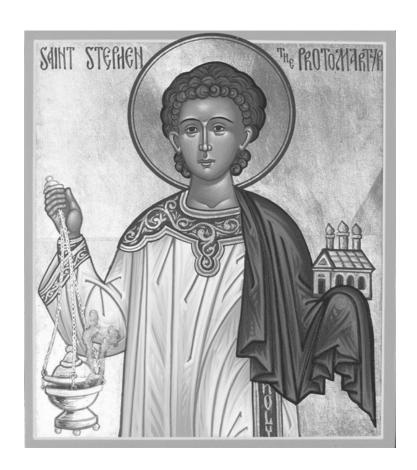
# GRACE AND ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



# THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE I

December 14, 2025

8:00AM & 10:30AM

### WELCOME TO GRACE AND ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

During this Advent season we are called to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ – the Christ who, we believe, is always making himself known to us in ways both familiar and surprising. We pray that the Spirit is even today readying your heart. Thank you for joining us today. We are glad you chose to worship with us during this beautiful season.

# THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 14, 2025

## Today's Announcements

- Adult Formation: Living Compass Advent with Fr Robert, 9:15am, Rm 211
- Sunday School, 10:15am, Lower Level
- Little Pantry Collection, 9:15-12pm, Taft Hall
- Kylen and Toby Jaynes' Girl and Boy Scout Troops are collecting **gently used shoes** for an overseas mission donation. Shoes can be placed in the collection box in Parish Hall.
- Farewell for Joel Trekell, Music Director, 12pm, Parish Hall
- If you missed getting a copy of the 'Living Well Through Advent 2025' devotional, you can download a free copy here:

# This week at Grace and St. Stephen's

- Mon. Dec. 15 Noonday Prayer with the Anglican Rosary, 12pm, St. Stephen's Chapel
- Tues. Dec. 16 Morning Prayer, 9am, on Facebook Women's Book Group, 10am, Room 211
- women's Book Group, 10am, Room 211
- Wed. Dec. 17 Holy Eucharist, 5pm, St. Stephen's Chapel
  Communal Supper, 5:30pm & Bible Study, 6pm, Parish Hall
  St. Nicholas Choir (Music Theory, 5pm & Rehearsal, 6pm) Children's Music Room
- Thur. Dec. 18 Morning Prayer, 9am, on Facebook
  Prayer Shawl Ministry, 4pm, Blaik Library
  Conversation, Contemplative Prayer & Compline, 6:15pm, Blaik Library
- Fri. Dec. 19 Chanted Noonday Prayer, 12pm, St. Stephen's Chapel
- Sat. Dec 20 Christmas Caroling, 3pm, Meet in Parish Hall & Carpool to Mackenzie House Children's Pageant Rehearsal, 10am-12pm, Meet in Children's Chapel

# Looking ahead

- Sun. Dec. 21 Decorate the church for Christmas, 12pm, Nave
- Wed. Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Services

**3:30pm** Christmas Pageant & Holy Eucharist - Nursery Available & Facebook Livestream *The children help tell the timeless story of the birth of Jesus.* 

7pm Holy Eucharist (6:30pm pre-service music) - Nursery Available & Facebook Livestream Celebrate the Feast of the Nativity at this joyous service, rich in timeless Christmas beauty

11pm Holy Eucharist (pre-service music at 10:30 pm) - Incense Present In the stillness of the holy night, celebrate the birth of Christ during a High Choral Mass

Thur. Dec. 25 Holy Eucharist, 10am, Nave

For more information on these, and all programs here at Grace and St. Stephen's, please visit www.gssepiscopal.org

2026 Annual Giving Update: Households with Intentions: 142 Total: \$566,920.08

As we prepare for the Advent season, you're invited to contribute toward decorations and music—both of which help create a warm, prayerful, and joyful atmosphere. Your gift brings light, beauty, and song to our worship as we await the coming of Christ. If your donation is made in memory or honor of someone special, please indicate that in the memo line Donations must be submitted by December 15th to be included in the Christmas Eve Bulletin. Donations received after that date will be acknowledged in the January 2026 newsletter.



