Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
(Proper 18)

Sunday, September 6, 2026

8:00 AM (spoken) & 10:15 AM (with music)

Also Live Streaming at
https://www.facebook.com/stgregoryslongbeach/

VOLUNTARY

Four Versets on "Stuttgart" — Thomas M. Kuras

CHORAL INTROIT

How Bright is the Day — Early American Melody, arr. Kyle Cothern

How bright is the day when the Christian
receives the sweet message to come,
to rise to the mansions of glory
and be there forever at home.

The angels stand ready and waiting
the moment the spirit is gone,
to carry it upward to heaven,
and welcome it safely at home.
(S.B. Sawyer, 1808-1844)

(Please stand)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

God is Love, Let Heaven Adore Him — Bulletin Page 16

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider Blessed be God: ✠ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

COLLECT FOR PURITY

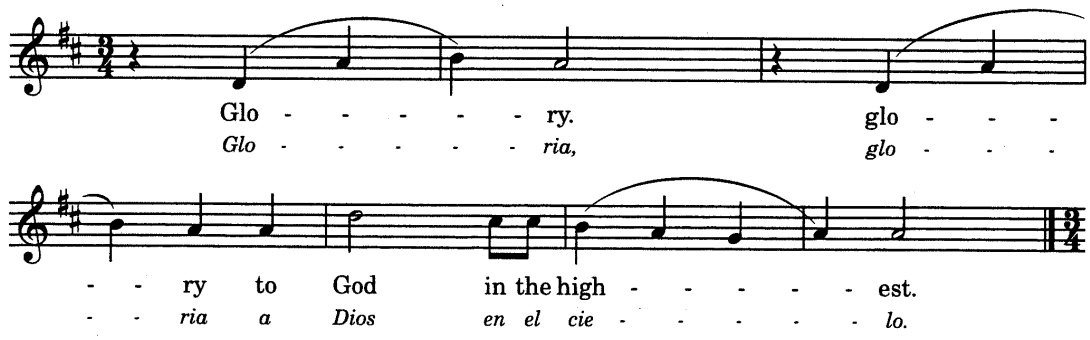
Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

GLORIA *(8:00 Service)*

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his 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.

SONG OF PRAISE (10:15 service)

Festival Eucharist, Craig Phillips



Choir: and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. ***Refrain***

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. ***Refrain***

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 ***Refrain***

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Let us pray.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**.

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING Ezekiel 33.7-11

Lector A Reading from Ezekiel.

You, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

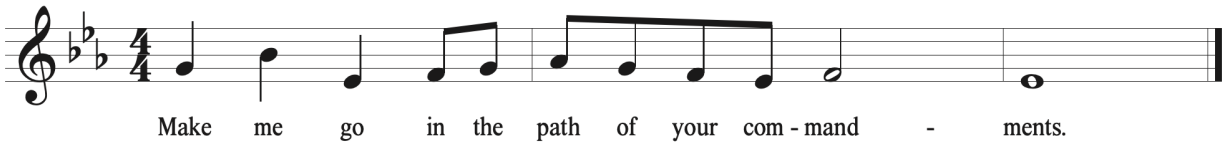
Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

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

PSALM 119.33-40

Setting: David York

The choir sings the antiphon once and the congregation repeats. The choir sings the Psalm verses. The choir and congregation then sing the antiphon following each section of verses.



Teach me, O Lord the way of your statutes,
and I shall keep it to the end.
Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law;
I shall keep it with all my heart. **Antiphon**

Make me go in the path of your commandments,
for that is my desire.
Incline my heart to your decrees
and not to unjust gain. **Antiphon**

Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless;
Give me life in your ways.
Fulfill your promise to your servant,
which you made to those who fear you. **Antiphon**

Turn away the reproach which I dread,
because your judgements are good.
Behold, I long for your commandments;
in your righteousness preserve my life. **Antiphon**

SECOND READING

Romans 13.8-14

Lector A Reading from the Letter to the Romans.

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

(Please stand)

SEQUENCE HYMN

Christ Has Promised to Be Present — Bulletin Page 17

(The congregation sings vv. 1 & 2, the Gospel is read, then vv. 3 & 4 are sung)

HOLY GOSPEL — Matthew 18.15-20

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

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

(Please be seated)

SERMON — The Rev. Michael K. Fincher

(Silent reflection)

NICENE CREED *(Please 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(Please remain standing or kneel)*

Let us offer our prayers to God saying, "Hear our prayer."

At this time of changing seasons, we thank you, O Lord, for the beauty of our earth.
Hear our prayer.

We pray for the Church in all times and places. Strengthen our faith as we seek to do your will and become more and more your people.
Hear our prayer.

Guide the leaders of our land: Donald our President, Gavin our Governor, Rex our Mayor, that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth.
Hear our prayer.

Grant that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that we may live in justice and peace.
Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land so to use our public and private wealth that all may find suitable and fulfilling employment, and receive just payment for their labor.
Hear our prayer.

O God, the strength of those who labor, grant that we may never forget that our common life depends upon each other's toil.
Hear our prayer.

Remember, O Lord, in mercy all those who suffer or are in any trouble, knowing that you do not willingly afflict or grieve us. We especially pray for those we mention now, silently or aloud [or in the comment section].

(*pause*)

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Grant your blessing to all who have died in the hope of resurrection; grant them rest from their labors. We especially pray for those we mention now, silently or aloud [or in the comment section].

(*pause*)

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Presider 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

Presider 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.

Presider 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

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SPECIAL BLESSINGS

Birthday and Anniversary Prayer: Watch over your *children*, O Lord, as *their* days increase; bless and guide *them* wherever *they* may be. Strengthen *them* when *they* stand; comfort *them* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *them* up if *they* fall; and in *their* hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of *their* lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

When Music Wakes My Sleeping Heart — William Billings, arr. G. Gillispie, G. Sewell

When music wakes my sleeping heart and plays my spirit strong,
then all of life is gracious gift and every breath, a song.

When music gathers us in prayer and summons us to praise,
then beauty spills her shining light across our darkened days.

