

The Reverend Bob Farrow, Priest in Charge
Kevin Anderson, Organist

The 20th Sunday After Pentecost

October 26, 2025

Holy Eucharist Rite II

Please welcome our guest Celebrant, Father Darius Sudayi.

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL | *Brother James' Air* How lovely is thy dwelling place Hymnal 517

OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

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

GLORIA | Hymnal S 280

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.

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; 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 OLD TESTAMENT | Joel 2:23-32

Lector: A reading from the Prophet Joel.

O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before.

The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you.

You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.

Even on the male and female slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit.

I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved; for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM | Psalm 65 *Te decet hymnus*

The Psalm is read responsively as indicated.

1 You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; to you shall vows be performed in Jerusalem.

2 To you that hear prayer shall all flesh come, because of their transgressions.

3 Our sins are stronger than we are, but you will blot them out.

4 Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there! they will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple.

5 Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation, O Hope of all the ends of the earth and of the seas that are far away.

6 You make fast the mountains by your power; they are girded about with might.

7 You still the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.

8 Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs; you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.

9 You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water.

10 You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

11 You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.

12 You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty.

13 May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, and the hills be clothed with joy.

14 May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; let them shout for joy and sing.

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 | 2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18

Lector: A reading from the second letter to Timothy.

I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

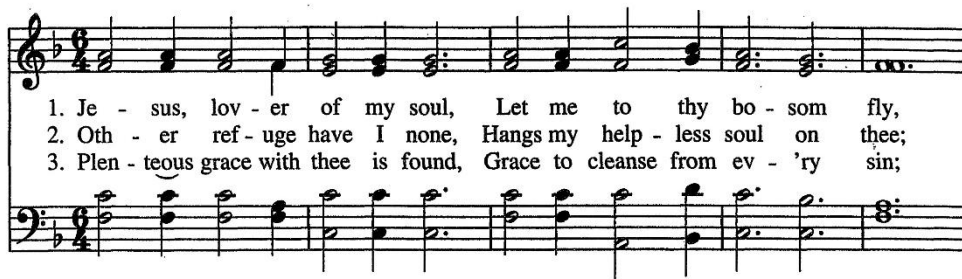
Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

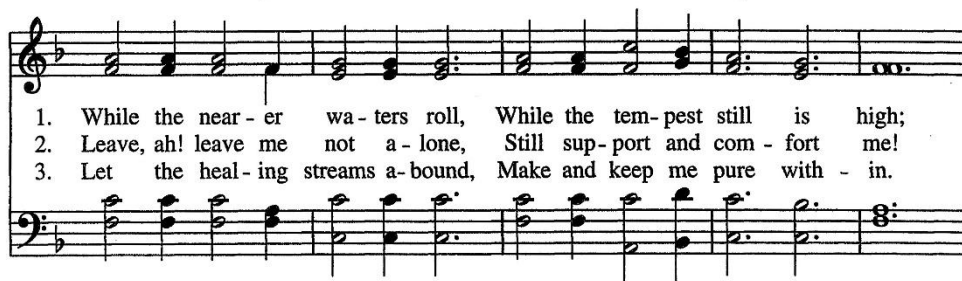
Please stand as you are able.

SEQUENCE HYMN | Jesus, lover of my soul

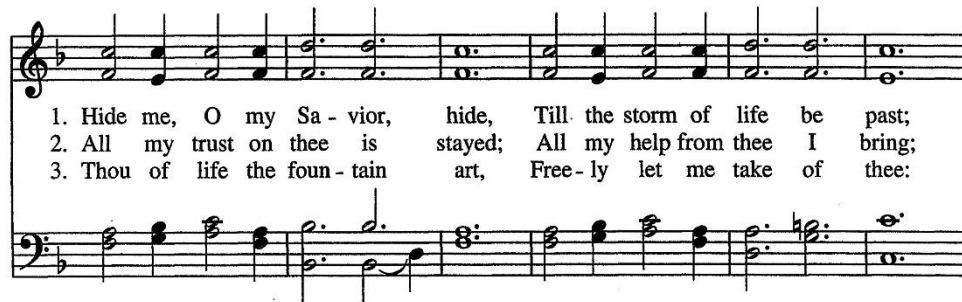
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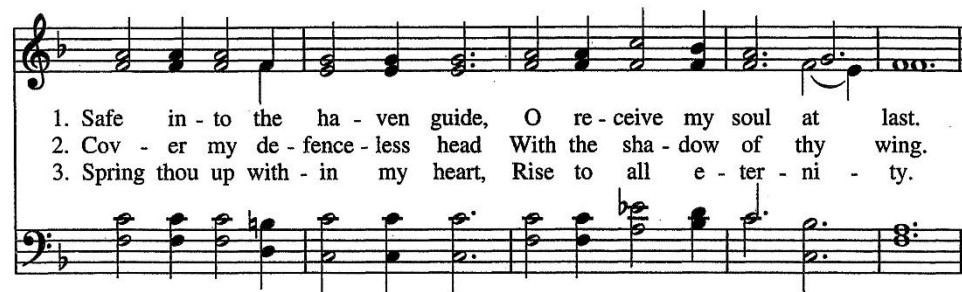
1. Je - sus, lov - er of my soul, Let me to thy bo - som fly,
 2. Oth - er ref - uge have I none, Hangs my help - less soul on thee;
 3. Plen - teous grace with thee is found, Grace to cleanse from ev - 'ry sin;



1. While the near - er wa - ters roll, While the tem - pest still is high;
 2. Leave, ah! leave me not a - lone, Still sup - port and com - fort me!
 3. Let the heal - ing streams a - bound, Make and keep me pure with - in.



