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The Second Sunday after the Epiphany
Holy Eucharist Rite Two
Sunday, January 18th, 2026
10:30 AM

Please know that this service is being live-streamed through Facebook Live,
and those attending in person may be visible during the service.

PRELUDE

ENTRANCE

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies (vv 1-3)

H 7

1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true, the on - ly Light,
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pan - ied by thee;
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine! Pierce the gloom of sin and grief!

Sun of Right-eous - ness, a - rise! Tri-umph o'er the shades of night:
joy-less is the day's re - turn, till thy mer - cy's beams I see,
Fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine; scat - ter all my un - be - lief;

Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.
till they in - ward light im - part, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People Glory to God for ever and ever.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant 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.*

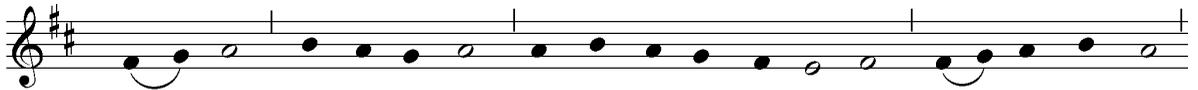
OPENING ANTHEM

S 277 Glory to God

(Canticle 20)



1. Glo - ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



2. Lord God, hea-ven-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,



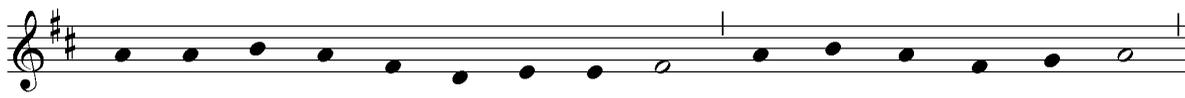
on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



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 God be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The people sit.

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied exultation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders,
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Great will be his authority,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it

with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 36:5-10

Remain seated.

5 Your love, O God, reaches to the heavens, *
and your faithfulness to the clouds.

6 Your righteousness is like the strong mountains,
your justice like the great deep; *
you save all your creatures, O God.

7 How priceless is your love, O God; *
your people take refuge under the shadow of your wings.

8 They feast upon the abundance of your house; *
you give them drink from the river of your delights.

9 For with you is the well of life, *
and in your light we see light.

10 Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you, *
and your favor to those who are true of heart.

SECOND READING: Romans 15:8-13

The people sit.

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹ and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name";

¹⁰ and again he says, "Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people";

¹¹ and again, "Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him";

¹² and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in him the gentiles shall hope."

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

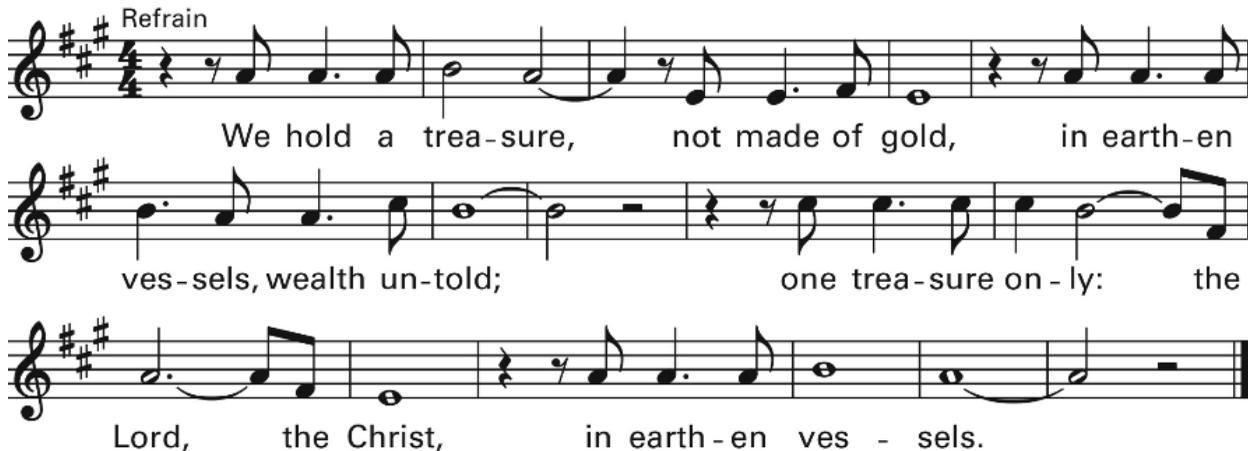
Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN *Earthen Vessels*

