St. Monica's Episcopal Church

Where we "Pray, Love, Give"

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

Saturday 5:00pm November 7, 2026
Sunday 10:00am November 8, 2026

Welcome to Saint Monica's Episcopal Church. We rejoice that you came to our church today, and we hope that you feel at home here.

As an Episcopal Church, we believe the mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. The Church pursues its mission as it prays and worships, proclaims the Gospel, and promotes justice, peace, and love. The church carries out its mission through the ministry of all its members.

(Book of Common Prayer, p. 855)

As you consider what brought you here, perhaps seeking spiritual growth, looking for community, or responding to a simple invitation, please take a moment to look at the opportunities listed in the announcements included with this bulletin to find ways to grow in your faith and find a place of welcome. If you have any questions about how you can take part in the community of St. Monica's or about the Episcopal Church, please feel free to contact The Rev. Sylvia Czarnetzky, Interim Rector or The Rev. Ken McCaslin, Deacon.

Again, we are glad you are here at Saint Monica's Episcopal Church where all are welcome.

**** Please remember to silence your electronic devices during the service. ****

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Please stand as you are able

Processional Hymn **How Firm a Foundation, Ye Saints** **Hymn 637**

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant 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 **Gloria in Excelsis** **S–278**

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.

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.**

The Word of God

Please be seated
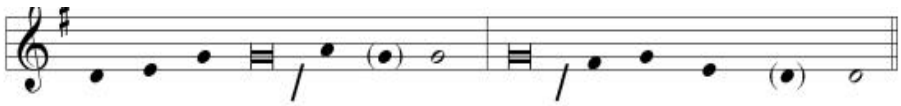
The First Lesson Joshua 24:1–3a, 14–25

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. "Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God." But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the LORD,

for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the LORD!" Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

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

Psalm *Attendite, populo* **Psalm 78:1–7**



All 1 Hear my teaching, O my / people;*
incline your ears to the / words of my mouth.
Women 2 I will open my mouth in a / parable;*
I will declare the myster/ies of ancient times.
Men 3 That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have / told us,*
we will not hide / from their children.
Women 4 We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the / LORD,*
and the wonderful / works he has done.
Men 5 He gave his decrees to Jacob and established a law for / Israel,*
which he commanded them to / teach their children;
Women 6 That the generations to come might know, and the children / yet unborn;*
that they in their turn might tell it / to their children;
All 7 So that they might put their / trust in God,*
and not forget the deeds of God, but keep / his commandments;

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

Gradual Hymn **Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God** **Hymn 711**
(verses 1 & 2)

The Gospel Matthew 25:1–13

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

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with

them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open for us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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

Hymn **Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God** **Hymn 711**
(verse 3)

The Sermon **The Rev. Jean Hite**

Please stand as you are able

The Nicene Creed Page 358, BCP

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.

Please stand or kneel as you are able.

The Prayers of the People **Form VI**

Reader In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

Reader For all people in their daily life and work;
People **For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**
Reader For this community, the nation, and the world;
People **For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**
Reader For the just and proper use of your creation;
People **For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**
Reader For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
People **For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**
Reader For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
People **For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**
Reader For Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Douglas, our Bishop; Sylvia and Jean, our priests; Ken, our deacon; and for all bishops and other ministers;
People **For all who serve God in his Church.**
Reader For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions.

Reader Hear us, Lord;
People **For your mercy is great.**
Reader We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence

The People may add their own thanksgivings.

Reader We will exalt you, O God our King;
People **And praise your Name for ever and ever.**
Reader 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.

Reader Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
People **Who put their trust in you.**
Reader We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence may be kept.

All **Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Absolution

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.**

Please stand as you are able.

The Peace

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

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts.

Offertory

Please stand as you are able.

Presentation

Celebrant: All things come of thee, O Lord,
People: **And of thine own have we given thee.**

Please stand as you are able.

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer C, BCP 369

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant continues:

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 Lord** **Hymn S–125**

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

Please stand or kneel as 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.

