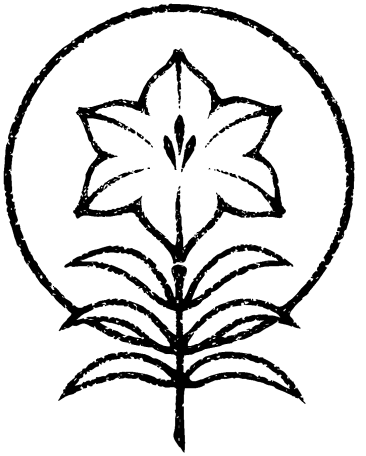
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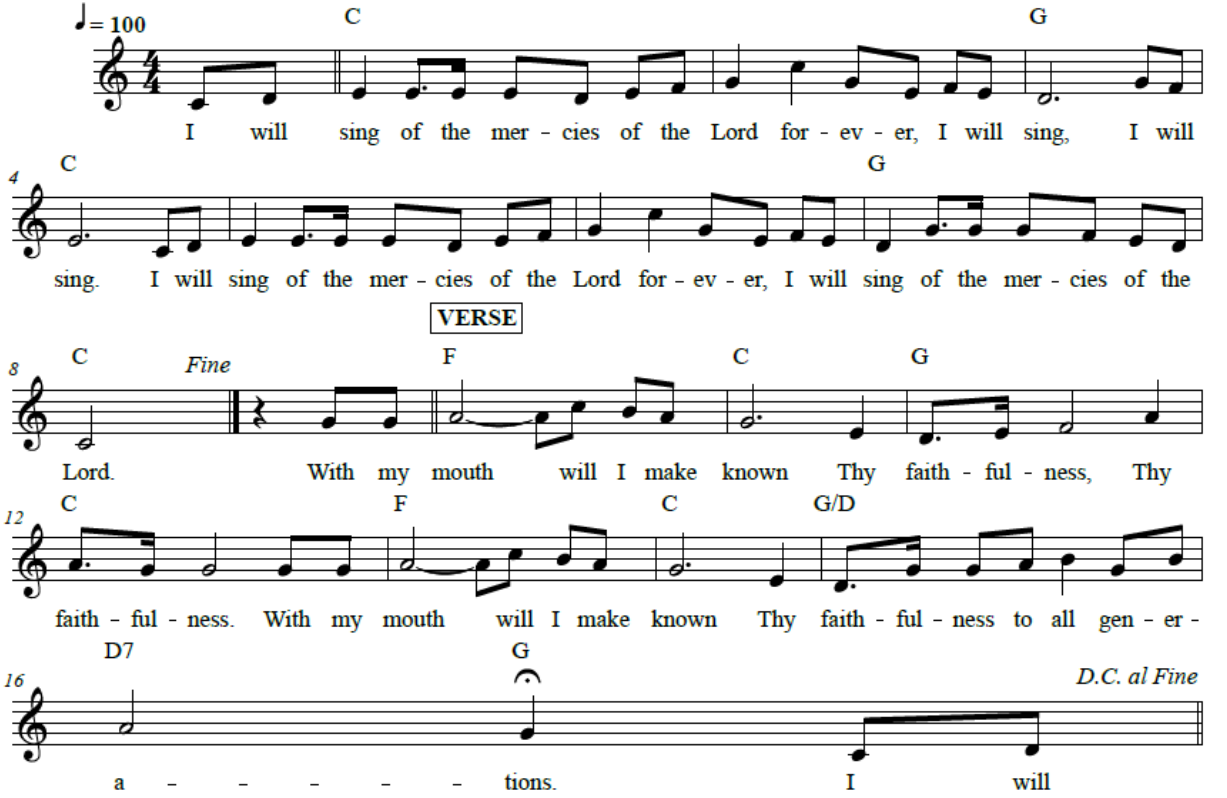


The Twenty-Fourth Sunday of Pentecost
Holy Eucharist Rite Two

Sunday, November 8th, 2026
8:30 AM

PRELUDE

ENTRANCE HYMN ***I Will Sing Of The Mercies*** ***Fillmore***



OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

People Glory to God for ever and ever.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

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 ***Glory to God***

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father;
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. 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*.

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 5:1-6, 13-14
The people sit.