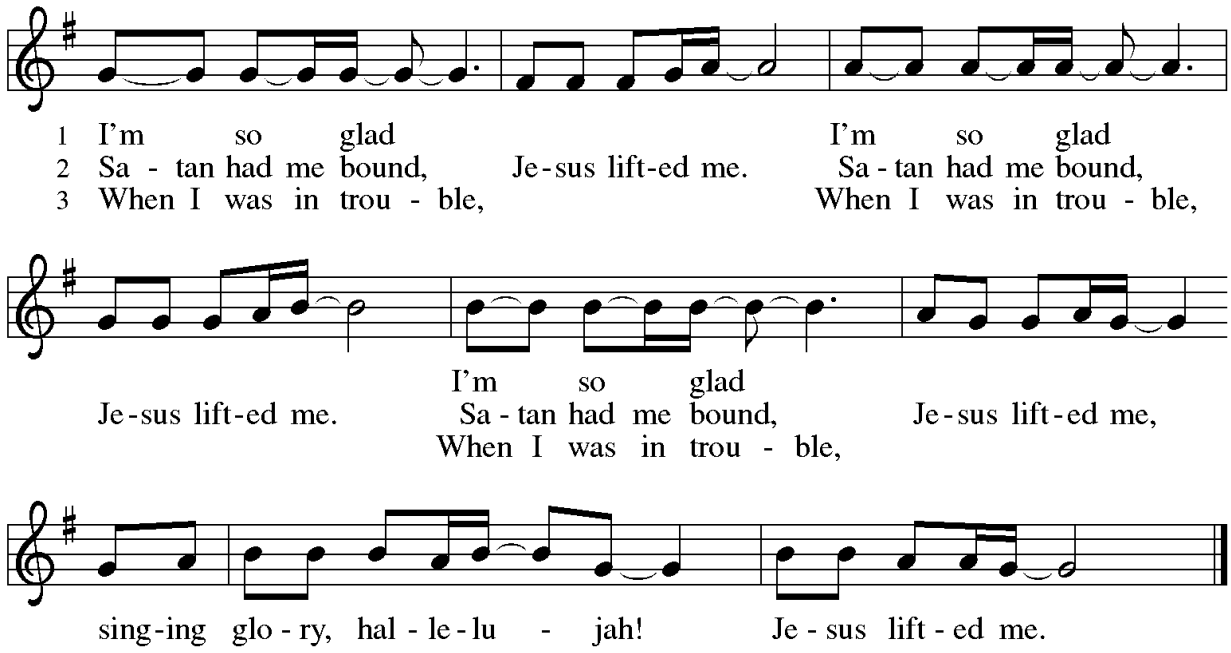
When music calms the fearful heart and lifts the downcast soul,
then all our song is healing balm to make the wounded whole.

When music fills the universe and all is melody,
then Christ the Lord will lead a hymn of soaring majesty:

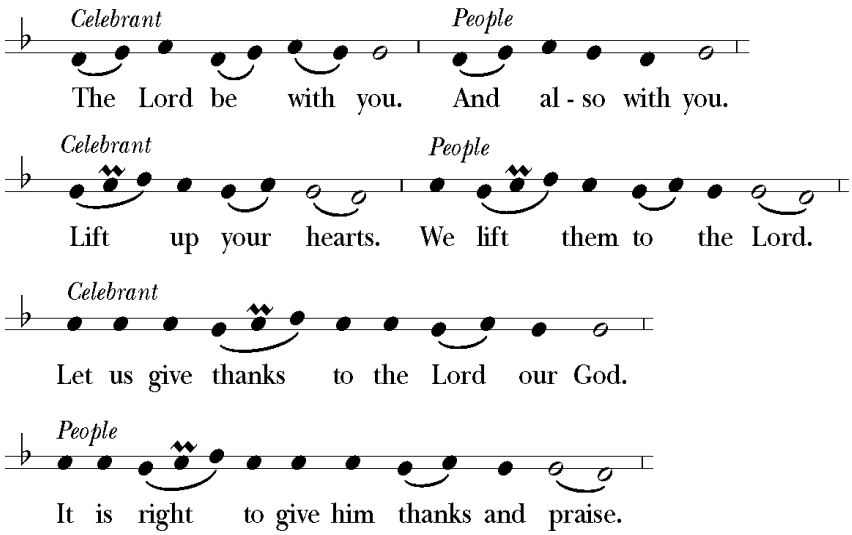
"To you all praise, O Holy One, to you all glory be!"
Our alleluias without end will ring in harmony. Delores Dufner, OSB

PRESENTATION HYMN

I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me *African American Spiritual*



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

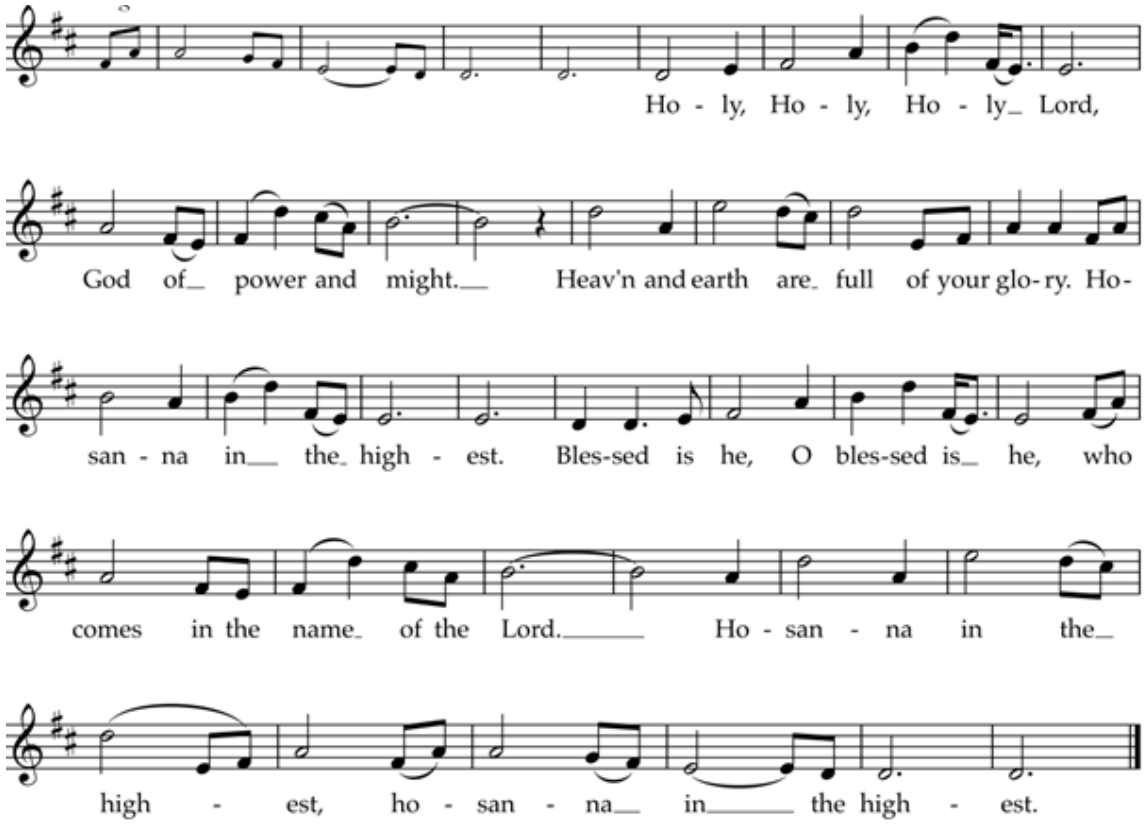
You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing (say):