John Foley, SJ

Refrain



We hold a trea-sure, not made of gold, in earth-en
ves-sels, wealth un-told; one trea-sure on-ly: the
Lord, the Christ, in earth-en ves - sels.

Verses



1. Light has shone in our dark-ness: God has shone in our heart
2. God has cho-sen the low - ly who are small in this world;

1. with the light of the glo-ry of Je - sus, the Lord.
2. in this weak-ness is glo-ry in Je - sus, the Lord.

to Refrain

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 4:12-17

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³ He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the

territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵ “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—
¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned.”

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Reverend Benedict Varnum

THE CREED

All stand.

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

We pray especially for John, Recia, Barbara, Elle, Brendan & children, Chris, Carol, Jill, Danette, Ben, Lorraine, Shirley, Zoey, Don, Sandy, John, Geno & family, Irene, Jean, Tom, Carol, Norma, Kevin, Jan, Will, Truman, Leslie, Carla & family, Avery, Austin, Bruce, Debra, Easton, Jack, Angel, and Hayden & family. Are there any others who need our prayers?

The congregation may name those in need of prayer.

The Celebrant says

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.

The Priest stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

THE PEACE

All stand.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays: Tanner Pickett

Anniversaries:

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

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

ANTHEM *Arise, Shine* Marty Haugen

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise
him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye
heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

The musical score consists of three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost." The piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines in both hands.

The Great Thanksgiving

SURSUM CORDA

Celebrant *People*
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son 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 (Schubert/Proulx)

S 130

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy and gracious God: 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.

Jesus 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 Savior 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 Jesus 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:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

EPICLESIS

The Celebrant continues

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*.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

People and Celebrant

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,
 forever and forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

FRACTION ANTHEM

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

INVITATION

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.

DISTRIBUTION

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

The Body/Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. *Amen*

COMMUNION HYMN *On Eagle's Wings*

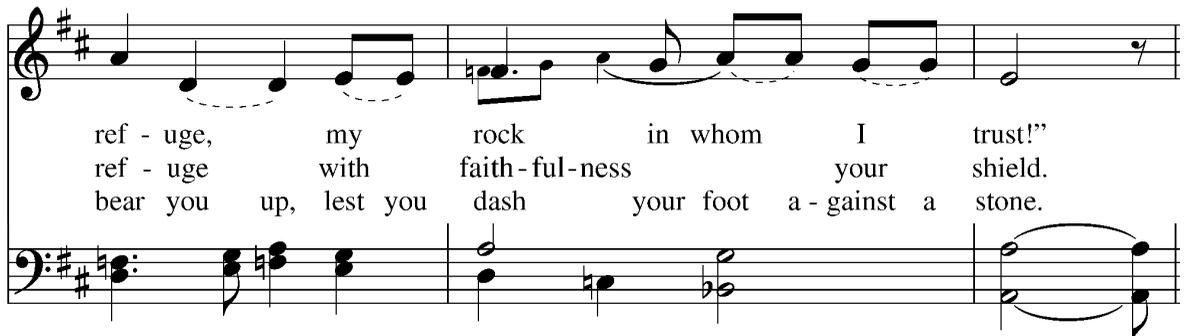
WLP 810

1. You who dwell in the shel - ter of the Lord, who a -
2. Snares of the fowl - er will nev - er cap - ture you, and
3. For to the an - gels God's giv - en a com - mand to

The first system of the hymn features a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The treble staff contains the vocal melody, and the bass staff provides a simple harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

