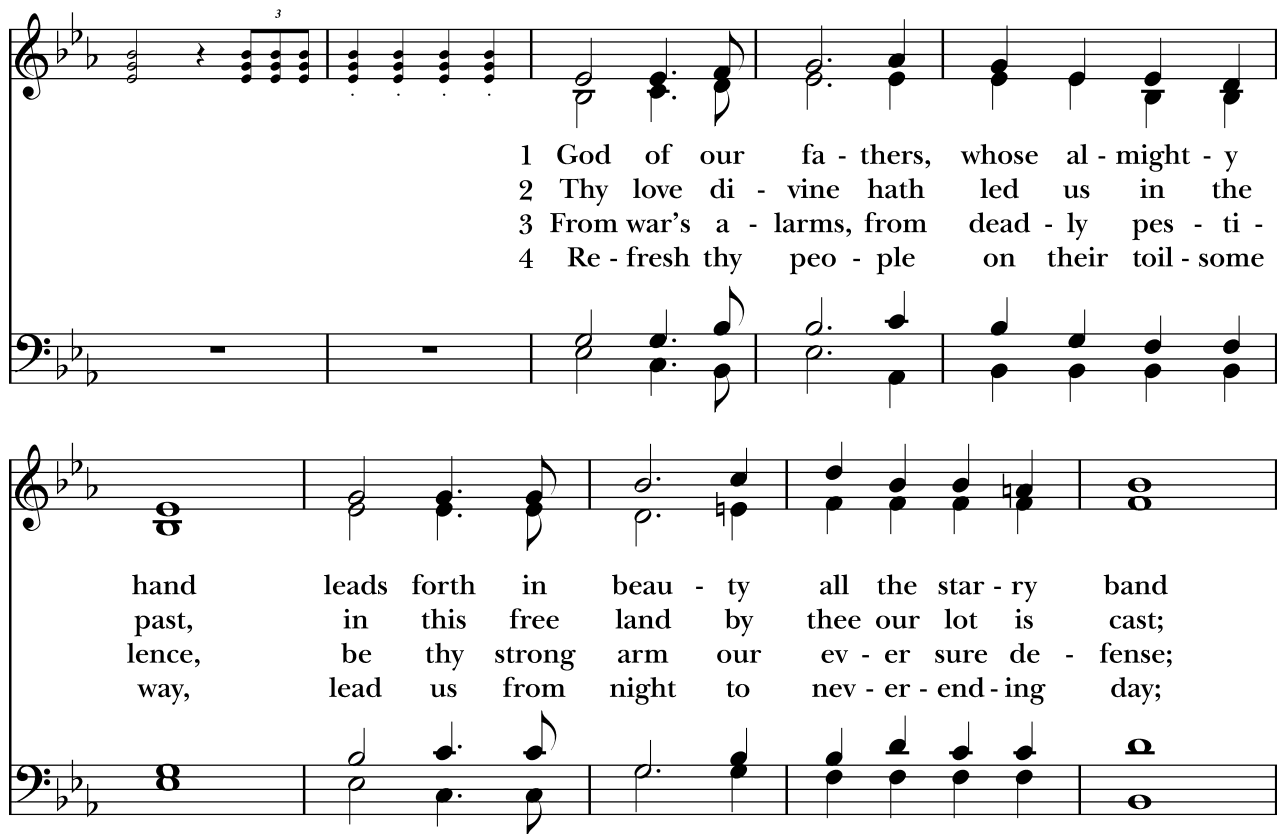
May you carry the prayers of all of us as you take this sacrament of Christ's presence.

May those who receive it from you be strengthened and encouraged in that community we have together in our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE BLESSING

THE HYMN • 718

*National Hymn*



1 God of our fa - thers, whose al - might - y  
 2 Thy love di - vine hath led us in the  
 3 From war's a - larms, from dead - ly pes - ti -  
 4 Re - fresh thy peo - ple on their toil - some

hand leads forth in beau - ty all the star - ry band  
 past, in this free land by thee our lot is cast;  
 lence, be thy strong arm our ev - er sure de - fense;  
 way, lead us from night to nev - er - end - ing day;

of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the skies,  
 be thou our ru - ler, guard - ian, guide, and stay  
 thy true re - li - gion in our hearts in - crease,  
 fill all our lives with love and grace di - vine,

our grate - ful songs be - fore thy throne a - rise.  
 thy word our law, thy paths our cho - sen way.  
 thy bount - eous good - ness nour - ish us in peace.  
 and glo - ry, laud, and praise be ev - er thine.

Words: Daniel Crane Roberts (1841-1907). Music: *National Hymn*, George William Warren (1828-1902).

## THE DISMISSAL

Alleluia, alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

## THE VOLUNTARY • *Fugue on "America"*

Eugene Thayer

<sup>39</sup> Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith,  
 did not receive what was promised, <sup>40</sup>  
 since God had provided something better so that they would not,  
 apart from us, be made perfect.

*Hebrews 11:39-40*

# Declaration of Independence

## *A Transcription*

*The following text is a transcription of the Stone Engraving of the parchment Declaration of Independence (the document on display in the Rotunda at the National Archives Museum). The spelling and punctuation reflect the original.*

1     **The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,** When in the  
2     Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political  
3     bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the  
4     earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God  
5     entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare  
6     the causes which impel them to the separation.

7     We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are  
8     endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty  
9     and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted  
10    among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever  
11    any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People  
12    to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such  
13    principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to  
14    effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long  
15    established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all  
16    experience hath shewn, that mankind 1are more disposed to suffer, while evils are  
17    sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed.  
18    But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object  
19    evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty,  
20    to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.--Such  
21    has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which  
22    constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present  
23    King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct  
24    object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts  
25    be submitted to a candid world.

26           He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public  
27           good.

28           He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing  
29           importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained;  
30           and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

31           He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of  
32           people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the  
33           Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

34           He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and  
35           distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing  
36           them into compliance with his measures.

37 He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly  
38 firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

39 He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected;  
40 whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the  
41 People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all  
42 the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

43 He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose  
44 obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to  
45 encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations  
46 of Lands.

47 He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for  
48 establishing Judiciary powers.

49 He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and  
50 the amount and payment of their salaries.

51 He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to  
52 harass our people, and eat out their substance.

53 He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of  
54 our legislatures.

55 He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil  
56 power.

57 He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our  
58 constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of  
59 pretended Legislation:

60 For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

61 For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they  
62 should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

63 For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

64 For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

65 For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:

66 For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences:

67 For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province,  
68 establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to  
69 render it at once an 65 example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute  
70 rule into these Colonies:

71 For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering  
72 fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

73 For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power  
74 to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

75 He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and  
76 waging War against us.

77 He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the  
78 lives of our people.

79 He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the  
80 works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty  
81 & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the  
82 Head of a civilized nation.

83 He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms  
84 against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or  
85 to fall themselves by their Hands.

86 He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on  
87 the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of  
88 warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

89 In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble  
90 terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince, whose  
91 character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of  
92 a free people.

93 Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them  
94 from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction  
95 over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement  
96 here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them  
97 by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably  
98 interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of  
99 justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which  
100 denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in  
101 War, in Peace Friends.

102 We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress,  
103 Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our  
104 intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies,  
105 solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be  
106 Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British  
107 Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is  
108 and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full  
109 Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all  
110 other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of  
111 this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually  
112 pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.