At the 8:00 Service:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

At the 10:15 Service: *St. Anne's Mass,* James MacMillan



Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, 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.”

As supper was ending, 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

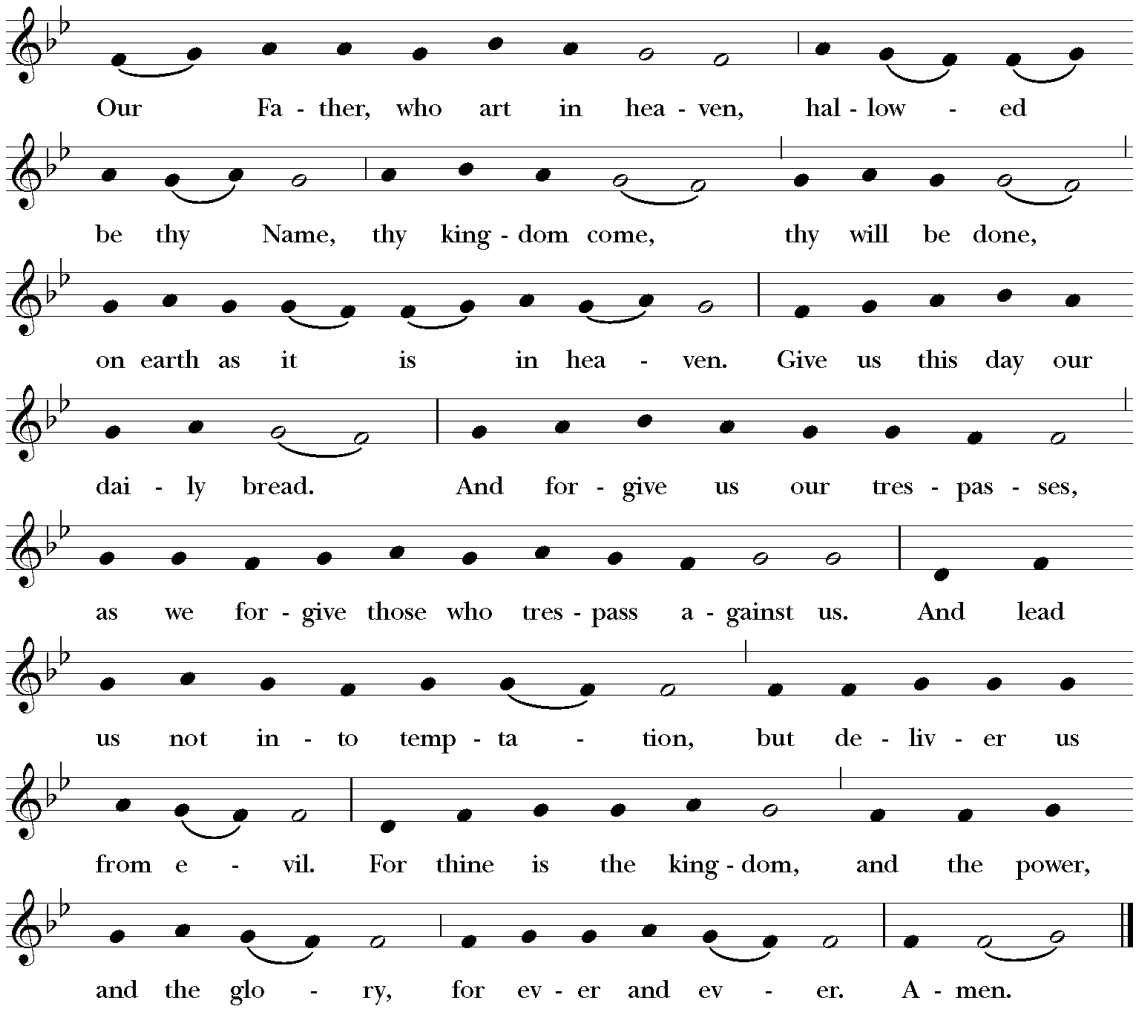
Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ’s Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with [_____ and] all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN**.

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



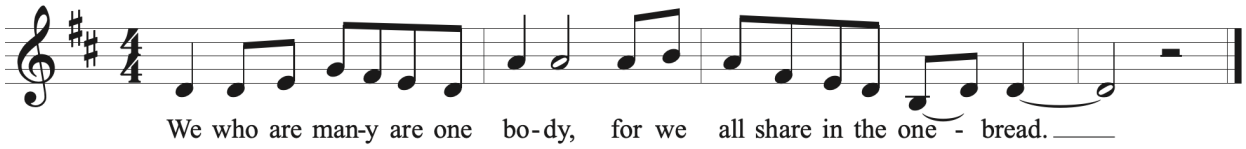
THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

(A period of silence is kept after the Presider breaks the host)

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

FRACTION ANTHEM *(10:15 Service)* David York

Jordan Tickner, cantor



Refrain sung first by the cantor, then repeated by all

Verse: We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

Refrain: **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

The Presider says the following 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.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion at this Altar. Holy Communion will be distributed from a single Communion Station at the foot of the chancel steps. The Ushers will release people by row to receive Communion. ***Gluten free wafers are available upon request.***

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Those who are participating in the live streamed service and therefore not able to receive communion may wish to say the following prayer in recognition that the desire to receive communion carries the same spiritual benefits of actually consuming the consecrated elements.

