Saint Nicholas
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

The 24th Sunday After Pentecost

November 8, 2026

Holy Eucharist Rite II

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

PRELUDE
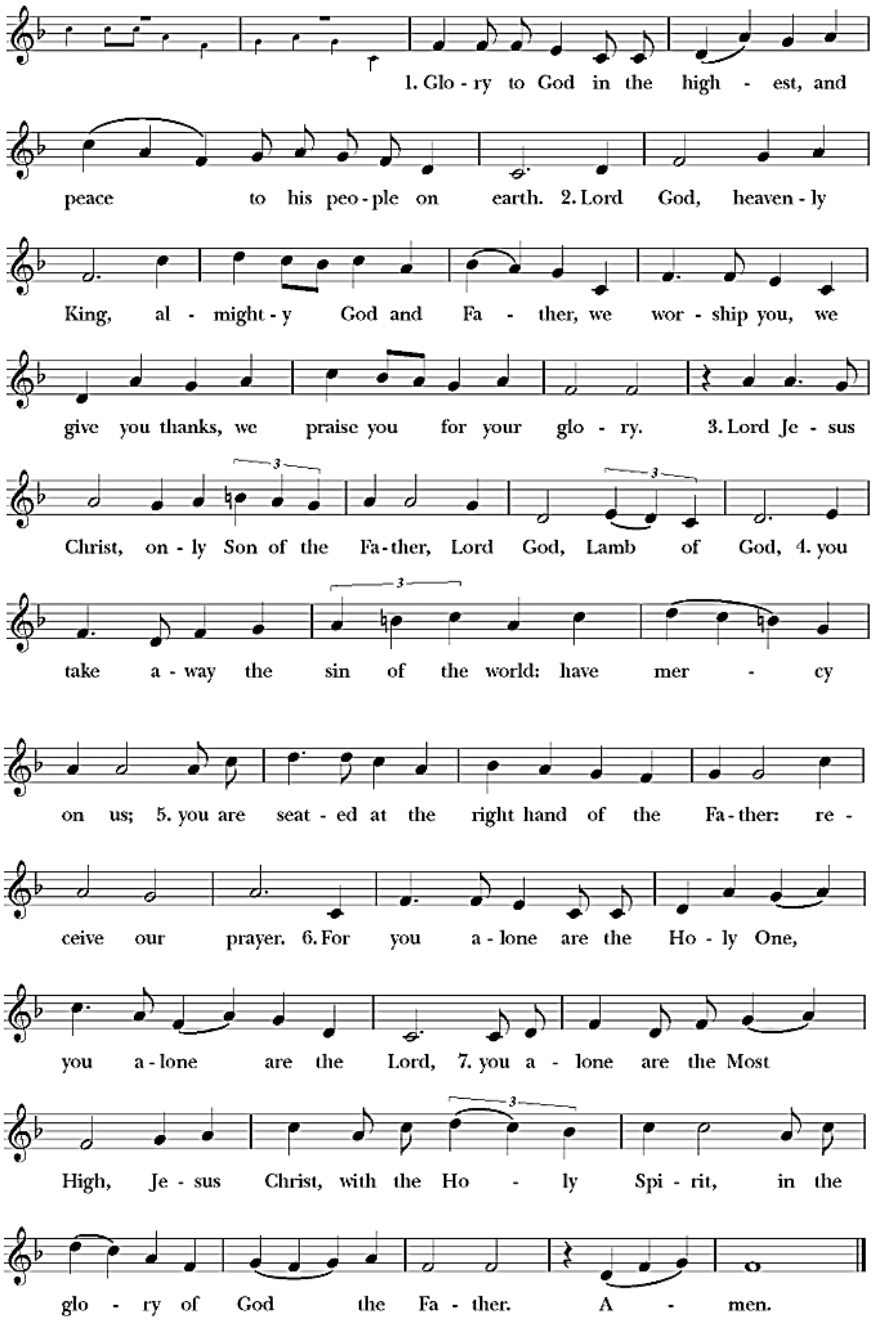
All stand as able and sing.

PROCESSIONAL	Hymnal 135	Songs of thankfulness and praise *Salzburg*

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.

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 FIRST READING | Wisdom 6:12-16

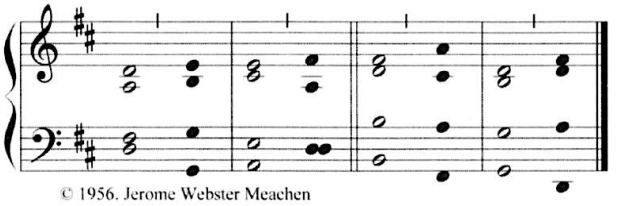
Lector: A reading from the Wisdom of Solomon.