1. Hide me, O my Sa - vior, hide, Till the storm of life be past;
 2. All my trust on thee is stayed; All my help from thee I bring;
 3. Thou of life the foun - tain art, Free - ly let me take of thee;



1. Safe in - to the ha - ven guide, O re - ceive my soul at last.
 2. Cov - er my de - fence - less head With the sha - dow of thy wing.
 3. Spring thou up with - in my heart, Rise to all e - ter - ni - ty.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Music: Charles Wesley and Simeon B. Marsh (1798-1875)

THE GOSPEL | Luke 18:9-14

Officiant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

Jesus told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

Officiant: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please be seated for the sermon.

SERMON

Fr. Darius Sudayi

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
Proper 25

from *Hear Our Prayer: Prayers of the People*
for the Revised Common Lectionary

Please kneel or stand as you are able.

God of Justice, hear us, make your presence known to us, and respond to us as we say, "Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer."

Show us how to be the body of Christ today, that your Good News might enter every human heart. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Be in the eyes and ears and on the lips of our civil leaders, that they might lead through serving the welfare of all; help us to hold our leaders accountable to the needs of the whole nation. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Open our hearts and our hands to our neighbor's needs, that they might encounter Christ through us. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Bring peace with justice where there is conflict, bring freedom where there is oppression, and bring restoration to lands ravaged by greed, that your creation might be renewed and your purpose for us fulfilled. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Be with those who suffer. Be their strength and their firm foundation throughout their struggles. Especially we pray for Patricia, Katherine, and Ryder. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Welcome all who have died, that they might continue towards the bright future of your heavenly kingdom. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Loving God, you have showed us how to love you by loving others more than we love ourselves. Hear our prayers and answer us as may be best for us and to your glory. All this we ask through Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God. **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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CELEBRATIONS

THE OFFERTORY

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

OFFERTORY HYMN

| I'm goin'a sing when the spirit says sing

Booklet 30

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

HOLY COMMUNION

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 you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us
to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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:

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.

Setting: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

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: *Alleluia*. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

The first line of music is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves, treble and bass. The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

The second line of music continues the melody and accompaniment from the first line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

The third line of music continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the notes.

give us your peace, give us your peace.

The fourth line of music concludes the phrase with a double bar line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Setting: From *Deutsche Messe*; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

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

Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

After taking communion, you are welcome to remain kneeling at the front of the church for special prayer and blessing.

COMMUNION HYMN | Glory, glory hallelujah

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. Anne* O God our help in ages past

Hymnal 680

DISMISSAL

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

Response: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

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 Patricia Collins, Ryder Hughes, and Katherine Johnson. Continued prayers and loving thoughts for our homebound congregants: Liz Dixon, Mike Sawyer, and Jewell Wells.

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.

ALERT! The Rector's Discretionary Fund is out of funds. This is one of the ways we share the love of Christ for all people by helping our Harris County neighbors with utilities and rent. The need is great – please consider celebrating your special occasions with a donation – or just drop a few dollars in an envelope with "RDF" on it and give it to an usher.

UPCOMING IN THE PARISH

TODAY: Directory photos with Lynn Hall

All Saints' Sunday November 2 - In observance of All Saints' Sunday on November 2, we will read the names of our loved ones who have passed away. Send the names of people whose memories you would like to honor to Erin in the church office by Wednesday, October 30 to be included.

First Sunday Brunch November 2 - Sign up on the table in the narthex. We have some great hosts lined up, so make plans to join us!

Hospitality Committee - This team will welcome visitors and coordinate Sunday coffee, 1st Sunday Brunch, and the Christmas meal, along with other special events. Contact Erin or Rose if you are interested in this ministry.

Licensed Lay Eucharistic Ministry - Eucharistic Ministers minister to their fellow congregants by assisting the priest with Eucharist on Sunday morning. Eucharistic Visitors bring communion to homebound members of our church family. See Father Bob if you would like to explore this ministry.

Directory Update - We are working our way toward a new printed edition of the Church Directory for the convenience of those who don't use the online version. The time to update your information is before it's printed! If you need a new photo, see Lynn Hall after the service on **October 26**.

St. Nicholas Book Club News -The November read is *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* by Toshikazu Kawaguchi. See your weekly newsletter for more. The Book Club next meets after Evening Prayer on November 5.

VESTRY

Rose Brent, *Senior Warden*
Martha Dimon, *Junior Warden*
Carolyn Cox, Sheri Cody,
Kathy McMurtry
Alex Garrett, *Clerk of the Vestry*
Jim Gilliam, *Treasurer*

MINISTERS THIS WEEK

Lector: Sheri Cody
Usher: Sheri Cody
Virtual Ministers: William Morgan &
Steve Morse
Eucharistic Minister: Connie Blackmon
Crucifer: Riley-Anne Johnson

BackSnacks needs food! Easy-to-prepare entrees such as canned ravioli or spaghetti and meatballs, mac-and-cheese, or ramen noodles are especially appropriate.