Lord Jesus Christ, you have instituted for us a great sacrament in your promise of life and love, which we remember now as we hear your words again: “This is my body; this is my blood — given for you.” Feed us in our hearts with faith and trust, draw us closer to you and to each other, and strengthen us for service to our neighbor. We come before you now, with hearts you have fed all our lives with the promise that you have given yourself for us. Keep us strong in that faith until we can meet at your table again. Amen.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Esto les digo — Kinley Lange

St. Gregory's Quintet

Where two or three are gathered in my name,
there will I be also. (Matthew 18: 19-20)

COMMUNION HYMN

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether — Bulletin Page 18

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Presider Let us pray.

God of blessing, at this table we have seen you face to face, and in the gift of Christ's body and blood, our hearts have been refreshed. Send us now to shine with your goodness and bear witness to the one we have received: Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Singing Songs of Expectation — Bulletin Page 19

THE DISMISSAL

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY

Chaconne in D Minor — Louis Couperin

FLOWERS TODAY ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

Please join us in Francis Hall for refreshments and fellowship following the worship service

(Francis Hall is out the main church doors and to the left)

TODAY'S WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

	8:00 SERVICE	10:15 SERVICE
Presider & Preacher	Fr. Michael Fincher	Fr. Michael Fincher
Organist	—	David York
Crucifer	—	David Luebben-Morrill
Lector	Peter Davis	Alice O'Keefe
Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs)	Dana Lindsay Tamera Benedict	Holly Graham Elizabeth Spencer

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Texts of Sunday sermons are available on our parish website, at
http://stgregoryschurch.com/sermons-archive/

To make secure, online donations to St. Gregory's, simply scan:

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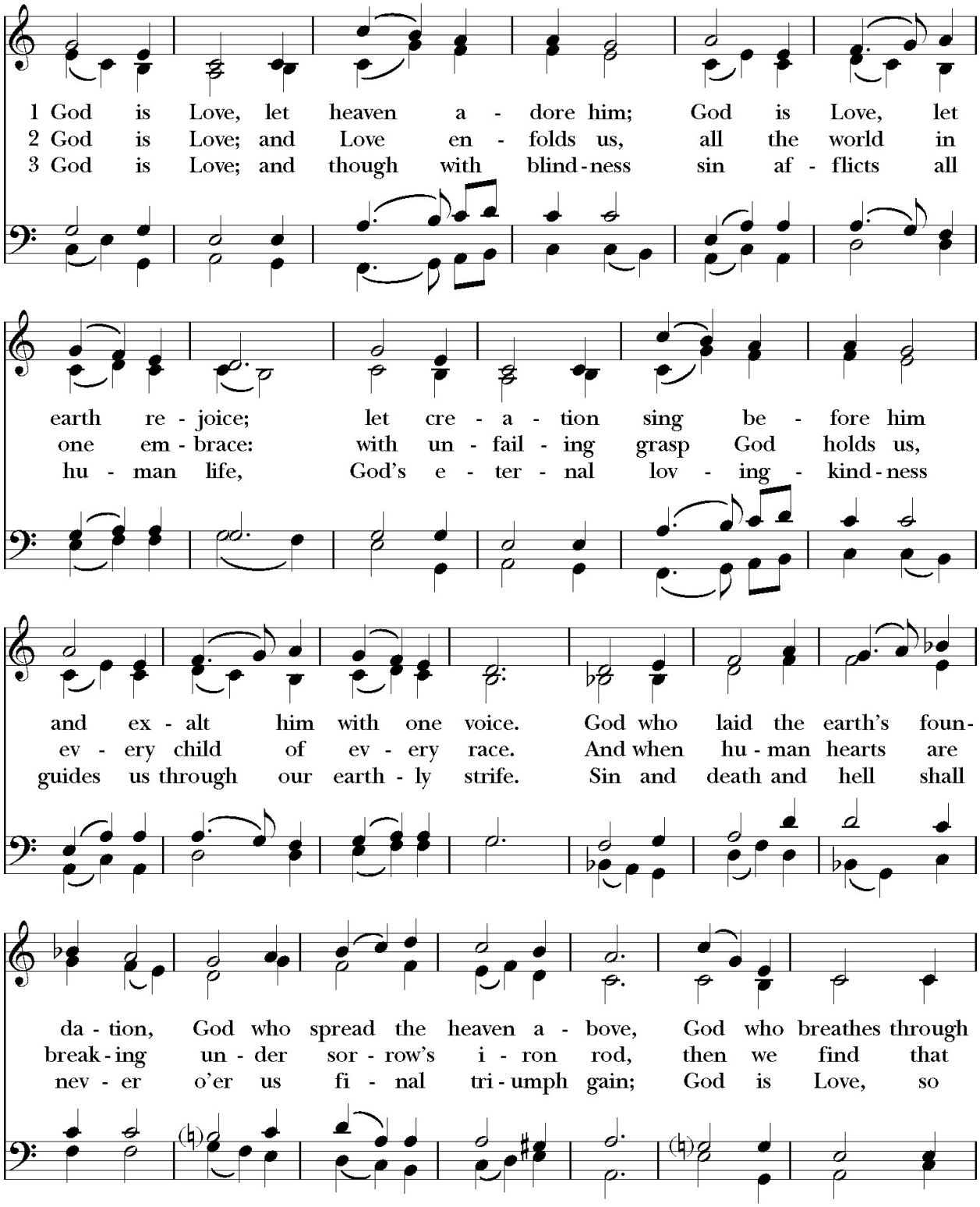
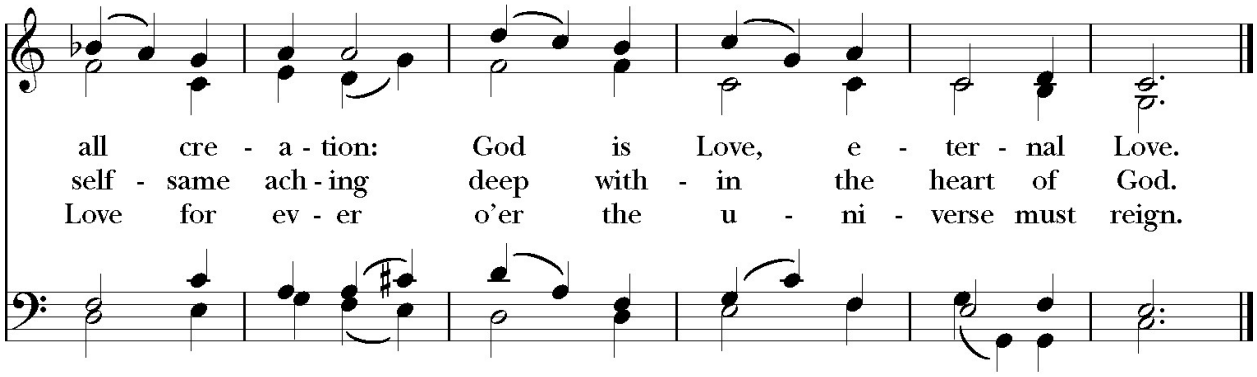
PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Hymnal 1982, Hymn 379