A Reading from the First book of Kings.

1 Now King Hiram of Tyre sent his servants to Solomon when he heard that they had anointed him king in place of his father, for Hiram had always been a friend to David. **2** Solomon sent word to Hiram, saying, **3** "You know that my father David could not build a house for the name of the Lord his God because of the warfare with which his enemies surrounded him, until he put them under the soles of his feet. **4** But now the Lord my God has given me rest on every side; there is neither adversary nor misfortune. **5** So I intend to build a house for the name of the Lord my God, as the Lord said to my father David, 'Your son, whom I will set on your throne in your place, shall build the house for my name.' **6** Therefore command that cedars from the Lebanon be cut for me. My servants will join your servants, and I will give you whatever wages you set for your servants, for you know that there is no one among us who knows how to cut timber like the Sidonians."

13 King Solomon conscripted forced labor out of all Israel; the levy numbered thirty thousand men. **14** He sent them to the Lebanon, ten thousand a month in shifts; they would be a month in the Lebanon and two months at home; Adoniram was in charge of the forced labor.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 148

Remain seated.

1 Alleluia! Praise God from the heavens; *
sing praise in the heights.

2 Praise God, all you angels; *
sing praise, all the heavenly host.

3 Praise God, sun and moon; *
sing praise, all you shining stars.

4 Praise God, heaven of heavens *
and you waters above the heavens.

5 Let them praise the Name of God, *
by whose command they were created.

6 God made them stand fast for ever and ever, *
and gave them a law which shall not pass away.

7 Praise God from the earth, *
you sea-monsters and all deeps;

8 Fire and hail, snow and fog, *
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;

9 Mountains and all hills, *
fruit trees and all cedars;

10 Wild beasts and all cattle, *
creeping things and winged birds;

11 Sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, *
leaders and all rulers of the world;

12 Young men and maidens, *
old and young together.

13 Let them praise your Name, O God, *
for your Name only is exalted;
your splendor is over earth and heaven.

14 You have raised up strength for your people
and praise for all your loyal servants, *
the children of Israel, a people who are near you. Alleluia!

SECOND READING: Revelation 21:10, 22–27

The people sit.

A Reading from the Revelation of John.

10 And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

22 I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. **23** And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. **24** The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. **25** Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. **26** People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. **27** But nothing unclean will enter it, nor

anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN ***How Majestic Is Your Name*** **Smith**



GOSPEL: Matthew 6:28–34
All stand as able.

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

28 And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how
they grow; they neither toil nor spin, **29** yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his
glory was not clothed like one of these. **30** But if God so clothes the grass of the
field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not
much more clothe you—you of little faith? **31** Therefore do not worry, saying,
'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' **32** For it is
the gentiles who seek all these things, and indeed your heavenly Father knows
that you need all these things. **33** But seek first the kingdom of God and his
righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

34 "So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own.
Today's trouble is enough for today.

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

SERMON **The Reverend Benedict Varnum**

THE CREED

All stand as able.

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

All remain standing.

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, and Scott, our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in God's Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. We pray for John, Recia, Barbara, Elle, Brendan & children, Chris, Carol, Jill, Lorraine, Don, Geno & family, Irene, Tom, Carol, Norma, Carla & family, Mike, Marie, Jean, Willie, Ralph, Jim, Jan, Mark, Emyrsen, Caleb, Jim, Avery, Barb, and Hayden & family. Are there any others who need our prayers? Are there any others who need our prayers?
Silence, the People may add their own petitions

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.
Silence, the People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God in heaven;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.
Silence, the People may add their own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

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 against God and our neighbor.
Silence may be kept.

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

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays: Julie Pendegraft, Marvin Bales, Tristan Manasek, Jack Ott, Jacob Messineo

Anniversaries: Megan Griffiths and Benedict Varnum

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.*

Memorial Prayer for Veterans

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High. *Psalm 50:14*

OFFERTORY ***His Eye Is On The Sparrow*** **Hutchinson Gabriel**



The Great Thanksgiving

SURSUM CORDA

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 God thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

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.

