

# St. Monica's Episcopal Church

Where we "Pray, Love, Give"

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## EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

#### PROPER 21

Saturday 5:00pm September 26, 2026

Sunday 10:00am September 27, 2026

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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

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

**Hymn 690**

### 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, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## The Word of God

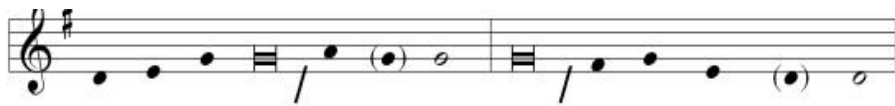
*Please be seated*

### The First Lesson

Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

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



- 1 Hear my teaching, O my / people;\*
- incline your ears to the / words of my mouth.
- 2 I will open my mouth in a / parable;\*
- I will declare the myster/ies of ancient times.
- 3 That which we have heard and known, and what our forefathers have / told us, \*
- we will not hide / from their children.
- 4 We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the / LORD, \*
- and the wonderful / works he has done.
- 12 He worked marvels in the sight of their / forefathers, \*
- in the land of Egypt, in the / field of Zoan.
- 13 He split open the sea and let them / pass through; \*
- he made the waters / stand up like walls.
- 14 He led them with a / cloud by day, \*
- and all the night through / with a glow of fire.
- 15 He split the hard rocks in the / wilderness \*
- and gave them drink as / from the great deep.
- 16 He brought streams out of the / cliff, \*
- and the waters gushed / out like rivers.

## Second Reading

Philippians 2:1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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

## Gradual Hymn

*Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing*  
(verses 1 & 2 only)

Hymn 344

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

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ‘What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?’” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

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

## Hymn

*Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing*  
*(verse 3 only)*

Hymn 344

## 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;                                                                                         |
| <b>People</b> | <b>For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.</b>                                                                    |
| Reader        | For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;                                                                            |
| <b>People</b> | <b>For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.</b>                                                             |
| Reader        | For the peace and unity of the Church of God;                                                                                         |
| <b>People</b> | <b>For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.</b>                                                                   |
| Reader        | For Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Douglas, our Bishop; Sylvia, our priest; Ken, our deacon; and<br>for all bishops and other ministers; |
| <b>People</b> | <b>For all who serve God in his Church.</b>                                                                                           |
| Reader        | For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.                                                                              |

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions.*

|               |                                                         |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Reader        | Hear us, Lord;                                          |
| <b>People</b> | <b>For your mercy is great.</b>                         |
| 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;                                                 |
| <b>People</b> | <b>And praise your Name for ever and ever.</b>                                     |
| 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;         |
| <b>People</b> | <b>Who put their trust in you.</b>                   |
| Reader        | We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins. |

*Silence may be kept.*

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

## 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. |
| <b>People</b> | <b>And also with you.</b>                 |

# 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,            |
| <b>People:</b> | <b>And of thine own have we given thee.</b> |

*Please stand as you are able.*

## The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer C, BCP 369

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

*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, Holy Lord*

Hymn S-125

**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

repeat x2



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

What Wondrous Love Is This

Hymn 439

*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

Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

Hymn 344

The Dismissal

Deacon 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 Lorraine Ciano  
10am Debbie Corey

#### USHERS THIS WEEK

5pm Nancy Moritz  
Linda Duffy  
10am Betty Devlin

#### FLOWER GUILD MEMBERS

Debbie Corey  
Sharon Lapierre

#### GREETERS THIS WEEK

5pm JoAnn Sarconi  
10am Joan Lazarus

#### ACOLYTES THIS WEEK

5pm Kathy Crevier  
10am Debbie Corey

#### CAMERA TEAM

Tom Coté  
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

DEACON

ORGANIST / CHOIR DIRECTOR

ADMINISTRATOR / BOOKKEEPER

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

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