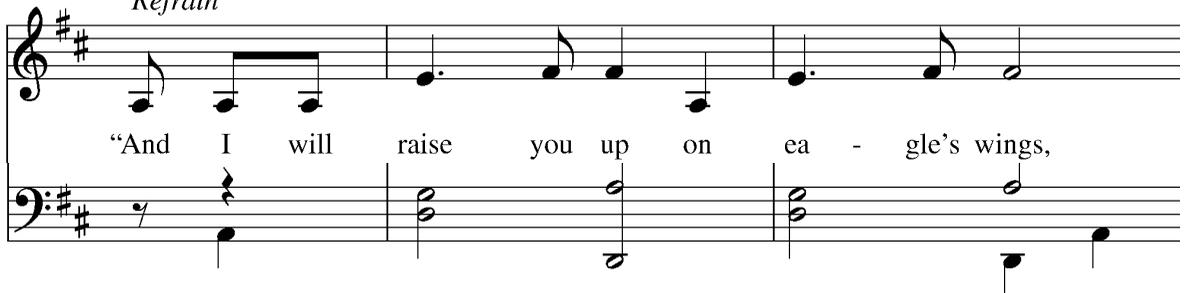
bide in his sha - dow for life, say to the Lord: "My
fam - ine will bring you no fear; un - der God's wings your
guard you in all of your ways; up - on their hands they will

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

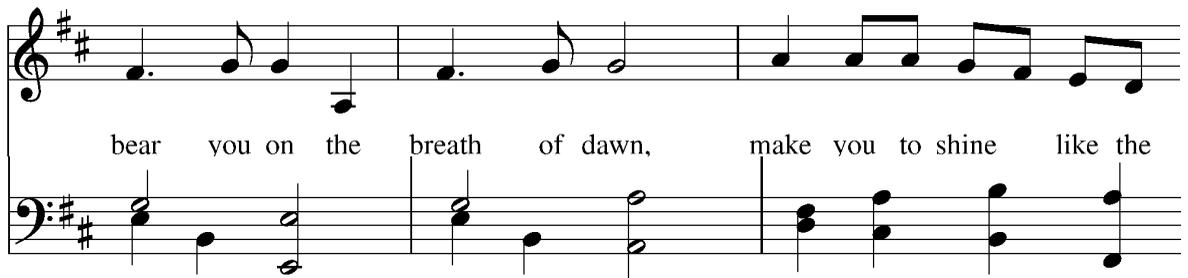


ref - uge, my rock in whom I trust!
 ref - uge with faith - ful - ness your shield.
 bear you up, lest you dash your foot a - gainst a stone.

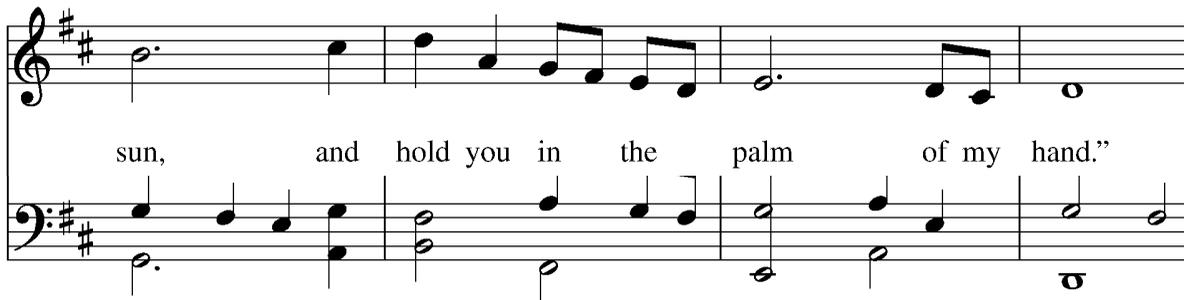
Refrain



"And I will raise you up on ea - gle's wings,



bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the



sun, and hold you in the palm of my hand."

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of Christ,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.