Wisdom is radiant and unfading,
and she is easily discerned by those who love her,
and is found by those who seek her.
She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her.
One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty,
for she will be found sitting at the gate.
To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding,
and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care,
because she goes about seeking those worthy of her,
and she graciously appears to them in their paths,
and meets them in every thought.

Lector: The word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM | Psalm 70

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 Be pleased, O God, to deliver *me*; * O Lord, make haste to help *me*.

2 Let those who seek my life be ashamed and altogether *dismayed*; * let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be *disgraced*.

3 Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn *back*, * because they are *ashamed*.

4 Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in *you*; * let those who love your salvation say for ever, "Great is the *Lord*!"

5 But as for me, I am poor and *needy*; * come to me speedily, O *God*.

6 You are my helper and my *deliverer*; * O Lord, do not *tarry*.

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 | 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

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

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of

command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Lector: The word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

All stand as able.

SEQUENCE HYMN | Hymnal 711

See ye first the kingdom of God
Seek ye first

THE GOSPEL | Matthew 25:1-13

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

Jesus said, “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

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

Please be seated for the sermon.

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 24th Sunday After Pentecost

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

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

God of promises, we praise your glory and majesty and humbly offer, from our hearts, prayers for your presence in our lives as we say, “We bless you, O lord; your praise is ever in our mouths.”

Uphold and strengthen your church; show us how to be salve to a wounded world and a place of hope and aspiration amidst despair and cynicism. We bless you, O Lord;

Your praise is ever in our mouths.

Grant our nation a spirit of cooperation; grant our elected leaders the wisdom and courage to do what is right, and grant us and our fellow citizens a renewed commitment to liberty and community. We bless you, O Lord;

Your praise is ever in our mouths.

Let each of us be agents of healing and reconciliation in the places we call home; let our love for you shine forth in all we do. We bless you, O Lord;

Your praise is ever in our mouths.

Unite the people of the world to address our global challenges, and give us the fortitude to make and hold difficult choices. We bless you, O Lord;

Your praise is ever in our mouths.

Deliver the members of our diocesan family currently held in immigration detention and their families, and for the children held in detention across our nation. We pray for their release and for the restoration of humane and ethical immigration enforcement. We bless you, O Lord;

Your praise is ever in our mouths.

Bring healing and wholeness to all who suffer so that they might experience and know the peace which passes understanding that only you can offer. Especially we lift up the grieving family of Wesley, Dick, Ken, Tommy, Christine, Katherine, David, Hollis, Jamie, Peggy, Jimmy, Larry, and Deborah. We bless you, O Lord;

Your praise is ever in our mouths.

Remember the dead and bring us together with them in your coming kingdom. We bless you, O Lord;

Your praise is ever in our mouths.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

We give thanks for your love and steadfast promises; grant us lives worthy of the gift of your grace and answer our prayers to our benefit and to your glory. Through Jesus Christ, who lives and loves with you and the Holy Spirit eternally. **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**.
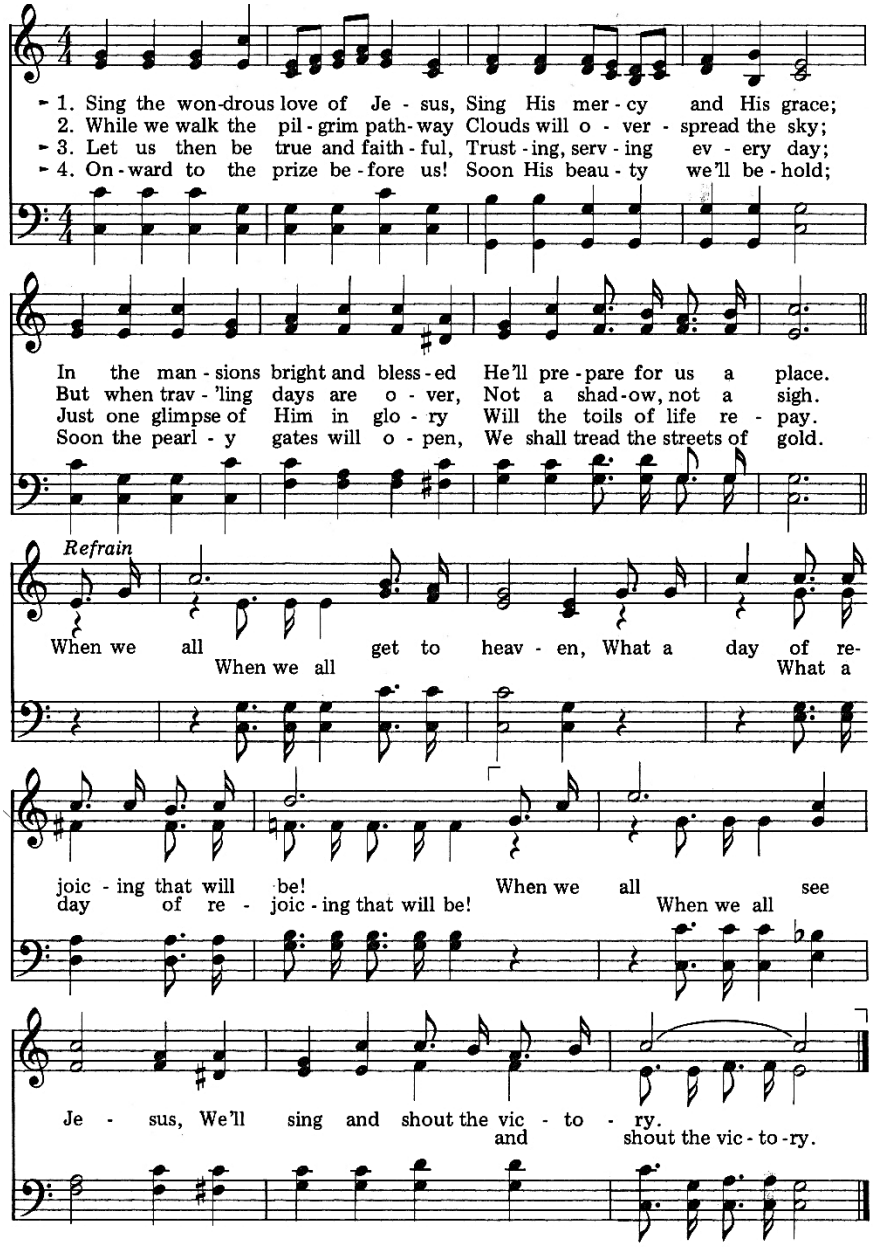
THE PEACE

