



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

The 12th Sunday After Pentecost

August 31, 2025

Holy Eucharist Rite II

PRELUDE | A New Name in Glory

C. Austin Miles; *arr. Diane Bish*

Please stand as you are able.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN | *Birmingham* Tell out my soul

Hymnal 437

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.**

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.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; 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 | Jeremiah 2:4-13

Lector: A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah.

Hear the word of the Lord, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel. Thus says the Lord:

What wrong did your ancestors find in me that they went far from me, and went after worthless things, and became worthless themselves?

They did not say, "Where is the Lord who brought us up from the land of Egypt, who led us in the wilderness, in a land of deserts and pits, in a land of drought and deep darkness, in a land that no one passes through, where no one lives?"

I brought you into a plentiful land to eat its fruits and its good things. But when you entered you defiled my land, and made my heritage an abomination.

The priests did not say, "Where is the Lord?" Those who handle the law did not know me; the rulers transgressed against me; the prophets prophesied by Baal, and went after things that do not profit.

Therefore once more I accuse you, says the Lord, and I accuse your children's children. Cross to the coasts of Cyprus and look, send to Kedar and examine with care; see if there has ever been such a thing.

Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods? But my people have changed their glory for something that does not profit.

Be appalled, O heavens, at this, be shocked, be utterly desolate, says the Lord, for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living water, and dug out cisterns for themselves, cracked cisterns that can hold no water.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM | Psalm 81:1, 10-16 *Exultate Deo*

The Psalm is read responsively as indicated.

1 Sing with joy to God our strength and raise a loud shout to the God of Jacob.

10 I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and said, "Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it."

11 And yet my people did not hear my voice, and Israel would not obey me.

12 So I gave them over to the stubbornness of their hearts, to follow their own devices.

13 Oh, that my people would listen to me! that Israel would walk in my ways!

14 I should soon subdue their enemies and turn my hand against their foes.

15 Those who hate the Lord would cringe before him, and their punishment would last for ever.

16 But Israel would I feed with the finest wheat and satisfy him with honey from the rock.

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 | Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Lector: A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured,

as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?"

Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

The Gospel

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

SEQUENCE HYMN | For the beauty of the earth

Hymnal 416
vv. 1, 4-6

THE GOSPEL | Luke 14:1, 7-14

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

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

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host

comes, he may say to you, `Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

Officiant: 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
Proper 17

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

Please kneel or stand as you are able.

Gathered in worship on this Sunday, let us pray.

Almighty God, we ask for your grace, that our love may always be inclusive:

Teach us to care, O Christ.

Fill and transform the hearts of those convicted by your Spirit:

That in faith they might be reconciled to you, O Christ.

Help us to deliver our abundance to those in need:

That we might equitably share, O Christ.

We ask for strength for our congregation to minister beyond our avenue:

Help us in mission, our faith ever confessed, O Christ.

We pray for our leaders, in government, business, church, and classrooms, to lead with compassion.

Guide them each in their respective role, O Christ.

Give comfort and healing to those in conflict or pain, especially Edward, Curtis, Bruce and Gabe, Johnny, the grieving family of Jane, and the children and families of Annunciation Catholic School.

For heart and mind ever true, O Christ.

We pray for those who have departed.

May light perpetually shine upon them, O Christ.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Holy One, we know that you will never fail us nor forsake us. Help us to continually live within this promise, giving us generosity of heart and mind to serve you and one another, as we glory in the promise of one accord. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is the same – yesterday, today, and forever. **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 | Blessed Assurance

Booklet 7

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

THE DOXOLOGY | *Old 100th*

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 C

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.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

SANCTUS | Holy, holy, holy Lord

Hymnal S 125

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 Celebrant continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it, and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **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*.**