And now, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Savior.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

BLESSING

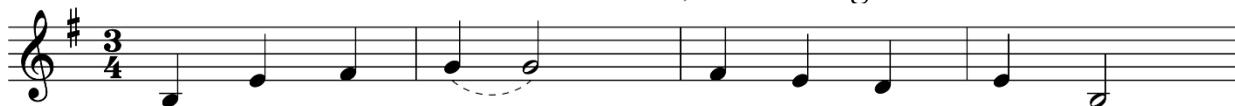
The Priest blesses the people, saying

God's Blessing be with you,
Christ's peace be with you,
the Spirit's outpouring be with you,
now and always. *Amen.*

POST-COMMUNION HYMN

Christ, Be Our Light

Bernadette Farrell



1. Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness.
2. Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled.
3. Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry.
4. Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less.
5. Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple,



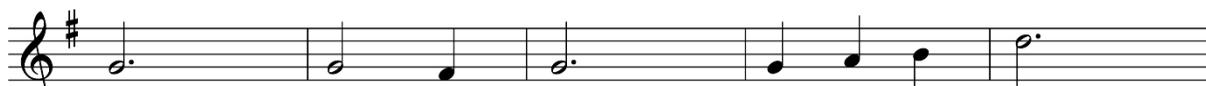
Long - ing for truth, we turn to you.
Long - ing for hope, man - y de - spair.
Long - ing for wa - ter, man - y still thirst.
Long - ing for warmth, man - y are cold.
man - y the hearts that yearn to be - long.



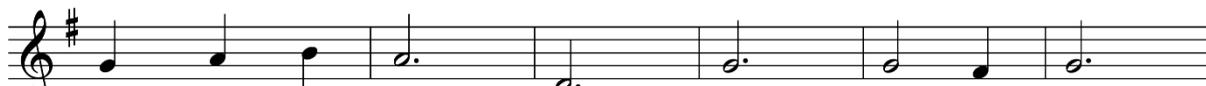
Make us your own, your ho - ly peo - ple,
Your word a - lone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your bread, bro - ken for oth - ers,
Make us your build - ing, shel - ter - ing oth - ers,
Let us be ser - vants to one an - oth - er,



light for the world to see.
Make us your liv - ing voice.
shared un - til all are fed.
walls made of liv - ing stone.
mak - ing your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.



Shine through the dark - ness. Christ, be our light!



Shine in your church gath - ered to - day.

DISMISSAL

Deacon

Go in peace to love and serve Jesus Christ our Savior.

People

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parish Annual Meeting and Combined 9:30 worship Sunday, January 25th

Our parish annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 25th. We will have a **combined worship service at 9:30 am** for everyone together that morning, followed by the Annual Meeting at 10:30 in the parish hall. The Annual Meeting is a chance to celebrate ministries and staff, hold elections, review our budget, and discuss plans for the coming year. We try to hold it to about an hour, and have a movie option for kids. Curious about our parish elections? See the Nominations announcement for more info!

New Online Directory!

Our online accounting software, which has been used for the past few years to create our paper directory, can be used as an app! By the annual meeting, January 25, you will receive an invitation to download the Breeze App. You will be able to log in and find directory information for active members of the church. You will also be able to access your contributions, add your photo, edit your personal information, and hopefully soon, we will use it to schedule volunteering! **The information others will be able to see about you is your name, your immediate family, who are church members, your phone number, email and address. If you would like any of this information to be kept private or would prefer not to be in the directory at all, please let us know!**

Nominations

In the coming weeks, we'll begin receiving nominations for parish offices for the coming year! We will need parish members to serve on the **Vestry** (our parish board), as **Directors of our Legacy Society** (a planned giving ministry), and as our delegates to the **Annual Council** of the Diocese of Nebraska. Vestry

and Legacy Society members need to be Confirmed or Received members (or willing to be Confirmed/Received on February 8th, 2026, or another time). If you are curious about these positions, please contact Fr Ben or a member of our Vestry – list can be found at <http://www.sainta.net/staff--leadership.html>

January Outreach

In January, you are invited to learn more about our Outreach Committee's work at an open parish meeting in the conference room (in the Sunday School area) at 11:30 (after the late service). If you can't make that meeting, please contact Fr Ben for other opportunities! Our January special collection (placed in the wicker baskets during the Offertory at worship) will go to the clergy discretionary funds of our parish, which are used to assist with particular needs that our clergy become aware of, such as utility payment support for a family. In December, our special collections raised \$821 for Magdalene Omaha, and \$927 for COPE at the Christmas Eve services, when the loose offering is designated back to a group in our community.