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

HOLY COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CELEBRATIONS

OFFERTORY HYMN | Sing the wondrous love of Jesus



TEXT: Eliza E. Hewitt
MUSIC: Emily D. Wilson

HEAVEN
8.7.8.7. with 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

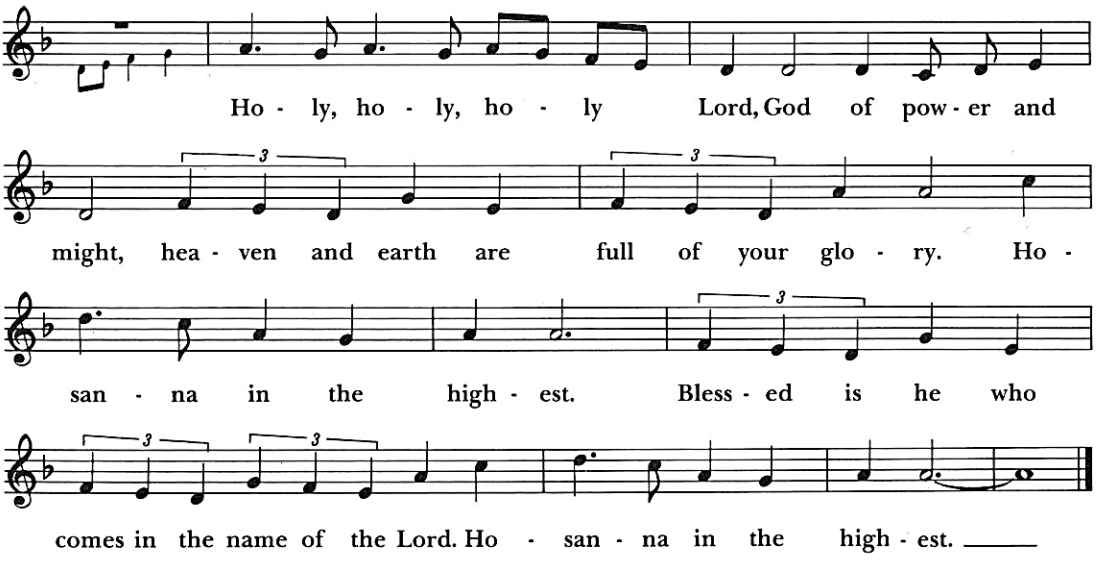
Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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 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:

SANCTUS | Holy, holy, holy Lord



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.