# THE WORD OF GOD

Voluntary: Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen

Johannes Brahms

### The people stand.



Wachet auf



- 1. "Sleep-ers, wake!" A voice a-stounds us,
- 2. Zi on hears the watch men sing ing;
- 3. Lamb of God, the heavens a dore you

the shout of ram-part-guards sur-rounds - us: her heart with joy - ful hope is spring - ing, let saints and an - gels sing be - fore you,



"A - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!" Mid-night's peace their cry has bro - ken, she wakes and hur-ries through the night. Forth he comes, her Bride-groom glo - rious as harps and cym-bals swell the sound. Twelve great pearls, the ci - ty's por - tals:



their ur-gent sum-mons clear - ly spo - ken: in strength of grace, in truth vic - to - rious: through them we stream to join the im-mor - tals "The time has come, O maid - ens wise! her star is risen, her light grows bright. as we with joy your throne sur - round.



Rise up, and give us light; Now come, most wor - thy Lord, No eye has known the sight, the Bride-groom is in sight. Al - le - lu - ia! God's Son, In - car-nate Word, Al - le - lu - ia! no ear heard such de - light: Al - le - lu - ia!



Your lamps pre-pare and We fol-low all and There-fore we sing to has - ten there, that you the wed-ding heed your call to come in - to the greet our King; for ev - er let our feast may share." ban - quet hall. prais - es ring.

Words: Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608); tr. Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944)

Music: melody Hans Sachs (1494-1576); adapt. Philipp nicolai (1556-1608); arr. and harm. J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

### **OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT**

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The celebrant reads a sentence of scripture.

### Confession of Sin

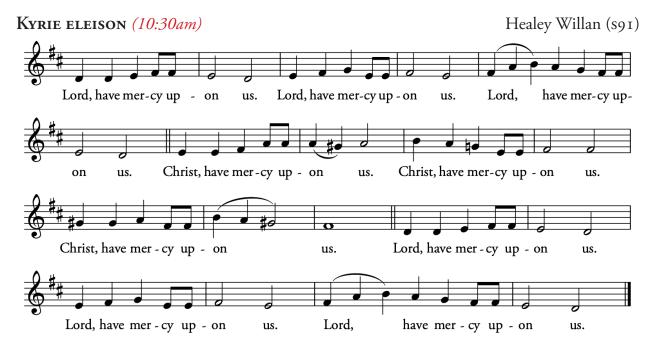
Please kneel.

**Deacon** Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Amighty and most merciful father, we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, we have offended against thy holy laws, we have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, spare thou those who confess their faults, restore thou those who are penitent, according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord; and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

### Kyrie eleison (8:00am)

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.



### Celebrant

THE ALMIGHTY and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. Amen.

### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you. *People* And with thy spirit.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Stir up thy power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let thy bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

The people sit.

### THE FIRST LESSON

*Reader* A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

[35:1-10]

THE WILDERNESS and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

### CANTICLE 15: THE SONG OF MARY

Magnificat, Mode 8

8am: Read responsively by whole verse; 10:30am: Sung by a cantor

Y SOUL proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children for ever.

### THE EPISTLE

*Reader* A Reading from the Letter of James.

[5:7-10]

BE PATIENT, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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

The people stand.

Hymn 67: Comfort, comfort ye my people (10:30am)

Psalm 42



Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878); Music: Claude Goudimel (1514-1572)

### THE GOSPEL

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

[11:2-11]

People Glory be to thee, O Lord.

WHEN JOHN heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The people sit.

SERMON The Rev. Dr. Robert Black

### Questions for Reflection

- What are you waiting for?
- When do you find yourself asking God, "How long?"
- Are there questions and doubts that you have?
- Are there things on your mind that you'd like to talk about?
- What Good News has God given you to share?
- Do you find that your expectations get in the way?
- Where do you encounter joy?
- Use Mary's words of joy this week: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

A period of silence is observed before the Creed.

THE NICENE CREED (The people stand)

We Believe In One God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (The people stand or kneel)

BCP pg. 328

THE PEACE (The people stand)

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

People And with thy spirit.

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

Announcements

### THE HOLY COMMUNION

### **OFFERTORY SENTENCE**

The people sit.

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

Give here:



OFFERTORY ANTHEM: People, look East (10:30am)

Besançon Carol, harm. John L. Hooker

People, look East. The time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table. People, look East and sing today: Love the guest is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there: Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flow'r may flourish. People, look East and sing today: Love the rose is on the way.

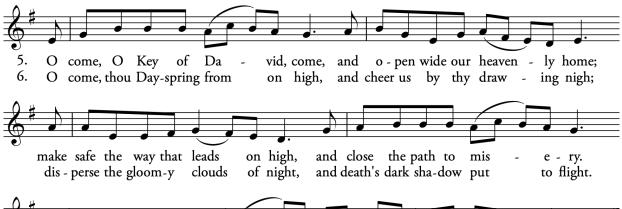
Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim, shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together. People, look East and sing today: Love the star is on the way.

