

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

# **The 22nd Sunday After Pentecost**

November 9, 2025

**Holy Eucharist Rite II** 

**PRELUDE** 

PROCESSIONAL | Mit Freuden zart Sing praise to God

Hymnal 408

### **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**.



### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you. **People:** And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he 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 | Haggai 1:15b-2:9

Lector: A reading from the Prophet Haggai.

In the second year of King Darius, in the seventh month, on the twenty-first day of the month, the word of the Lord came by the prophet Haggai, saying: Speak now to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people, and say, Who is left among you that saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Is it not in your sight as nothing? Yet now take courage, O Zerubbabel, says the Lord; take courage, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest; take courage, all you people of the land, says the Lord; work, for I am with you, says the Lord of hosts, according to the promise that I made you when you came out of Egypt. My spirit abides among you; do not fear. For thus says the Lord of hosts: Once again, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land; and I will shake all the nations, so that the treasure of all nations shall come, and I will fill this house with splendor, says the Lord of hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the Lord of hosts. The latter splendor of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts; and in this place I will give prosperity, says the Lord of hosts.

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

THE PSALM | Psalm 145:1-5, 18-22 | Exaltabo te, Deus

The Psalm is read responsively as indicated.

1 I will exalt you, O God my King, and bless your Name for ever and ever.

- 2 Every day will I bless you and praise your Name for ever and ever.
- 3 Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; there is no end to his greatness.
- 4 One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power.
- 5 I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty and all your marvelous works.
- 18 The Lord is righteous in all his ways and loving in all his works.
- 19 The Lord is near to those who call upon him, to all who call upon him faithfully.
- 20 He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he hears their cry and helps them.
- 21 The Lord preserves all those who love him, but he destroys all the wicked.
- 22 My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord; let all flesh bless his holy Name for ever and ever.

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 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

Lector: A reading from the second letter to the Thessalonians.

As to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we beg you, brothers and sisters, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as though from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord is already here. Let no one deceive you in any way; for that day will not come unless the rebellion comes first and the lawless one is revealed, the one destined for destruction. He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, declaring himself to be God. Do you not remember that I told you these things when I was still with you?

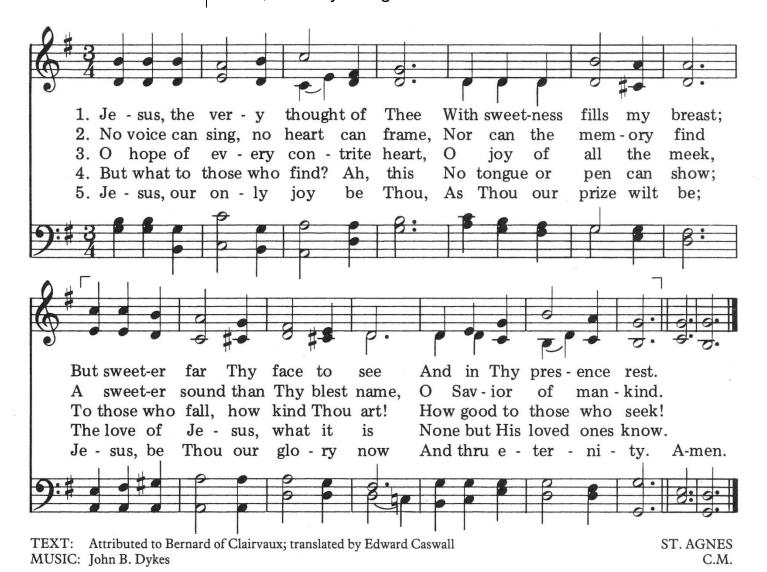
But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. For this purpose he called you through our proclamation of the good news, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter.

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

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

### SEQUENCE HYMN

Jesus, the very thought of thee



THE GOSPEL Luke 20:27-38

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

See page 17 for this week's Gospel Reading and Stewardship Reflection.

Officiant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated for the sermon.

**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 *Proper 27* 

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

Please kneel or stand as you are able.

How we long to share our deepest concerns with you, Lord. Hear us now as we pray, "Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer."