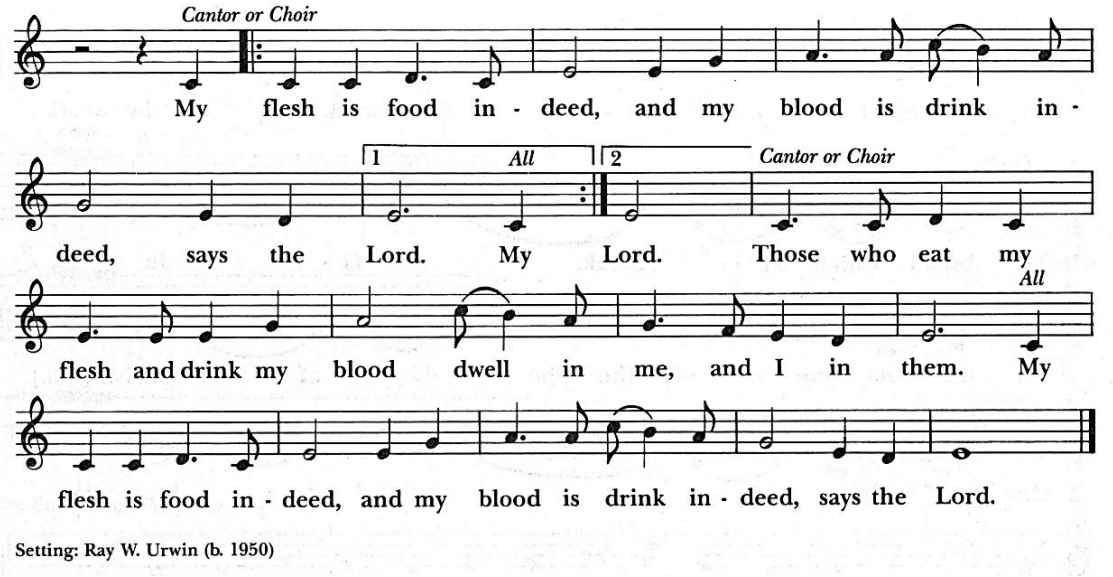
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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



THE SHARING OF BREAD AND WINE

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.

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 | Judge eternal, throned in splendor

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 | Hymnal 620 | Jerusalem, my happy home
Land of Rest

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 the grieving family of Wesley Brown, for Dick Wood, Ken Crew, Tommy Goodman, Katherine Johnson, Christine Risdon, David Mullins, Hollis Hale, Jamie Webb, Peggy Sivell, Jimmy Hatchett, Larry Culpepper, and Deborah Culpepper. Continuing prayers and loving thoughts for those who have ongoing needs and struggles: Liz Dixon, Hudson Garrett, Nonie Bueche, 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: Alex Garrett
Ushers: Alex Garrett & Jim Gilliam
Virtual Ministers: William Morgan & Steve Morse
Eucharistic Minister: Martha Dimon
Crucifer: Riley-Anne Johnson
Flowers: Alex Garrett & Jim Gilliam

UPCOMING

TODAY: Adult Forum in the Gathering Room after the service.

NOV 11: Veterans Day: Cub Scout Pack 109 Flag Burning Ceremony
St. Nicholas congregants and the general public are welcome.

NOV 15: Pulpit Swap: Christian Valley comes to St. Nicholas

Pulpit Swap is Next Sunday! Christian Valley Church in Cataula will be joining us in worship and a fellowship lunch. St. Nicholas will provide the main protein, but we'll need our congregation to bring sides, dessert, etc. Sign-up sheets are in the kitchen pass-through window; please choose something you can make a LOT of as attendance is always high and we don't want bowls emptying out before the line finishes. Teaming up is encouraged.

This year's **Stewardship campaign** is in full swing. Pledge cards are available on the website or in the narthex, if you haven't received your packet yet. And go ahead and turn those pledge cards in – Erin will tuck them away and bring them back out to be blessed on November 29, so there's no need to wait.



BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY: Beginning November 29, 2026, the United Methodists, Evangelical Lutherans, and Episcopalians in Georgia will read the Bible together in one year. Father Bob is planning an Adult Forum each month to support our reading. Sign up in the narthex or attend the Adult Forum TODAY to express interest.

The Christmas Giving Tree is up! Head to the Gathering Room to select one of six children or two seniors to provide Christmas gifts for – and don't forget to fill out and tear off the slip that goes back to Erin! The deadline to drop off gifts at St. Nicholas is *Sunday, November 29*. Please wrap your gifts and label them with your selected child's name.

Advent Readers Needed! The First Sunday in Advent is November 29. We'd love for you and members of your family to read the traditional short verses and light the Advent wreath at the beginning of the services. This is perfect for anyone with kids or grandkids visiting in Advent. Please contact Erin if you're willing and able.

The **Forward Day by Day devotionals** for November/December 2026 are here! These devotionals are provided by St. Nicholas as way for congregants to deepen their spirituality on a daily basis. Look in the Gathering Room, the parlor off the narthex, or the pamphlet rack in the hallway to get yours. (And – good news – in January they will be available in large print!)

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