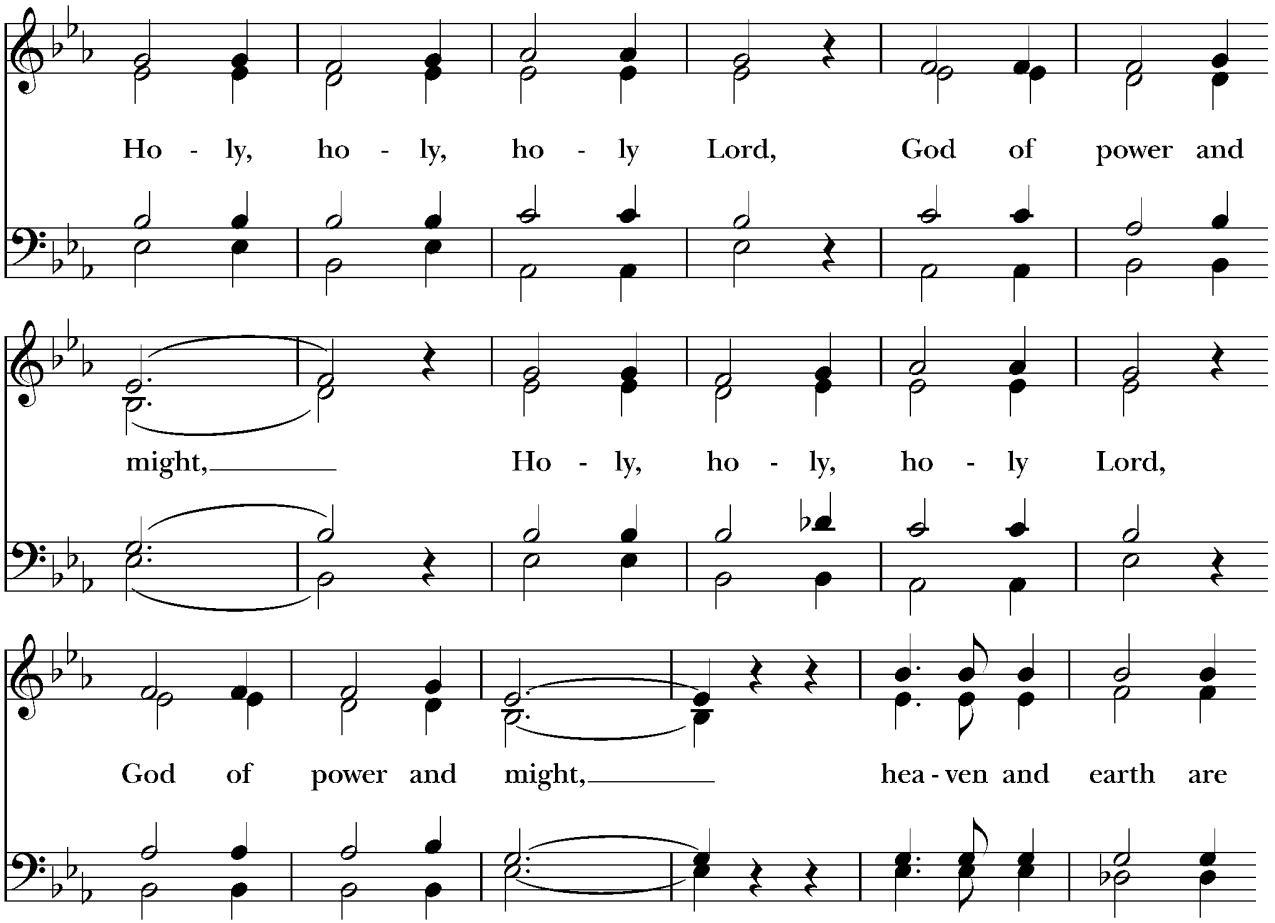
From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.
Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

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*** **S 130**




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



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

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.

EPICLESIS

The Celebrant continues

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; Lord God of our Mothers; God of Sarah, Rebekah, Leah, and Rachel; 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, Almighty God, 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*.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

FRACTION ANTHEM

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

INVITATION

The Celebrant says

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 Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. *Amen*.
The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. *Amen*.

The ministers receive the Sacrament and immediately deliver it to the people. All who are present are welcome to receive communion in bread and wine. Receiving either element (or both) is a full communion, and we have gluten free bread available on request. If you wish to receive a blessing instead of communion, please cross your arms across your chest at the front altar. It is also perfectly respectful to remain seated if you do not wish to come forward.

