

The Reverend Bob Farrow, Priest in Charge
Kevin Anderson, Music Director

The 13th Sunday After Pentecost

August 23, 2026

Holy Eucharist Rite II

Please be thoughtful, be silent, be reverent, for this is a house of prayer for all people.

PRELUDE

All stand as able and sing.

PROCESSIONAL | *Laudes Domini* When morning gilds the skies Hymnal 427

OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

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.**

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 COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: 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.**

Please be seated for the reading of the lessons.

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON | Isaiah 51:1-6

Lector: A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.

Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be for ever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM | Psalm 138



© 1956. Jerome Webster Meachen

The Psalm will be chanted by Kevin Anderson. You're welcome to join in. If you don't read music, the note changes on the italicized words.

1 I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole *heart*; * before the gods I will sing your *praise*.

2 I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your *Name*, * because of your love and *faithfulness*;

3 For you have glorified your *Name* * and your word above all *things*.

4 When I called, you answered *me*; * you increased my strength within *me*.

5 All the kings of the earth will praise you, O *Lord*, * when they have heard the words of your *mouth*.

6 They will sing of the ways of the *Lord*, * that great is the glory of the *Lord*.

7 Though the Lord be high, he cares for the *lowly*; * he perceives the haughty from *afar*.

8 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me *safe*; * you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save *me*.

9 The Lord will make good his purpose for *me*; * O Lord, your love endures for ever; do not abandon the works of your *hands*.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

THE EPISTLE | Romans 12:1-8

Lector: A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of

your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-- what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

All stand as able and sing.

SEQUENCE HYMN | *Land of Rest* I come with joy to meet my Lord Hymnal 304

THE GOSPEL | Matthew 16:13-20

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Please be seated for the message.

THE SERMON

Rev. Bob Farrow

All stand as able.

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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
for the 13th Sunday After Pentecost

From *Planning for Rites and Rituals: A
Resource for Episcopal Worship (Year A)*

Please kneel or stand as you are able. The Intercessor and People pray responsively.

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Therefore, let us come humbly before God, saying, "Our help is in your name, O Lord; deal well with us."

Generous God, you have graciously given the members of your Church diverse gifts; may we, who are many, function in this world as the one body of your Son Jesus Christ. Our help is in your name, O Lord;

Deal well with us.

God of the nations, mysterious and unexpected are the instruments of your salvation. Give us eyes to see your work in the lives of the most humble servants and the grandest royalty. Bless all those who put their trust in you. Our help is in your name, O Lord;

Deal well with us.

Great God, the maker of heaven and earth, bring forth fruits in the season. May all the people of the world experience the blessing of sun and rain and harvest. Our help is in your name, O Lord;

Deal well with us.

Caring God, give to the people of our region sober judgment. May each member of our community live in light of the great mercy you have shown us. Our help is in your name, O Lord;

Deal well with us.

Just God, we pray for your mercy on the members of our diocesan family currently held in immigration detention and their families, and on the children held in detention across our nation. We pray for their release and for the restoration of humane and ethical immigration enforcement. Our help is in your name, O Lord;

Deal well with us.

Lord God, be on the side of those in need of our prayers. May the sick and sorrowful not be overwhelmed but, instead, find freedom in you. Especially we pray for Eleanor, Makenzie, Michael, Scott, Kim, Bob, David, Hollis, Faith, and Ann and the grieving family of Paul. Our help is in your name, O Lord;

Deal well with us.

Almighty God, you have promised through your beloved Son that not even the gates of Hades will prevail against the people of your redeeming. May all of the dead find comfort in your heavenly kingdom. Our help is in your name, O Lord;

Deal well with us.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

O God who restores and makes whole, hear the prayers we offer today and make the wilderness of this world a garden of salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Together

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

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

HOLY COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CELEBRATIONS

OFFERTORY HYMN | On Christ the solid rock I stand

1 My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain:

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand: all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

2 When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace;
in every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. [Refrain]

3 His oath, his covenant, his blood, support me in the whelming flood;
when all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay. [Refrain]

4 When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found:
dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne. [Refrain]

THE DOXOLOGY | *Old 100th*

Please stand as you are able for the presentation of the offering.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly hosts; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A

Celebrant: 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.