FRACTION ANTHEM | *Agnus Dei* Jesus, Lamb of God

Hymnal S 164

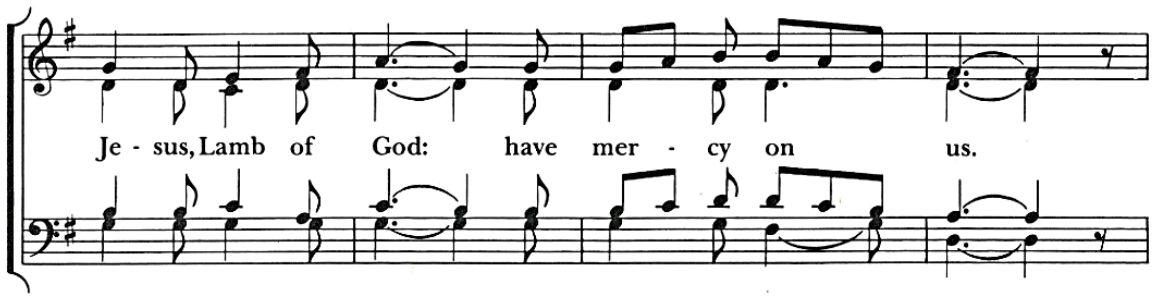
Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

The first system of musical notation is for a piano accompaniment in G major (one sharp). It consists of two staves, treble and bass. The melody is primarily in the treble staff, featuring a series of eighth and sixteenth notes. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

give us your peace, give us your peace.

The second system of musical notation continues the piano accompaniment. It also consists of two staves, treble and bass. The melody continues in the treble staff, with some rests. The bass staff continues the harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

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 | Take my hand, precious Lord Performed by Kevin Anderson

BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

RECESSIONAL | *Hymn to Joy* Joyful, joyful, we adore thee

Hymnal 376

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 Johnny Walden, Curtis Bray, Edward Martin, Bruce and Gabe Clouser, and the grieving family of Jane Grandon (including her husband John; children John, Jimmy, and Robert; and too many grandchildren to count). Continued prayers and loving thoughts for our homebound congregants: Liz Dixon, Mike Sawyer, and Jewell Wells.

We pray for the children and families of Annunciation Catholic School.

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: Margaret Zachry
Ushers: William Morgan & Steve Morse
Virtual Minister: Drucye Cox
Eucharistic Minister: Connie Blackmon
Crucifer: Riley-Anne Johnson
Flowers: Flower Guild

IN THE PARISH

1st Sunday Brunch September 7: Be sure to sign up to attend on the list in the narthex – the hosts use the sign-up list to know how many to prepare for.

Offering Envelopes Available: If you would like your cash contribution attributed to your giving record, envelopes are on the table in the narthex.

Book Club News: For September, the St. Nicholas Book Club has chosen a book highly recommended by Father Bob -- ***Love, Life and Elephants: An African Love Story*** by Dame Daphne Jenkins Sheldrick (1934-2018). Kenyan born and raised, she is the first person ever to have successfully hand-reared newborn elephants. The Book Club will next meet on September 3 after Evening Prayer at 5 p.m.

Pulpit Swap: September 28 : Christian Valley Church ran into a conflict on August 24, so we will be going there for Pulpit Swap on Sunday, September 28. Join us to celebrate the blessings of worship with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Cub Scouts to meet on Thursdays: Beginning September 11, Cub Scout Pack 109 will begin meeting at the church on Thursday evenings. Please plan accordingly if you need to be in the church.

BackSnacks is Back – With Big News!

BackSnacks is an outreach of St. Nicholas Church that fights food insecurity in Harris County schoolchildren by providing food for the weekend, when school meals are not available. This project is led by Harris County High School students – including our own Aleisha McMurtry, with volunteer help from our congregation and members of the community. Kathy McMurtry works tirelessly to advise the group and provide support to the student leadership.

With the new school year back in swing, BackSnacks is gearing up again. The monthly “pack” is scheduled for the second Wednesday every month, beginning about 3:30 p.m and wrapping up in time for Evening Prayer. While volunteer help is always welcome, BackSnacks is extending particular invitations to the St. Nicholas congregation to get to know each other and strengthen the bond between the church and this vital outreach program.

- September 10: Join the BackSnacks kids prior to Evening Prayer for a round of theatre games that will break down barriers.
- October 8: BackSnacks will host a “tasting” of the foods we pack for the kids.
- November 12: Cookies, ice cream, and conversation.
- December: The BackSnacks kids hope to join us at our annual carol-singing.

And... in case you haven't heard: The **Episcopal Community Foundation for Middle and North Georgia** has awarded BackSnacks a grant of \$30,000 to renovate their workspace to make it cleaner, safer, and more conducive to operations. Work is expected to begin in the coming weeks – look for more news as it develops.