COMMUNION HYMN ***Consider The Lillies*** **Hemphill**





After Communion, the Celebrant says

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

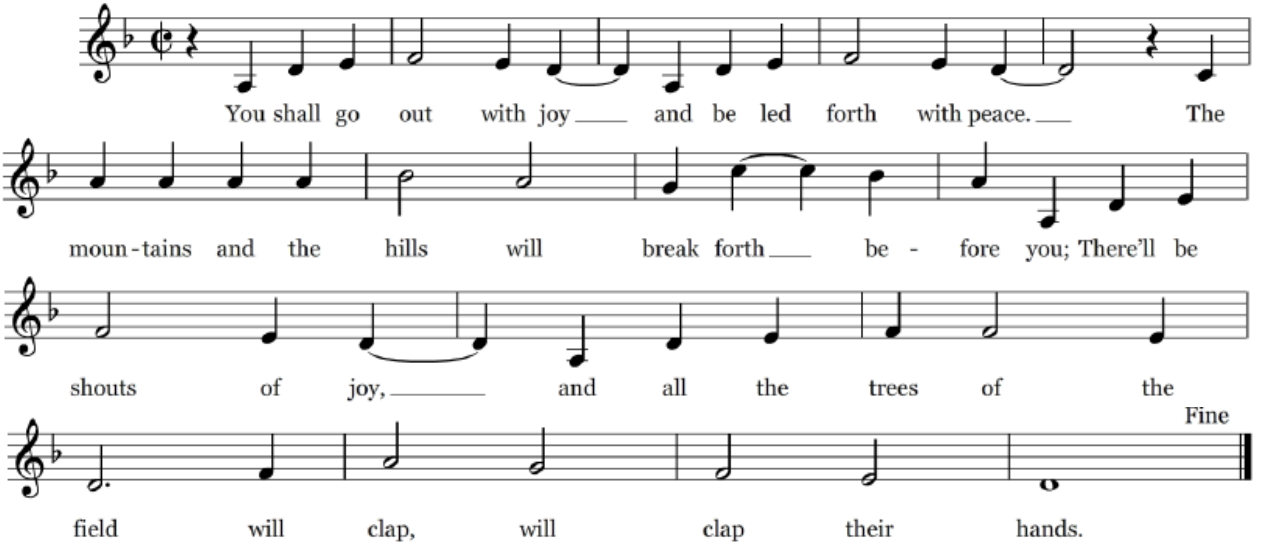
with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one
with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth
in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever
in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