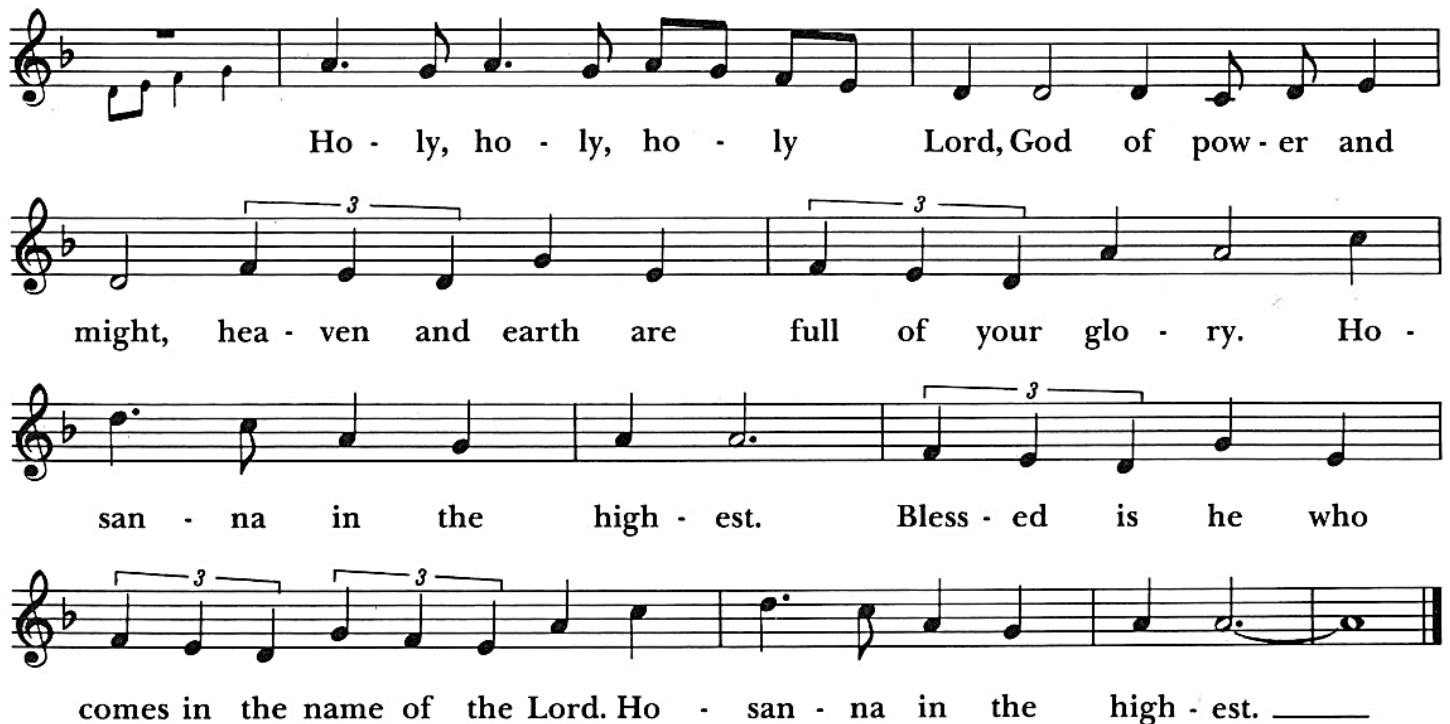
People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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

For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world.

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:

SANCTUS | Holy, holy, holy Lord



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

Setting: Robert Powell (b. 1932)

The people stand or kneel as able.

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:

Together

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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.

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

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

FRACTION ANTHEM

Hymnal S 169

Cantor or Choir
My flesh is food in - deed, and my blood is drink in -
deed, says the Lord. *All* My Lord. *Cantor or Choir* Those who eat my
flesh and drink my blood dwell in me, and I in them. *All* My
flesh is food in - deed, and my blood is drink in - deed, says the Lord.

Setting: Ray W. Urwin (b. 1950)

Celebrant:

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 SHARING OF BREAD AND WINE

All people are invited to receive Communion. The ushers will come stand by your pew, at which time you may go kneel or stand at the railing. If you do not wish to receive, please cross your arms over your chest to receive a blessing. If you have mobility challenges and need communion brought to you at your seat, please let an usher know. Gluten-free wafers are available.

COMMUNION HYMN | *Ubi Caritas*

The hymn will be performed by Kevin Anderson.

BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

RECESSIONAL | *St. Gertrude* Onward Christian soldiers

Hymnal 562
vv. 1, 4-5

DISMISSAL

Officiant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

**Please join us for coffee and fellowship in the Gathering Room,
to the left as you exit the nave.**

St. Nicholas' mission is to actively share Christ's love for all people.

Our vision is to strive to be a welcoming community who worships a caring and merciful God, proclaims the Gospel, and promotes justice, peace, and love.

IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Your prayers are asked for Eleanor Russell, Makenzie Green, Michael Davis, Scott Jarrette, Kim Stokes, Rev. Bob Farrow, David Mullins, Hollis Hale, Faith Birkhead, and Ann Johnston and the grieving family of Paul Johnston. Continued prayers and loving

thoughts for those who have ongoing needs and struggles: Liz Dixon, Hudson Garrett, and Mary Butcher.

We pray for wisdom for those in authority, for guidance for those who feel called to action, and for safety and peace for those who feel fear in these times. We continue to pray for all those in need within our community and those in the world who have suffered due to war and natural disaster.