God is Love, Let Heaven Adore Him — Abbot's Leigh

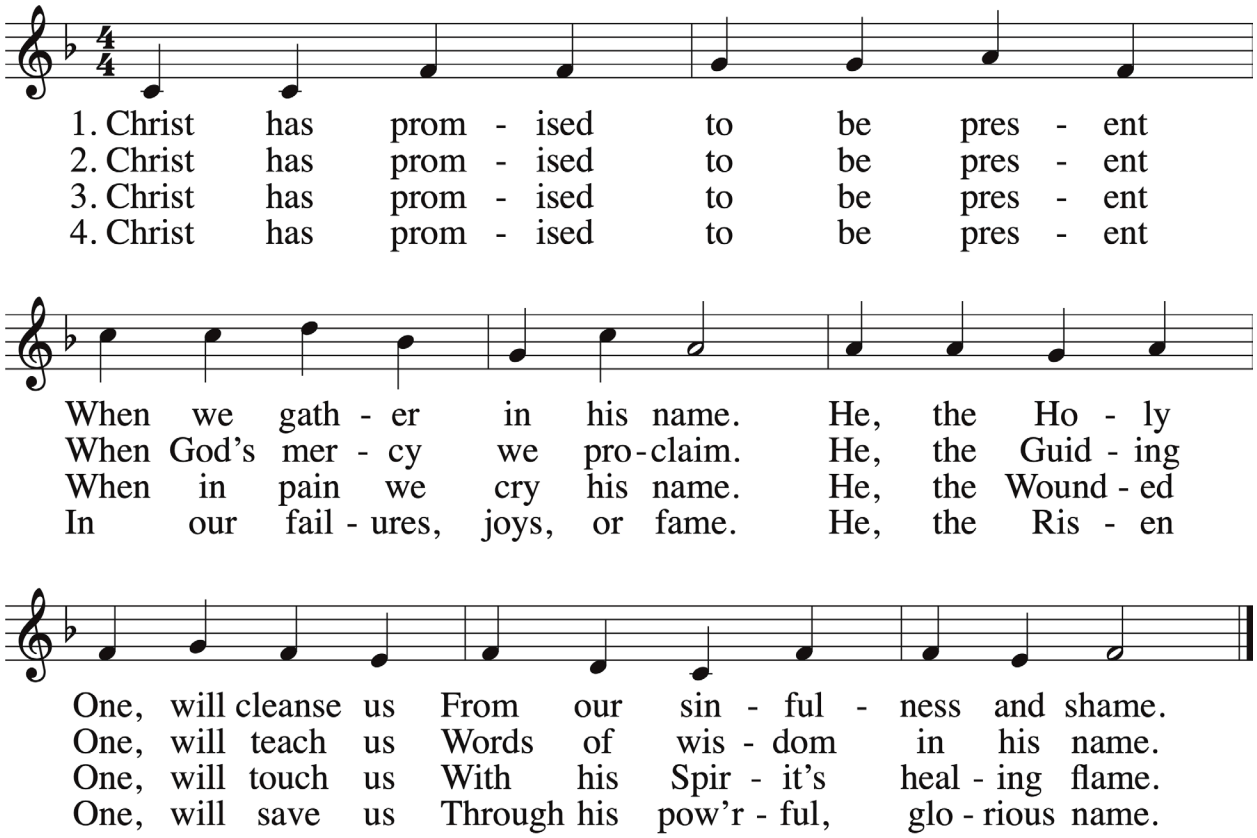




SEQUENCE HYMN

Christ Has Promised to Be Present *Stuttgart*

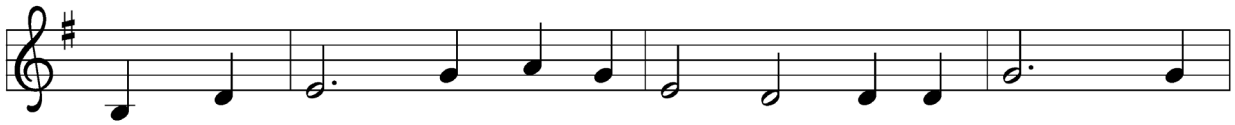
(The congregation sings vv. 1 & 2, the Gospel is read, then vv. 3 & 4 are sung)



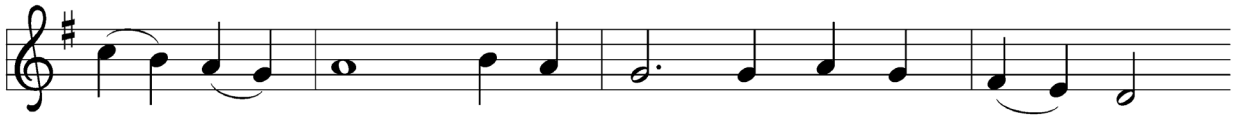
Text: Rae E. Whitney, b.1927, © 1994, Selah Publishing Co., Inc.
Tune: STUTTGART, 8 7 8 7; *Psalmodia Sacra,* 1715; adapt. and harm. by William Henry Havergal, 1793–1870, alt.

COMMUNION HYMN

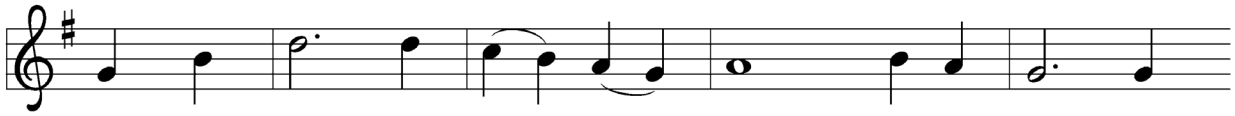
Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether — Union Seminary



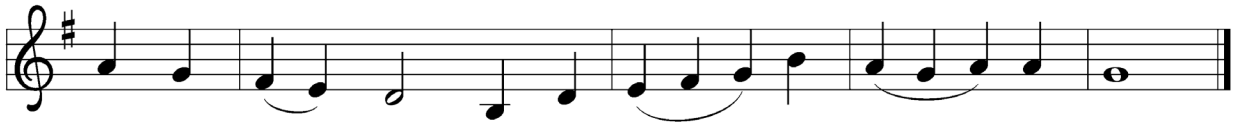
1 Draw us in the Spir - it's teth - er, for when hum - bly
2 As dis - ci - ples used to gath - er in the name of
3 All our meals and all our liv - ing make as sac - ra -



in your name two or three are met to - geth - er,
Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the giv - er
ments of you, that by car - ing, help - ing, giv - ing,



you are in the midst of them. Al - le - lu - ia!
break the bread and bless the cup, Al - le - lu - ia!
we may be dis - ci - ples true. Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Touch we now your gar - ment's hem.
Al - le - lu - ia! so now bind our friend - ship up.
Al - le - lu - ia! We will serve with faith a - new.