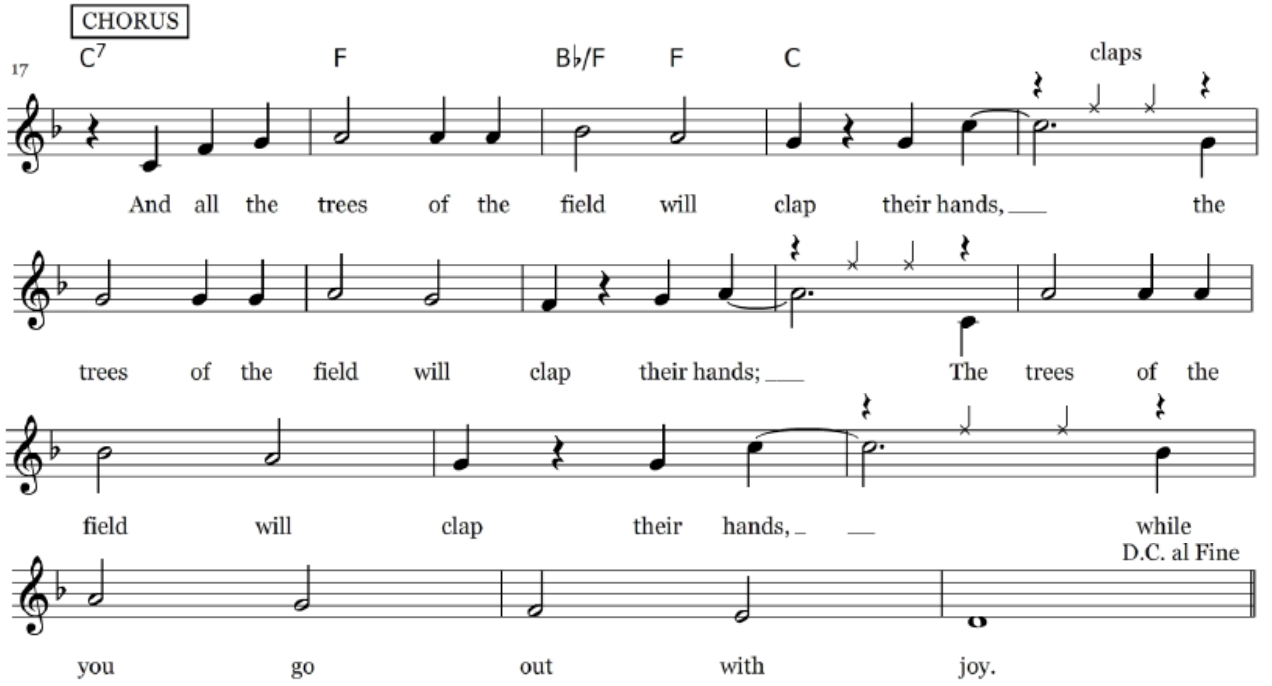
BLESSING

The Priest blesses the people, saying

May the blessing of the God of Abraham and Sarah, and of Jesus Christ born of our sister Mary, and of the Holy Spirit, who broods over the world as a mother over her children, be upon you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

POST-COMM. HYMN ***The Trees Of The Field*** **Dauermann**





DISMISSAL

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

November Special Collection - Canned Good Christmas Tree

Our November Special Collection goes to fund our Canned Good Christmas Tree. This annual symbol at St A's is a labor of love! Over the years, various parish leaders have taken charge of finding deals and partnerships to purchase canned goods that we build into the tiers of an indoor Christmas tree in our parish hall. This year, Mike and Mary Ferzely-Mullen are again leading the effort and have already been finding great deals to help our dollars go far in setting up this gift of care! After the holiday weeks, we donate the canned goods to local food pantry efforts to help with their winter needs. Each year funds the coming year's tree, so your gift this month will go towards our 2027 preparations and food donations!

Thank you all for a successful November special collection, we raised a total of $1,284 for The Benedictine Way!

Stewardship 2026

Thank you to everyone who participated in our October stewardship month activities, and for those who have already returned a pledge to the church! Our treasurer, Maggie Wellman, has begun to build our budget for 2027 based on our pledged financial amounts, and as she completes that data entry, our office team will review the pledges of time and talent to see where we might connect someone with a ministry here at church. If you are still planning to make a pledge, it's a huge help to Maggie to get that information to her as soon as you're able to; the budgeting is a big project for her and having all the information early makes it a much easier job. If you have questions about pledging, especially if you're new to St A's this year, you can contact Fr Ben through the parish office, or ask for Maggie's number as our treasurer. All financial pledge information is only shared by the treasurer, administrator, and rector. If you did not receive a

pledge card this year, that's probably a sign that our parish database doesn't have a correct address for you. Church databases are notorious for going out of date quickly, and our new administrator, Lizi, is tightening up that information, so please let her know so she can troubleshoot! The office can be reached M-Th, 9am-1pm, at 402-289-4058.

Vestry Notes for October

The Vestry (the parish board) met on October 18th for their regular meeting. They approved minutes and monthly financial reports, and reviewed updates on outreach ministries, building projects, and our stewardship campaign. Significantly, the vestry has elected **Mark Christenson as Junior Warden**. The Junior Warden has a traditional role of keeping aware of the parish's building needs and vendors. Mark works in Lincoln, so his leadership will be in more of a management and communication style than a handyman style as he holds the position. The vestry also took formal action to approve an updated letter of agreement and compensation package for Kate Kielion as our Director of Ministries. This reflects both the skills Kate has built up, the expansion of her responsibilities over time, and the chance to use staff transition across several positions this fall (administrator, associate priest) to review which position titles most appropriately handle certain tasks. Congratulations to Kate on this acknowledgement of her work and tenure here on our church staff! The next Vestry meeting will be held on **Sunday, November 15th at noon**; vestry meetings are always open to any members of our church community who wish to attend, and if there's a topic that needs vestry review, please let Fr Ben or a vestry member know prior to the meeting so it can be incorporated in the agenda.