VESTRY

Drucye Cox, *Senior Warden*
Linda Pace, *Junior Warden*
Sheri Cody, Kathy McMurtry,
and Steve Morse
Alex Garrett, *Clerk of the Vestry*
Jim Gilliam, *Treasurer*

SERVING THIS WEEK

Lector: Margaret Zachry
Usher: Sheri Cody
Virtual Minister: Drucye Cox
Eucharistic Minister: Martha Dimon
Flowers: Beth Brown

UPCOMING IN THE PARISH

AUG 26: Game Day! At 3 p.m.
AUG 30: Pulpit Swap at Christian Valley Church
SEP 6: Wonder Church and First Sunday Brunch
SEPT 7: Labor Day (office closed)

The **Memory Garden Day** scheduled for September 27 will be **rescheduled**. Great plans are afoot – stay tuned!

We're gauging interest for participation in Hamilton's **Trunk-or-Treat**, Thursday, October 22 from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Mike Tracey Arena on GA Hwy 116. Please put your name on the sign-up sheet in the narthex if you think you can make it; we'll decide whether or not to sign St. Nicholas up based on response.

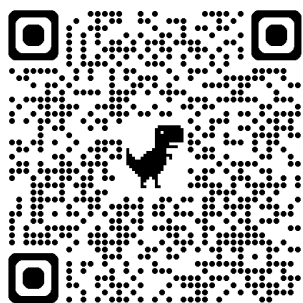
Rector's Discretionary Fund – This fund is one of the ways we share the love of Christ by assisting our Harris County neighbors with rent and utilities. Demand is always high – we have helped 44 households this year alone. If you feel so moved, please drop a few dollars in the plate to rehydrate the well!

Want to help with our El Refugio ministry but can't make it down to Lumpkin?

They need gas cards! The hospitality house offers \$25 cards to families who may be straining their budget to make the trip to Stewart Detention Center. Any station you see in the Columbus or Atlanta area is just fine. Get your cards/donations to Margaret Zachry or Erin Renfroe.

The **El Refugio** ministry is our small but mighty response to the need recognized by our diocese: for more humanity in our immigration policies. El Refugio is a lovely historic home in Lumpkin that provides a place for families visiting loved ones imprisoned at the Stewart County Detention Center to spend the night, get a meal, or just take a break from the *ice-y* bureaucracy in a warm and home-like environment. St. Nicholas sends volunteers on Sunday afternoons to do laundry and household chores, but there are plenty of ways to help.

The St. Nicholas Book Club has chosen *The Dry*, Jane Harper's debut novel, for its next read. It has been widely praised as a gripping, atmospheric mystery with intricate plotting and compelling character development. See your newsletter for more. The Book Club meets next on September 2 after Evening Prayer at 5 p.m.



Get all the news:
Use this QR code to
go to the most recent
newsletter!

GAME TIME

Wednesday, August 26 at 3:00pm



Join us and play
Cribbage,
Mexican Train, or
Mahjong.
Learn as you play!

ST NICHOLAS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

69 MOBLEY RD.
HAMILTON, GA 31811
706-628-7272

Who let the BEARS out?

Know a child with a special occasion coming up? Want to give a kid a lift as they head back to school?

A dozen adorable bears have tumbled into St. Nicholas. They wear handmade outfits and come with a bookbag, a cross necklace, and a tiny booklet of children's prayers.

The bears can be adopted for a minimum donation of \$25 each, with the proceeds benefitting the Rector's Discretionary Fund (which helps our neighbors in need with utilities and rent).

The bears are scattered throughout the church. Find your favorite and drop a check in the offering plate or see Rose Brent.



Blessing of the Animals

69 MOBLEY ROAD • HAMILTON, GA

OCTOBER 4, 2026

5:00 P.M.

LOW COUNTRY

LET THE GOOD TIMES



*Let the Good Times Boil
at St. Nicholas Church!*

**Good food. Live music. Family fun.
And the warmth of community spirit.**

Join us as we share stories, make new
friends, and come together to raise
funds for St. Nicholas!

\$65 per adult.

Low Country Boil Buffet Dinner

Saturday, October 17

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church (outdoors)

69 Mobley Road, Hamilton

5:00 Family Fun & Fellowship

Games for kids and big kids!

Live Music with Lee Daniel

50/50 Raffle

6:00 Dinner catered by Chef Chris

of J's Catch Market & Grill

Traditional Low Country Boil

Shrimp, Sausage, Corn on the Cob, and Seasoned Potatoes
or Pork Tenderloin, Corn on the Cob, and Seasoned Potatoes

Fresh, warm Beignets for dessert!

Tea and Lemonade. Cash bar.

\$5 Kids Plate: Hot dog, Chips, Fruit and Ice Cream



**Make your reservations online
at www.stnicholashamilton.org
or by phone: 706-587-3243**

Reservation deadline: October 12