Text: Percy Dearmer, 1867–1936, alt.
Music: UNION SEMINARY, Harold Friedell, 1905–1958
Text © Oxford University Press 1931. Used by permission.
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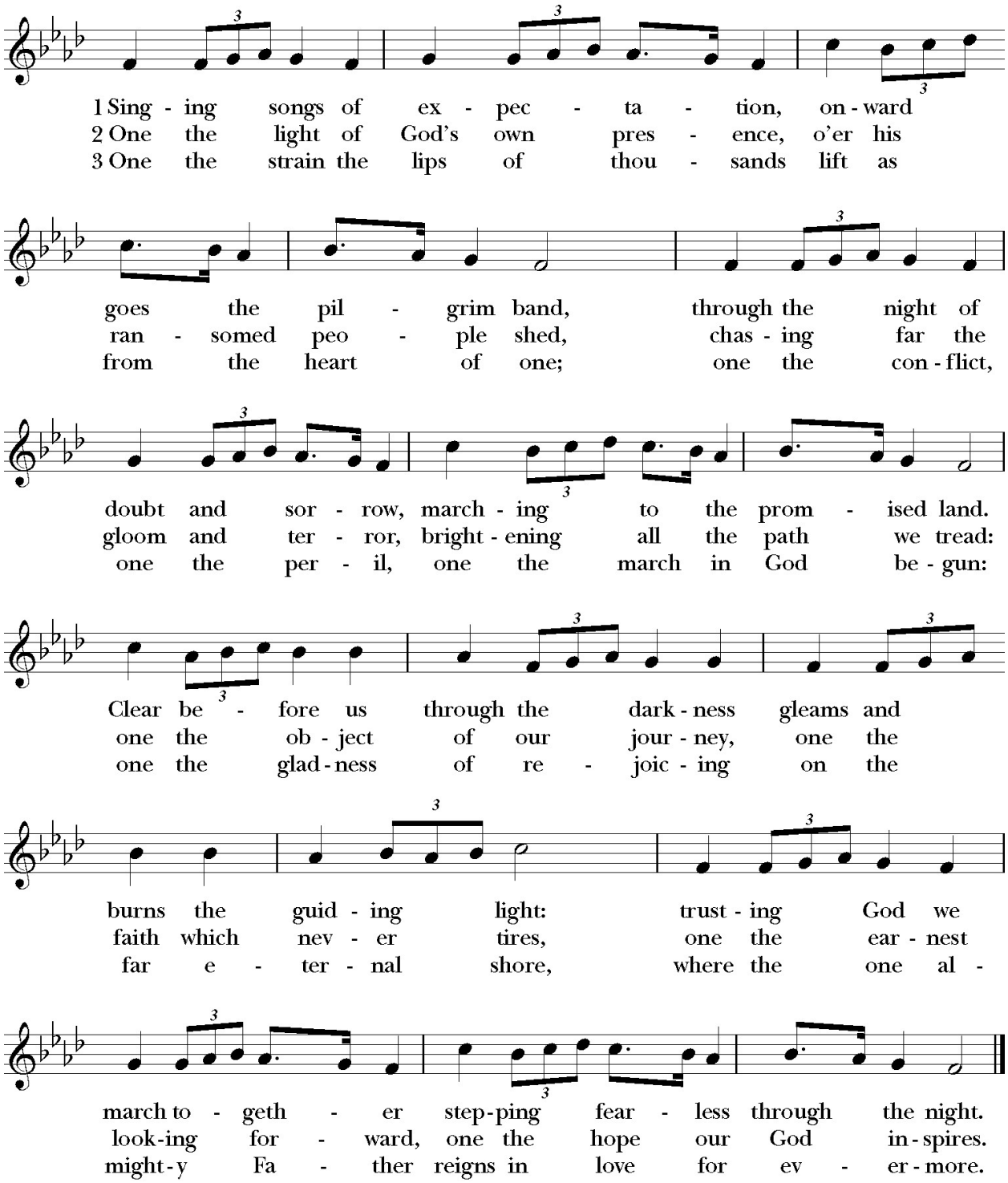
RECESSIONAL HYMN

Hymnal 1982, Hymn 527

Singing Songs of Expectation *Ton-y-Botel*



THIS WEEK AT ST. GREGORY'S

Tuesday, September 8

Centering Prayer at **6:30 PM** via Zoom. Contact Fr. Michael for access information.

Thursday, September 10

Holy Eucharist and Healing Service at **10:00 AM** in the Church.

Bible Study at **11:00 AM** in the Fireside Room.

Choir Rehearsal at **7:30 PM** in the Choir Room. Contact David York for more information.

Sunday, September 13 – Welcome Back Sunday and Patronal Festival

Holy Eucharist (with music) at **10:15 AM** in the Church and live streamed on the St. Gregory's Facebook page (https://facebook.com/stgregoryslongbeach/). Note that there will only be one service next Sunday.

Nursery Care is available on Sundays, starting at 7:45 AM, in the Nursery (Room 3)

Evening Prayer (Tuesday through Thursday)

Evening Prayer: Tuesday through Thursday at **5:00 PM** on the St. Gregory's Facebook page (https://facebook.com/stgregoryslongbeach/).

For Evening Prayer, you will need either a Book of Common Prayer *or you can download the Evening Prayer liturgy and the Psalms for the week from the St. Gregory's website (www.stgregoryschurch.com).*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, September 13 – Welcome Back Sunday/Patronal Festival/Parish Picnic/Ministry Fair

Some of you have noticed that we did not do our annual Mass in the Grass and Parish Picnic at the beginning of summer. For a variety of reasons, we decided to try something different. On Sunday, September 13th, we will have a festive event wrapping together our patronal feast day for St. Gregory the Great (slightly transferred), a "welcome back" celebration, and (back by popular demand) a ministry fair. We will have one service that day at 10:15 AM, followed by a parish lunch and ministry fair. And whatever else our Parish Life Committee has in store for us.