November Outreach Meeting

We have postponed our November Outreach Meeting to **Sunday, November 29th at 11:40 am**. This will be held in the parish hall after the late service, during coffee hour. This meeting will go over opportunities to help with Outreach through the coming winter months, and we'll set a calendar of Outreach partners for the coming year for our monthly financial support drives. This all-parish meeting is also a chance to learn more about how the Outreach Committee works if you are interested in helping as an organizer around our parish ministries and connections in our broader community!

Updated Building Access

Our building access system has been updated to better serve our security needs. This change will require getting updated access fobs – if you need an updated fob and have yet to receive one, please reach out to the office!

Forming Some CLAY

We have formed a team to support our parish Children, Littles, And Youth, spelling out CLAY as we think about how our church life helps form their faith and character as they grow up here at St A's. Kate will be holding the second team meeting, **Sunday, November 8 at 11:45am.** Meetings will be about once a quarter to talk about plans for our young people ranging from age 0 to 18, and how St A's is meeting their faith and formation needs. We're hoping several people will feel called to help lead this along with our staff but also expect to keep these meetings open to parents (and youth!) with regular scheduling and invitations on Sunday mornings. Please join us to hear more about plans for the Nursery, Sunday School, Youth Group, acolytes, Vacation Bible School, worship, and service opportunities.

Annual Nominations
Each year, we nominate people to several offices for election at the parish annual meeting (Jan 31, 2027). In 2027, we plan to elect 3 vestry members to full three-year terms. The Vestry is our formal parish board, and has certain responsibilities under the canons of the church. We expect that the coming year's vestry work will include formalizing many of our parish policies and practices into a "parish book," and a major project around parish welcome and inclusion. The vestry meets monthly and has a longer retreat day on a Saturday in the Spring.

We also expect to have all three seats of our Legacy Society open, meaning we will elect people to a 1-year, 2-year, and 3-year seat to create a full new team of three. The Legacy Society is a special financial giving structure that supports our church. It meets quarterly and uses a set of established bylaws to monitor and direct structured giving and especially estate gifts. Skills with financial planning or working from our brief bylaws are a plus, here!

Members of both Vestry and Legacy Society need to be Confirmed members of the Episcopal Church. If you would like more information about either group, how Confirmation status works, or to make a nomination or self-nomination, please contact Fr Ben!

November Midweek Study: Wisdom Literature Part I
On Thursdays, **November 5, 12, 19 at noon,** we will begin a two-month series on Wisdom literature. We will focus this first part of our study on the Old Testament books of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes. The first four verses of the book of Proverbs informs us that wisdom leads to justice; right understanding leads to right action. As we understand wisdom literature, may we find new ways to live into them. You are welcome to come to just one or all three of these sessions.
Recognizing Veterans

At worship on **Sunday, November 8th**, we'll have a prayer for veterans for their service, commitment, and sacrifice, with an opportunity to come forward for a blessing, in the style of our prayers for birthdays and anniversaries. If there's a veteran in your life for whom it would be meaningful to be recognized at church for that prayer, please feel free to invite them or name them during the blessing.

"Feast of all Chilis" Chili Cookoff and Scenes from A Christmas Carol
We'll once again celebrate our Feast of All Chilis this coming November on **Sunday, November 15th, 5-7 pm**! You can sign up to bring a chili and compete by e-mailing Kate at ministries@sainta.net. Over the past few years, we've been entertained by a whodunnit floor show with enthusiastic players drawn from our parish's hidden thespian reserves ... this year, with our director on a brief medical leave, we're going to do pop-up readings of scenes from A Christmas Carol! We'll invite people to stand up and choose parts scene by scene ... if you have a hidden talent for the stage but no time to rehearse, this is a great chance to share it! We'll create our own floor show as we sample chilis and vote for a winner. Bring-Your-Own-Props are welcome!