Vestry Notes for December

The Vestry (the parish board) met on December 21st for its regular meeting. They approved minutes and financial reports, and heard updates about nominations and our door and access replacement project (the briefest update is that the project is in process; we are having difficulty securing scheduling because the contractor has become understaffed, so we are working weekly to keep track of next steps; for questions, please see Fr Ben). Otherwise, the majority of this meeting was focused on the parish budget. We note that we have received a grant from the Clarkson Foundation in the Diocese of Nebraska that secures \$30,000 of funding specifically towards our part-time clergy staff position, and that the budget carries a deficit which we will manage over the year and hold funds against if needed. In addition, designated funds to handle loan financing are expected to last through 2026 and possibly 2027. A full report on the budget will be made at the parish Annual Meeting on January 25th, 2026.

Up For Some Trivial Fundraising?

Want to help support our youth? We're planning a Trivia Night fundraiser! Jimmy Ellsworth will be leading a small team to plan for an event after Easter this coming Spring, here in our parish hall. We'll need volunteers to help hire a host, coordinate some hospitality and prize support, publicize for community friends and family groups, and host on the day! If you'd like to help with the planning committee, please contact the parish office or staff, and we'll put you in touch with Jimmy! First meetings will be after the New Year. Jimmy can be contacted at jellsworth@bottlesandbarrels.com

Bible Study in January

Wednesdays at 7 pm and Thursdays Noon-1

In January, the Midweek Bible Study (Wednesdays at 7 pm and Thursdays at noon) will be meeting beginning 1/7 and discussing the week's readings from the Women's Lectionary that we're using. This will give a chance to reflect on the Bible together, learn about less-known stories, and look at translations together to understand what the Biblical authors might have been thinking and how it sounds in English!

Newcomers and Confirmation/Reception/Reaffirmation Class

Sundays, Jan 11, Jan 18, Feb 1 – 9:35 to 10:20am

Do you have questions about what it means to be a "member" of the Episcopal Church, or St Augustine of Canterbury? Fr Ben will be leading a set of classes "between the services" for a few of our coming Sundays, focusing on what it means to commit to the idea that this is the place we're living out a part of our faith journey in our lives right now. This is a great class for newcomers to the church or tradition, and if you are curious about the sacramental rites of Confirmation (a sacramental welcome by a bishop, going back to the tradition of the Apostles being the ones to welcome new Christians into fellowship), Reception (a bishop receiving your Confirmation pledge from another tradition and welcoming you to the worship and tradition of the Episcopal Church), or

Reaffirmation of your Confirmation vows (most appropriate for those who have been away from the church for a while and want to make a new formal pledge), this class will also prepare our members to make a decision about these options, prior to Bishop Barker's visit on Sunday, February 8th, when he will preside at our service and these rites.

Blood Drive

Saturday, February 14

Our quarterly blood drive for the winter will be on Valentines Day this year! Our blood drives began with our friend Amy, who was battling Metastatic Breast Cancer. Her goal was to give back the amount of blood she had used through the course of her treatments. We believe that she had done all of that and more in the many blood drives she hosted.

Amy's Blood Drives have become a core ministry for us at St Augustine's, so we will continue them in her honor as long as we have friends show up to give blood. If you are able to help with this drive, or have friends who would like to give back to others by donating blood, please join us at St. Augustine Episcopal Church in Elkhorn (285 S 208th St, Elkhorn, NE 68022). We would love to beat our previous donation totals in honor of Amy!!

Appointments are scheduled in 15 minute increments(Whole Blood) and on the hour (Power Red). For eligibility requirements and to see the difference between the two donations, check our e-newsletter or contact Kate (ministries@sainta.net).

Bishop Barker's Visit – Feb 8th!