God of love, give your universal church the will to see all people as your beloved and the mission to lift up all whom we encounter. Lord in your mercy,

# Hear our prayer.

God of new beginnings, forgive each one of us for our apathy in the light of the injustice of the world. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of mercy, grant to those who serve the needy an endless stream of volunteers, resources, and hope, that all might be provided for and that we might find a place to serve in your name. Lord in your mercy,

# Hear our prayer.

God of justice, give our leaders a sense of true vocation in service to the greater good and bless us with those who are willing to serve with compassion, wisdom, and clarity. Lord in your mercy,

# Hear our prayer.

God of hope, restore to fullness of health those who are ill, injured, or suffering from despair or anxiety. Bring peace to all who suffer. Especially we pray for Steve, Carson, Jewel, Debbie, Ryder, and Katherine. Lord in your mercy,

### Hear our prayer.

God of our birthing, God of our dying, bless all those who depart this world in faith with a place in your eternal kingdom. Lord in your mercy,

# Hear our prayer.

### **CONCLUDING PRAYER**

God who hears our prayers and uses us to answer the prayers of others, we ask that you answer these our heartfelt prayers in the way that best serves your purposes. Though Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **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**.

#### SPECIAL PRAYER FOR VETERANS

### THE PEACE

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

People: And also with you.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS & CELEBRATIONS

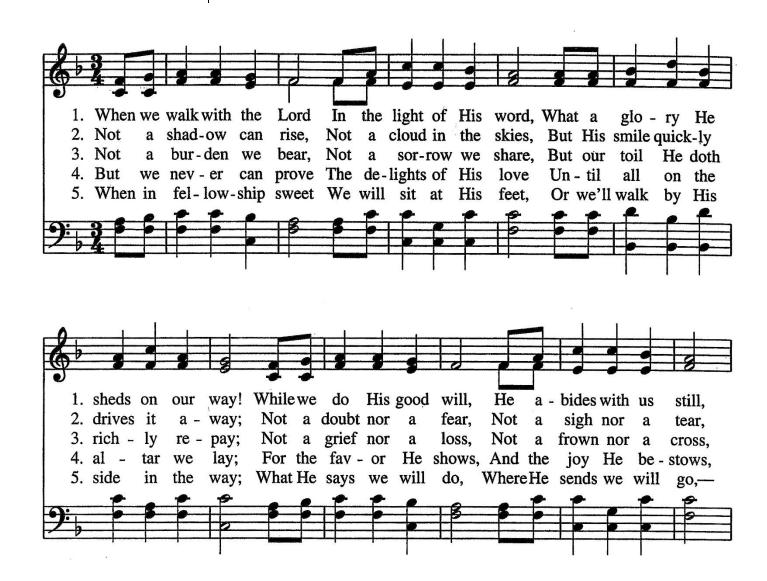
### THE OFFERTORY

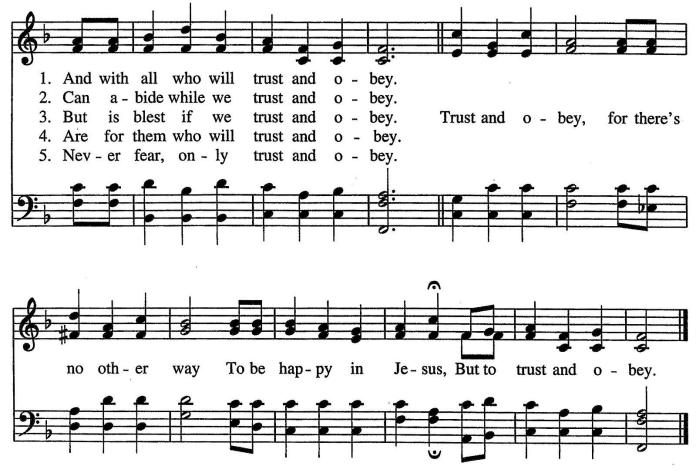
Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2* 

**OFFERTORY HYMN** 

Trust and obey

Next page





Words: J. H. Sammis Music: D. B. Towner

THE DOXOLOGY Old 100<sup>th</sup>

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.