Saturday, September 19 – Deanery 8 Welcoming of Bishop Gallardo

On Saturday, September 19th at 11:00 AM, St. Gregory's will host the Deanery 8 event welcoming our new bishop, the Rt. Rev. Antonio Gallardo. This will be an opportunity to meet

and get to know Bishop Antonio and to hear a little about his vision for his episcopacy. A buffet lunch will be served.

Saturday, September 26 – Blessing of the Animals

We will have our annual Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, October 3rd at 10:00 AM. The brief service will include several prayers attributed to St. Francis followed by individual blessings of all animals present. For the comfort and safety of all concerned, human and non-human guests alike, we do ask that a few ground rules be honored. Please restrain all animals. They should be on leashes (if appropriate) or in carriers. And please clean up any messes your pet makes. If you are not able to, or are uncomfortable bringing your pet, or if your pet is uncomfortable coming out, you can bring a picture of your pet or one of your pet's favorite toys, which we will bless instead.

Sunday, September 27 – Music at 4

Join us in the Sanctuary on September 27th at 4:00pm-6:00pm to hear the music of Long Beach vocal jazz legend Dewey Erney who brings music from the American Song Book to St. Gregory's in a concert also featuring Tom Ranier- piano, Luther Hughes – bass and Kendall Kay – drums. Join us for an afternoon of musical favorites, performed by world-class local musicians.

Sunday, October 4 – Episcopal Visitation

It is the practice in the Diocese of Los Angeles that every congregation have an official visitation by a bishop every two years. This is our year. On Sunday, October 4th, we will have a visitation by the Rt. Rev. Frank Brookhart, retired Bishop of Montana and one of the Assisting Bishops in the Diocese of Los Angeles. We will have one service at 10:15 AM. The service will include the baptism of Henry Scott and the confirmation of Carrick Ahland. A parish lunch will follow the service.

Saturday, October 10 – Funeral for Gloria Neal

The funeral and celebration of life for Gloria Neal (Drew) will be held on Saturday, October 10th at 10:00 AM. A reception will follow in the Parish Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Help Needed Clearing Parish Hall: In preparation for having the Parish Hall floors cleaned, we need some volunteers to put away tables and chairs and to move any other obstructions following Coffee Hour TODAY! Thank you for your assistance!

St. Gregory's Choir: All singers are welcome to join St. Gregory's Choir this fall as we gather to support the congregation in hymns, liturgy and song each Sunday morning. If you enjoy singing you are invited to meet us in the Choir Room on Thursdays at 7:30 pm beginning September 3rd. For more information, please contact David York: york1635@aol.com.

Sewing Guild: The next meeting for the Long Beach American Sewing Guild group will be on Sunday September 20 from 1:00 – 3:30 PM in the Conference Room. Please notice that we are meeting on the 3rd Sunday of the month, rather than the 2nd Sunday of the month due to room scheduling conflicts. It appears that we will return to our regular 2nd Sunday of the month meeting in October. If you are interested in sewing, fabric arts, quilting or beading, please drop on in to see what we have to offer with our group. For further information, please contact Susan Mora (310)894-0731.

Sunday School Returns from Summer Hiatus: Sunday School will begin on September 27 at 10:15. We are excited to announce that we will have three classes based on the students we had in June and may need to be adjusted depending on enrollment. The classes are as follows: Beginners, grades K-2; Juniors, grades 3-4; and Seniors, grades 5-6. The beginners will focus on traditional Bible stories, while the juniors and seniors will study Lesson Plans that Work from the Episcopal Church based on the Gospel for that Sunday. We need four additional volunteers to be the second adult in our "new" room. Contact Tamera Benedict or Dana Linday with any questions and to sign up to volunteer.

Summer Pledge Payments: Summer is always a little bit rough for parish finances. Monthly income tends to drop due to parishioners being away on vacation. While our parishioners get to take vacations, the parish does not get a vacation from paying the bills. If at all possible, please keep up with your monthly pledge commitments during the summer months. It will make life a lot easier and less stressful for the Treasurer and the Finance Office. We are very grateful for your efforts to do so!

Air Conditioner Fund: As we recently informed the parish, we are having to replace the heating and air conditioning (HVAC) system in the Sanctuary, to the tune of $120,000. While we are able to cover the expense out of our reserves, this will greatly deplete those funds. We are asking that parishioners consider giving to help offset the cost of our new HVAC system. You can do so by writing a check to St. Gregory's with "HVAC" in the memo line. Or you can make a donation online through our parish website at https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z4WR/campaign/C-12C50 and put HVAC in the note box. Thank you for your generosity.

Columbarium Niches: Many people do not realize we have a columbarium at St. Gregory's. Having your ashes placed in the columbarium is a less expensive option than burial at a cemetery and provides for your continued presence in a place that has been important to you during your life. For more information, contact the Parish Office.

Vestry Minutes and Reports: Following Vestry meetings, the approved minutes and reports are posted on our parish website (https://stgregoryschurch.com/). Click on the "About" tab and the last option under the dropdown menu is "Vestry Minutes & Reports." Approved minutes (without reports) are also posted on the bulletin board outside the Fireside Room. In addition, anyone is free to review minutes and reports of previous meetings, available in the Parish Office.

Stitches of Faith: Are you looking for a space to share your creativity, enjoy fellowship, and be inspired? Stitches of Faith is a gathering for anyone who loves to craft—or wants to learn!

Whether you knit, crochet, quilt, paint, or want to try your hand at another craft, this group is open to all skill levels, including beginners eager to discover something new. We meet on Sundays from 1:00–3:30 PM in the Conference Room. Each week, we will enjoy time for projects, encouragement, and conversation in a relaxed, faith-filled environment. Light refreshments will be provided. Bring your supplies, your curiosity, and your kind spirit. Come create, connect, and grow in community with us!

Lend a Hand: Like any older building, St. Gregory's constantly needs maintenance and touching up. Fred Cornett has made up a list of things to do in the near future: Cleaning and arranging the janitor's closet and the storage areas, cleaning the trash cans, etc. Many hands make light work, and most of the jobs won't take much time if two or three people join in. There is a signup sheet in the narthex, and Fred is always available for consultation or questions: (562) 308-6955. Thanks, Fred, for getting the projects going!