On Sunday, February 8th, Bishop Scott Barker will visit us here at St Augustine's! Bishop Barker is the bishop for all of the parishes in the Episcopal Diocese of Nebraska, which covers our whole state, and he tries to visit each community every 12-18 months. In the Episcopal Church, our bishops connect us to the historic church through "apostolic succession" – the tradition that the apostles consecrated successors as the first bishops, who then consecrated their own successors, through generations. Bishops were originally the official welcome to new members in the faith, a practice maintained by the rites of Confirmation and Reception, which are reserved to bishops. They also hold a teaching authority for the tradition of the church, and offer some policy guidance in their dioceses. Please join us in welcoming Bishop Barker on Feb 8th as he presides at both services and visits with us at coffee hour receptions after each service!

Shrove Tuesday

Tuesday, February 17, 5-7 PM

The Youth Group will be running their Annual Pancake Dinner on Shrove Tuesday. Take the day off from cooking dinner and head here instead. Youth will be taking goodwill donations that go toward the youth reserve funds. There will be NO Church Family Dinner or Youth Group on Ash Wednesday, March 18. Thank you for your support!

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 18th, 6:30 PM

Lent begins on Wednesday, February 18 this year. We will have two Ash Wednesday Services, the first at Noon and then another at 6:30 PM. The Noon service will also be streamed to Facebook.

A Lenten Note from Mother Lisa

The Tradition of Ashes: On Ash Wednesday, we receive a cross of ashes on our forehead, reminding us of the suffering of Jesus prior to his crucifixion. We hear the words, “Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return,” and realize that we are intrinsically connected with the creation around us—the creation that God made in the beginning. Because of our connection with God’s creation, we find our identity as God’s children: wonderfully made, beloved by God, and valuable. During Lent, may we find a new connection with the transcendent God. May we be surprised by the presence of God, who shows up in ways we may not expect. Our Lenten disciplines lead us toward this very connection and help us to discover God in new ways.

Burying the Alleluias in Lent: On Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday, we say the last of our Alleluias until Easter. As we “bury” our Alleluias, may we remember those who are suffering in our world. Tradition holds that during lent, the word “Alleluia” is not proclaimed, from “Shrove Tuesday” dinner (the day before the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday) until Easter Sunday. The “burying of the alleluias” helps usher us into a season of reflection, prayer, penitence, and participation with Jesus on the way to the cross. We are reminded that Jesus has intimately experienced the sufferings of this world, understands our sufferings, and will journey with us until the celebration of the resurrection!

Save the Date

January

Sunday, January 25th Parish Annual Meeting

February

Sunday, February 8th Bishop Barker's Visit
Tuesday, February 17th Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner
Wednesday, February 18th Ash Wednesday
Sunday, February 22nd Newcomer's Brunch

March

Sunday, March 29th Palm Sunday

April

Thursday, April 2nd 6:30 PM Maundy Thursday Service
Friday, April 3rd Noon Stations of the Cross
Friday, April 3rd 6:30 PM Good Friday Service
Saturday, April 4th 6:30 PM Holy Saturday Service
Sunday, April 5th Easter Sunday

Ministers of the Day	This Week 1/18/26	Next Week 1/25/26
Musicians 8:30am:	Joyful Noise Band	(N/A Combined 9:30)
Musicians 10:30	Mary Norton	Gilbert Ward (9:30)
Deacon:	Rebecca Smith	Rebecca Smith
Liturgical Shepherd:	Erin Vest	Pam Wright
Acolytes 10:30am:	Danica, Gage, Ben	Warren, Ferris, Josie
10:30 am Greeter:	Jean Lahti	Jean Lahti
8:30 am Lector:	Alan Freiberg	Judy Tomanek
10:30 am Lector	TBD	(N/A Combined 9:30)
Altar Guild 8:30 am:	Mary Jane Smith	Judy Tomanek
Altar Guild 10:30 am	Carol Ott	(N/A Combined 9:30)
A/V Tech 8:30 am	Rich Hill	(N/A Combined 9:30)
A/V Tech 10:30 am	Rich Hill & Joe Threlkeld	Joe & Ali Threlkeld