Advent Crafts 2026 - Craft Days 11/15 and 11/22
Advent begins on November 29th as we celebrate the four weeks of "awaiting" the coming of Jesus at Christmas. We'll have several opportunities to make two Advent crafts this year. The first is a traditional Advent wreath, with four candles that are lit as we move towards Christmas. For the second, we'll have paper chains with an Episcopal Church "Advent Word of the Day" calendar, inviting daily prayer and reflection throughout the weeks of Advent — and encouragement to share your response from the https://adventword.org/# calendar. You'll be able to make and decorate your own chain, and over the coming weeks, you can read the daily reflections and share your own word and thoughts on socials or by tagging St Augustine's Facebook page! Craft materials

for wreaths and Advent word chains will be available on Sunday**, November 15th** at coffee hour and the Chili Cookoff (see separate announcement) and at coffee hour on **November 22nd.**

Welcoming the Stranger: Immigration Theology in The Episcopal Church
On **Tuesday, November 17th, from 7-8:30 pm**, St Augustine's will host an event by OTOC (Omaha Together One Community) reviewing traditional Episcopal Church teachings on immigration. The Reverend Michael Heller, priest in charge at St Martin of Tours, will be a featured speaker, along with OTOC's director, Sarah Keeney. Sarah and OTOC have previously met with our St A's Outreach committee to talk about their work throughout our community, and she's particularly gifted with leading productive conversations on complex topics. Fr Michael will be presenting from the Episcopal Church's tradition. This evening should be a helpful orientation and review around the faith foundations for caring for our neighbors, and hearing about some current topics in Omaha and greater Nebraska. OTOC will also be inviting other area parishes to participate, and if you know a friend who'd like to learn more, please feel free to invite them! Questions may be directed to Fr Ben.

Leaf Raking Party on Sunday 11/22!
On **Sunday, November 22nd**, please plan to wear work clothes to church and help us rake the leaves in our garden after worship at either service! Garden Steward Jim Keepers is inviting "many hands to make light work" as we take care of our beautiful setting and prepare the gardens for the winter. We'll have the leaf bags and some tools available, but if you have your own rake or gloves that will be a help! There will be plenty of jobs for all ages to take care of our church home together on this last Sunday before Advent, and a chance for a warm cup of coffee or cocoa after our outdoor chores!

Book Club
Over the course of the next month, the Elaine Randall Book Club will be reading *Slow Dance* by Omaha Author Rainbow Rowell. Join us on **November 24th at 11:30 am** to discuss the book. The book bag is available above the coat rack across from the kitchen. Please be sure to sign your book out.

Merry Market
On Sunday, **December 6 from 9:30am-4:00pm**, we will again transform our parish hall into a "Merry Market" for crafters to offer holiday shopping here at our church. The "table fees" for our crafters generate a modest amount of income, which we'll direct to our youth programs this year, and the morning is a great chance for a fun day supporting local crafters here from our church. We still have a space or two if you know a crafter who might like to participate, but otherwise please feel free to save the date and welcome guests and friends to our church that morning!

Vendor booths are available to book! If you'd like to sell your crafts at our Merry Market this year it's time to reserve your spot! Go to www.sainta.net to the Merry Market Page for more information and to request a booth.

Blue Christmas
We often really feel our connection to departed loved ones over the holidays. Please join us on **Sunday, December 13th, at 3:00 pm**, for a service of prayer, music, and candle lighting honoring those we hold in our hearts, especially this time of year. We'll hear readings and reflections from scripture and beyond. If you would like to assist with this service as a reader, please let Fr Ben know. This is often a meaningful service to invite someone to, if you know someone who might value the chance to honor a loved one this year.

Feast of St Nicholas of Myra

On **Wednesday, December 2nd at 6:00pm**, we'll celebrate the feast of St Nicholas! St Nicholas of Myra was an early bishop of the church who was known for helping the poor and giving gifts. His feast day (12/6) is a traditional holiday celebration. We will have "St Nicholas" visit us as a guest with a presentation that's especially fun for children of all ages, and we'll have some traditional St Nicholas activities including leaving shoes to see if he fills them with gifts and decorating oranges with cloves to make "pomanders" — scented decorations for the season. Dinner is at 6 with a presentation starting around 6:20 and the craft activities to follow — we hope you can join us for this seasonal celebration, and this is a great way to invite friends to church here and introduce them to our community! Our Director of Ministries, Kate Kielion, and our parish life chair, Leslie Stubbendieck, will be coordinating, so if you'd like to help, please contact one of them (contact info available through the Breeze app or the parish office — please let us know if you need help downloading the app!).