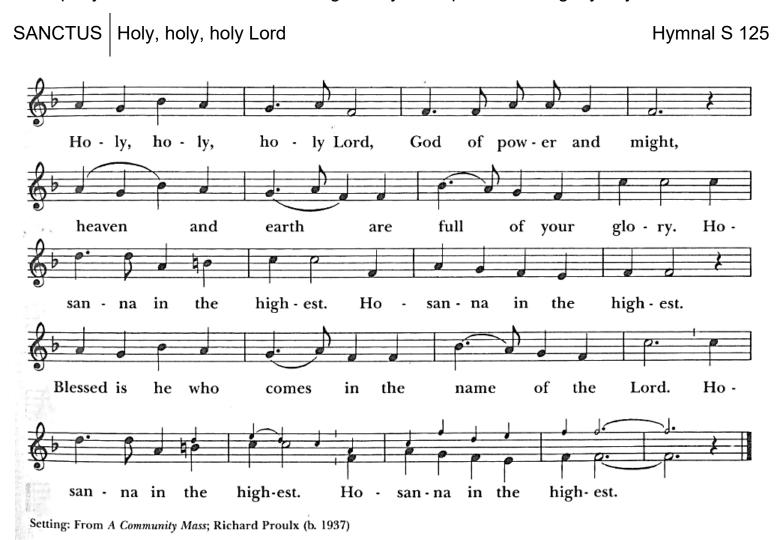
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

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 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.

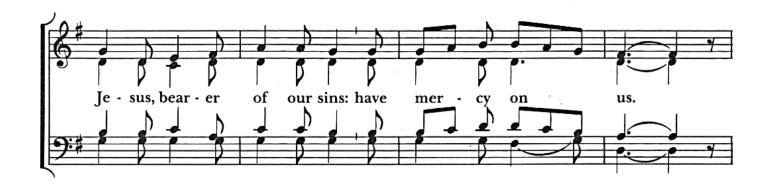
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.









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 | Sweet hour of prayer

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 | Blessed Assurance

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

### Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long. This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

2 Perfect communion, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight. Angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

### Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long. This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest. I in my Savior am happy and bless'd, watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

#### Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long. This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

### 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 Steve Morse, Carson, Jewel Wells, Debbie Potts, Ryder Hughes, and Katherine Johnson. Continued prayers and loving thoughts for our beloved homebound congregants: Liz Dixon, Mike Sawyer, and Patricia Collins.

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**

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: Lynn Norris

Ushers: Charles & Lynn Norris
Virtual Minister: Drucye Cox

Eucharistic Minister: Martha Dimon

Crucifer: Riley-Anne Johnson

### UPCOMING IN THE PARISH

# **Confirmation Class Amended Schedule:**

**Week 2 - Worship and the Sacraments** 

**TODAY at 11:30** 

Theme: Encountering God in liturgy and sacrament

The centrality of the Eucharist; the Book of Common Prayer; the Sacraments of the

Church; how Episcopal liturgy shapes our faith

Week 3 – Scripture, Creeds, and Prayer

WED, NOV 12 6:00 p.m.

**Theme:** How we believe and live our faith - The Bible in Anglican tradition; the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds; the role of prayer and personal devotion; spiritual practices for daily life

Week 4 – Mission, Ministry, and Confirmation WED, NOV 19 6:00 p.m.

**Theme:** Living out our faith in the world - Confirmation as the strengthening of the Spirit for ministry; gifts of the Spirit and discernment of call; the Church's mission of reconciliation, justice, service; the Confirmation liturgy

**2025 Christmas Family**: As is our tradition, St. Nicholas has partnered with Harris County Family Connections to adopt a family and a senior for Christmas. The Giving Tree is up in the Gathering Room now. Don't forget to give us the second tag to record who you drew! Gifts should be wrapped and received at St. Nicholas **by November 23**.

**Cookies, Crafts, and Conversation** – a new fellowship group will have its first meeting on Wednesday, November 19 from 3:00 to 4:30. The church will provide coffee and tea and Erin will provide cookies. Bring your current handwork project (or not – the conversation is the best part!). We plan to meet

third Wednesdays before Evening Prayer.