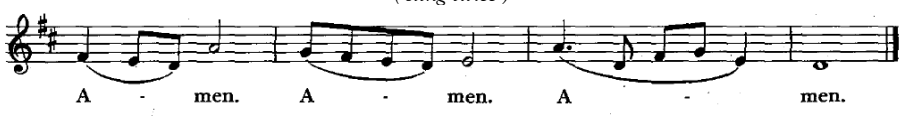
Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the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

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

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

Great Amen **Amen** **S–146**

(sung twice)



And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem **Jesus, Lamb of God** **Hymn S–164**

You are invited and encouraged to come to God's table. The communion bread is received on an outstretched palm.
If you wish to receive a blessing instead of the sacrament, please cross your arms over your chest.
Gluten-free bread is available upon request.

Communion Hymn **Eat This Bread (Taizé)** **Insert**

Sending Prayer *(as needed)*

Clergy *Most Gracious God, we send forth your servants bearing these Holy Gifts, that those to whom they go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood.*

People ***We who are many are one body, because we all share in the Body and Blood of Christ. Amen.***

Please stand as you are able.

Post Communion Prayer Page 366, BCP

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 your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen*

The Blessing

Response: Amen.

Recessional Hymn **O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing** **Hymn 493**

The Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

What is St. Monica's about?

As an Episcopal Church, we believe the mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. The Church pursues its mission as it prays and worships, proclaims the Gospel, and promotes justice, peace, and love. The church carries out its mission through the ministry of all its members. *(Book of Common Prayer, p. 855)*

Within this framework, St. Monica's maintains a culture where …

- We warmly welcome all. We affirm the dignity of all humanity through a warm and friendly welcome.
- We connect with the community. We support ministries with our talents, finances, and passions.
- We cultivate a culture that welcomes children and youth, affirming them in their baptismal identity and that they are children of God with gifts to offer to the church.
- Music plays a vital role in our worship and outreach to the community.
- Through prayer, friendship, and community, God's Spirit heals us.
- Fun is a high value in our community and is woven throughout our congregational life.
- We open ourselves to the Spirit. We have a long history of trying new ventures and ministries. Within the framework of our Episcopal values, we are open to change.

LECTORS THIS WEEK

5pm Jim Sarconi
10am Betty Devlin

USHERS THIS WEEK

5pm Lynn Cutrone
Linda Duffy
10am Janet Perna

FLOWER GUILD MEMBERS

Debbie Corey
Sharon Lapierre

GREETERS THIS WEEK

5pm JoAnn Sarconi
10am Sandy Kilmon

ACOLYTES THIS WEEK

5pm Kathy Crevier
10am Donna Cotè

CAMERA TEAM

Tom Cotè
Matt Devlin
Ashan Nabbie
Jim Sarconi
Kyle Williamson

ALTAR GUILD MEMBERS

Linda Duffy
Linda Freund
Mary Gentzle
Sandy Kilmon
Stacey McCurdy
Theresa Miller
JoAnn Sarconi
Ruthann Turley
Heather Williamson

VESTRY Ed Strong - Sr. Warden, Ralph Pike - Jr. Warden, Heather Williamson - Secretary
Melanie Rose, Marilynn Dessauer, Margaret Holt, Dick Rumpf, Betty Devlin, Kathy Connelly

STAFF	INTERIM RECTOR	The Rev. Sylvia Czarnetzky	sylviac@stmonicasnaples.org
	DEACON	The Rev. Ken McCaslin	ken@stmonicasnaples.org
	ORGANIST / CHOIR DIRECTOR	Allen Stock	allen@stmonicasnaples.org
	ADMINISTRATOR / BOOKKEEPER	Laura K. Stamper	administrator@stmonicasnaples.org
	DIRECTOR OF FINANCE	Joe Master	jmaster@stmonicasnaples.org
	SEXTON	Cesar Guzman	info@stmonicasnaples.org
SUPPORT	COMMUNITY NURSE	Susan Docimo RN	nurse@stmonicasnaples.org
	TREASURER	Scott McCurdy	scott.f.mccurdy@gmail.com

www.stmonicasnaples.org | welcome@stmonicasnaples.org | 239.591.4550

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