Celebrating Mother Lisa

As Mother Lisa prepares for her next steps in ministry as the Associate Rector at All Saints, we'll have a coffee hour celebration to cheer her on. This will be held after our services on **Sunday, December 13th**, and we will again fill up a charcuterie-board style table with light fare. If you would like to help with setup that day, or bring a favorite dish, please let Leslie Stubbendieck know (contact info available in the office).

COPE Adopt a Family Event

Santa's Elf help needed! Rhonda Vest has organized a COPE Adopt A Family Event – if you wish to take part in this ministry you can choose a tag from the table in front of the bulletin board and sign up to buy gifts for that person in need. Choose a tag and sign your name and phone number on the corresponding slot on the signup sheet, listing the family number then either C, T, or A. Gifts need to be brought back to the church no later than **December 6th**. Help will be needed in late November checking in gifts, making sure they all are received and accounted for. Assistance is also needed delivering the gifts to Bethany Church in the first week of December. If you have questions or want to help, please contact either Rhonda Vest or Louie Warren (contact information available via the church office). We are still looking for someone to help receive and organize gifts as they come in on Sunday mornings.

Blood Drive Update

Thank you to all the donors and supporters who helped with our Fall Blood Drive. We collected 20 units and had great fellowship while doing so. Those units could aid up to 60 recipients. Unfortunately we did not meet our goal of 24 units. We've seen an increase of donors from the Omaha community but not with our own St. A's donors. Please keep us in mind come **February 13**, our next drive. We especially need Power Red donors.

Recognizing Parish Veterans

The following list contains names of Veterans in our parish – if your or a loved one's name is missing from this list, please contact the parish office by phone or email, parish@sainta.net, (402)289-4058. Thank you for your patience as we work on creating a full list of Veterans.

Bill Smith
Bob Elf
Bob Vrbka
Jim Keepers
Trish Keepers
Alan Freiberg
Charlene Freiberg
Donald Sattem
Tom Luther
Marvin Bales
David Randall
Louie Warren
Mark Christenson
Greg Bowden
Tom Arnold
Chris Fassero
Bill Lake
John L. Lord
Leslie Suhr
Angie Dixon
Paul Gierasch
Peter Gierasch

Save the Date

November

Sunday November 8th	Recognizing Veterans in services CLAY Meeting 11:45am
Sunday, November 15th	Advent Craft Day Chili Cook-Off 5pm
Sunday, November 22nd	Advent Craft Day Leaf Raking Party
Sunday, November 29th	Youth Worship w/ Children's Sermon 10:30am

December

Wednesday, December 2nd	St. Nick's Feast – Parish Dinner
Sunday, December 6th	Merry Market 9:30am – 4:00pm
Sunday, December 13th	Coffee hour in celebration of Mother Lisa
Sunday, December 20th	Lessons and Carols 9:00am
Thursday, December 24th	Christmas Eve 3:00pm service led by Joyful Noise Christmas Eve 11:00pm service, carol singing at 10:30 pm
Sunday, December 27th	Pajama Sunday, combined service at 9:30am

January

Sunday, January 31st	Youth Worship w/ Children's Sermon 10:30am Kids Craft Sunday

Ministers of the Day	This Week 11/8/26	Next Week 11/15/26
Musicians 8:30am:	Joyful Noise	Joyful Noise
Musicians 10:30	Dirk Lindner	Mary Norton
Deacon:	Rebecca Smith	Rebecca Smith
Liturgical Shepherd:	Jim Lewis	Pam Wright
Acolytes 10:30am:	Luke, Ben, Nathan	Cash, Devyn, Dalton
10:30 am Greeter:	Jack Ott	Jack Ott
8:30 am Lector:	Liturgical Shephard	Bill Smith
10:30 am Lector	Dave Holmquist	Sarah Ogborn
Altar Guild 8:30 am:	Dottie Vrbka	Mary Jane Smith
Altar Guild 10:30 am	Vicki Luther	Kathy Pospischal
A/V Tech 8:30 am	Rich Hill	Dave Wright
A/V Tech 10:30 am	Erin Vest & Joe Threlkeld	Joe Threlkeld & Dave Wright