**November 23:** We will have a <u>Share the Plate</u> fundraiser on Christ the King Sunday to help with food insecurity in Harris County, which will surely increase with the suspension of SNAP benefits. All cash (and checks designated for the purpose) in the offering plate will go to a local food bank doing good work in our community. If you know of someone who needs immediate assistance, there is a list of local resources that can help on the bulletin board in the hall.

**Advent begins November 30**: We will have our traditional Advent wreath-lighting and readings by families in the parish. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Erin in the church office and sign up for a Sunday (Nov 30, Dec 7, Dec 14, Dec 21).

Also in Advent: **Flowers & Music** donation envelopes will go out November 30. This is a beautifuly way to honor a loved one and ensure St. Nicholas has lovely flowers and special music for the holidays.

Adult Formation **December 14** after the service: "Being an Episcopalian."

**BackSnacks needs food!** Easy-to-prepare entrees ravioli or spaghetti and meatballs, mac-and-cheese, are especially appropriate.



such as canned or ramen noodles

NOVEMBER 12: Join BackSnacks for ice cream and between the pack and Evening Prayer!

fellowship at 4:30,

It's Fall – Time to Recycle Those Shoes! October 1 – December 31, St. Nicholas will again participate in Keep Columbus Beautiful's Shoe Recycling drive. Bring any kind of shoes you're ready to get rid of. Rubberbanding them together is helpful, but condition does not matter. Those that can be worn will be sent to those who can use them; those that can't will be recycled – either way, they stay out of the landfill! Bin in the narthex.

**Phishing alert:** There are emails and texts circulating from the bad guys again – one purports to be from Father Bob, asking you to contact him (but only through email), and one is disguised as a member asking for a .pdf of the directory. Please read all communications carefully for strange details (Father Bob would never call himself the "Rector," for example), and check the "from" addresses. You are always welcome to contact Erin in the church office for help if you think something looks suspicious.



# Week 1

www.stnicholashamilton.org/stewardship-2026

THE GOSPEL Luke 20:27-38

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to Jesus and asked him a question, "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. Now there were seven brothers; the first married, and died childless; then the second and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless. Finally the woman also died. In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her."

Jesus said to them, "Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage; but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. Indeed they cannot die anymore, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection. And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Now he is God not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all of them are alive."

Officiant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

### THE REFLECTION

by Connie Blackmon, Stewardship Chair

In today's Gospel, the Sadducees, who do not believe in resurrection, challenge Jesus with a question about a woman who married seven brothers in succession. Jesus responds by explaining that in the resurrection, people neither marry nor are given in marriage; they are like angels and are children of God. He emphasizes that God is not the God of the dead, but of the living, affirming the reality of resurrection and life beyond death. This passage highlights the victory of life over death and the hope of resurrection for believers.

Part of the good news is that once we have experienced this kind of hope, even for just a moment, we might forget what that fear was like, or it might recede in importance and cease to be the dominant narrative.

Jesus is calling us to imagine what it is like to live without the fear of death so that we can approach our lives differently. If all of this is true, if through Jesus we are all children of the resurrection, then how does that free us? How do we spend our time? Our money? Our energy? Collectively, we can open up space to view this life differently, loosening or lessening anxiety and fearful urgency in order to free up energy for hopeful action on behalf of the gospel.

### STEWARDSHIP FAQ OF THE DAY

by Erin Renfroe, Stewardship Team

Q: Does pledging make me a "Member"? I love St. Nicholas, but I have a specific reason to not want to be officially considered a Member.

A: Not at all!

Making a financial commitment – commonly called "pledging" – is just a way to tell the church how much income they can plan on in the coming year. Budgeting season is *now*, and in order to know how much money we can spend in 2026, we have to have some idea how much is going to come in.

The Episcopal church is a welcoming and inclusive denomination and it's understood that some have their reasons for not being ready to take the step of becoming a Member. Membership is a process, one that does not happen without your intention and consent.

So while unannounced contributions are always welcome, if you want your donation to be part of St. Nicholas' plans for next year, go ahead and let us know how much you're thinking of giving. We have handy-dandy cards available in the narthex for just that purpose. And thank you for your faithful support of St. Nicholas. We love you back!