Altar Flower Donations: Need a wonderful way to honor or remember a loved one or friend? Make a flower donation. There is a flower donation chart located on the Narthex wall that you can use to sign up for special dates to donate altar flowers. Simply fill out a donation form attached to the bottom of the chart and return the form to the Parish Office. Payment for flowers can be made by check or online at https://stgregoryschurch.com/4721-2. Make sure you specify your donation is for Altar Flowers. The Altar Guild thanks you.

Episcopal News Updates: The Diocese provides weekly email updates to help you keep informed about what's happening all over our six-county diocese. If you want to receive the Episcopal News, visit https://diocesela.org/episcopal-news/contact/ and enter your email address in the box provided.

Feed My Lambs and Food Bank: THANK YOU for your generosity and your donations. Here's the latest news on our parish feeding programs.

- **Feed My Lambs**
    - **Homemade cookies can be dropped off any time.** Please put your homemade cookies in Ziploc Bags and label them with the date and "FML" (this way we know they are for Feed My Lambs and not other purposes).
    - **Please do not bring hardboiled eggs.** Due to issues with eggs, we now have a dedicated team responsible for providing hardboiled eggs.
    - **Volunteers** – If you are interested in helping out Feed My Lambs, contact Tamera Benedict at (tlbenedict4@gmail.com, 562.301.6800).
- **Food Bank** The Food Bank relies on your financial support and appreciates all donations of funds or non-perishable food items. We also can use more volunteers at:
    - Bagging and distribution the THIRD WEDNESDAY of each month from 8:30 to 11:00 AM
    - Any other time you may have available and could assist with assembling our bags (e.g. on Sunday before or after service, or any time the office is open for access)

  Please contact the Parish Office (info@stgregoryschurch.com, 562.420.1311) or Bill Eldon (billeldon@gmail.com, 562.234.9920) for more information about the Food Bank.

Your continued support of our feeding ministries, through product and monetary contributions, is greatly appreciated!

Gratitude for Your Support of the Parish: We continue to be humbled and so incredibly grateful for your generosity in supporting our parish and its ministries! While you may not be able to drop your donation in a real offering plate, there are still ways you can make sure your donation gets to the parish:

- You can mail your check to the parish office.
- Make donations through our online payment account, accessible through the parish website at http://stgregoryschurch.com/4721-2/.
- Scan the QR code found in the Sunday bulletin.

And again, THANK YOU for your continued support!

Parish Directory: Our online parish directory is at https://www.instantchurchdirectory.com/. This is a secure site and can be accessed using the email address you had published in the parish directory. You can also download the "Instant Church Directory" on your smart phone. Versions are available for Android, iPhone, iPad, and Kindle.

One Body & One Spirit Annual Appeal: The Diocese has established an ongoing campaign focused on raising funds to assist congregations, schools, affiliated institutions, and their communities who are faced with unprecedented challenges. We are invited to prayerfully consider making a donation to help others in our Diocese who may have unmet needs. More information is available at https://diocesela.org/annual-appeal/.

Forward Day By Day: For those who use the Forward Day By Day booklet for personal devotions and need the newest edition mailed, please contact the Parish Office at 562-420-1311 or info@stgregoryschurch.com.

In Case of Emergency . . . Notify Your Priest! In the event of a hospital stay, illness, death in the family, or other pastoral emergency, please call Fr. Michael on his cell phone (909-373-6478). And PLEASE, no excuses about not wanting to bother me. That's why we are here – for YOU!

PRAYER LIST

Lydia Gibbs, Suzan Laverty, Martin Nemitz, Ferdinand Gonzalez, Patrick McDonough, Mike Laverty, Mother Beryl, Scott Morgan, Fran Luebben-Morgan, Harold Peacock, Rudy Revell, Jared Baker, Kimberly Bouzguenda, Shannon Romano, Ralph Tesla, Anne Cantrell, Matt Burger, Darlene Feit-Pretzer, Keeley Gilmore, Betty Peacock, Laura Mae Harper, Elizabeth Laursen, Eric Kela, Dodie Martin, Savannah Jimenez, Martha Wong, Carlos Cruz, Sean Wood, Marina Tesla, Nancy Luebben, Diane Duacsek, Michelle Morrill, Kira Dirghalli, Edith Finney, Paige Hardin, Marty Wong, Miriam Edwards, Charles H. Parks, Perry Nelson, Nellie Bell, Ernie and Vickie Morrison, Alison and Mick, Phyllis Comiskey, Brett W., Adan Murillo, Trisha Cookmeyer, Sally Blevins, Sue Davis, Jack Alt, Linda Elliott, Ron Dixon, Daryl Takaki, Paul Meyer, Juhani Palomaki, Jerry Simundson, Meg Wagner, Annette Ffrench, Barbara Barton, Rosan Curtis, Nick Playter, Mary Playter, Holly Smigelsky, Dennis Smigelsky, David Caffrey, Brigitta Spinocchia Freund, Casey Ramsdell, Maria Cortez, Gloria Smith, Lynda Hartman, Gary Laursen, Vivian Anaya-Outler, Lori Toups, Greg Highstand, Keith Johnson, JR Amos, Loretta Scott

Note: Unless we are aware of on-going concerns, names only stay on the Parish Prayer List for a month. If names need to be re-added, please notify the Parish Office.

ST. GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

6201 E. WILLOW STREET, LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90815
562-420-1311 WWW.STGREGORYSCHURCH.COM

WELCOME TO ST. GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH!

St. Gregory's is a warm and caring community of families and singles, young and old, committed to sharing the good news that Jesus is the Lord of all life. We are an Episcopal Church, having members from all backgrounds and religious traditions, many of us had no church involvement before coming here. We want to offer to you the same welcome and friendship that were extended to us when we came to St. Gregory's.

ST. GREGORY'S MISSION STATEMENT

God has called us into Christian community and gifted us for ministry:
To worship and glorify God
To transform faith into action
To share the love of Jesus Christ

The Right Rev. Dr. Antonio José Gallardo Lucena
Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles

The Rev. Michael K. Fincher, Rector
rector@stgregoryschurch.com

David York, Music Director & Organist
york1635@aol.com

David Sachs, Parish Administrator
info@stgregoryschurch.com

Parish Office Hours: 9:00am-12:00pm, Monday – Friday
www.stgregoryschurch.com