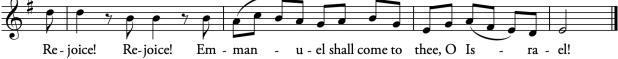
Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth. Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People, look East and sing today: Love the Lord is on the way.

Presentation Hymn: Hymn 56, vv. 5 & 6

Veni, veni, Emmanuel

The people stand





Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent; ver. Hymnal 1940, alt.

Music: Plainsong, mode 1, adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890)

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer I

CelebrantThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd with thy spirit.CelebrantLift up your hearts.

People We lift them up unto the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

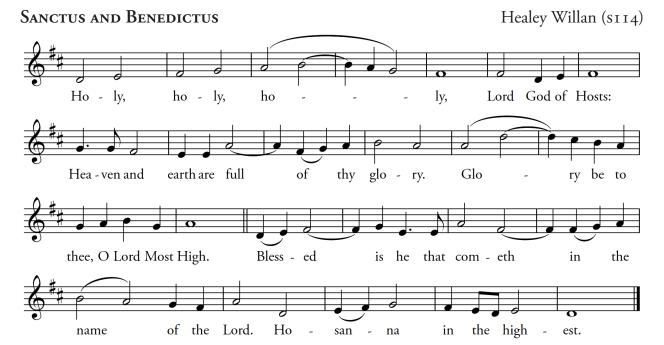
People It is meet and right so to do.

### Celebrant

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Because thou didst send thy beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,



### The people kneel or stand.

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself, once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins,

and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.** 

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

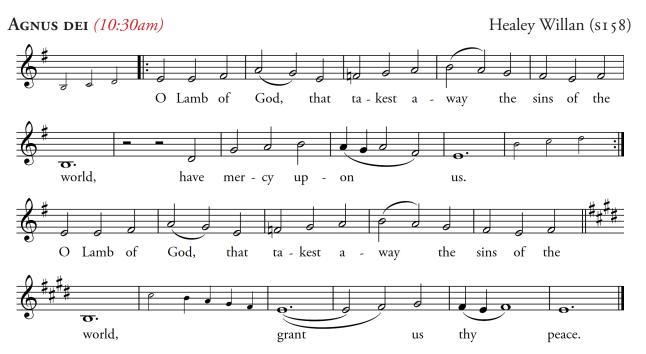
### THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

### 8AM SERVICE:

- O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
- O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
- O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.



### PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

Celebrant and People

We not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

### Celebrant

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.

### The people sit.

### THE ADMINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

The celebration of the Holy Eucharist has been called the "source and summit" of the faith and it is central to our identity, as in this sacred meal we are gathered in beloved community, made present to the Passion of our Lord, and nourished in God's abundant love in the Body and Blood of Christ, the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation. Therefore, all are welcome and invited to come forward to participate in the grace and peace of Communion. There are a few ways that you can do this:

- Receive both the bread and wine: Place one palm on top of the other and you will be given a piece of bread, which you consume. Please do not take the bread, but allow the clergy to place it on your palm. When the chalice comes to you, please assist by guiding the chalice to your lips. Please note that there is no self-intincting (dipping) of the bread into the chalice.
  - If, due to illness or preference, you are not able to drink from the chalice, place your palms face down before receiving the bread. The clergy will then intinct (dip) the bread into the chalice for you. Turn your palms over to receive.
    - If you need to receive a <u>gluten-free</u> wafer, please let the clergy person distributing bread know. You will be given wine from a separate chalice for those receiving gluten-free wafers.
- <u>Receive only the bread:</u> Cross your arms across your chest after receiving the bread to indicate that you do not wish to receive the chalice.
- <u>Receive a prayer of blessing:</u> If you prefer not to receive Communion, or are not Baptized, cross your arms across your chest before receiving the bread. All Baptized Christians (in any tradition or denomination) are welcome to receive Communion. If you are not Baptized and desire to be a part of and receive the Body of Christ, please speak with our clergy.

Please fill the Altar Rail from right to left (wall to the middle on the right side & middle to wall on the left side), return to your pew via the side aisles. You may kneel or stand to receive. If you need Communion brought to you in the pew, please let an usher know.

As you wait to go forward to receive Communion, or afterward, you might find prayers 66 & 67 on page 834 of the Prayer Book to be helpful. It is our intention that as we share in this Sacrament that we behold what we are and become what we receive.

### Hymn (wlp) 722: The desert shall rejoice (10:30am)

Sterling

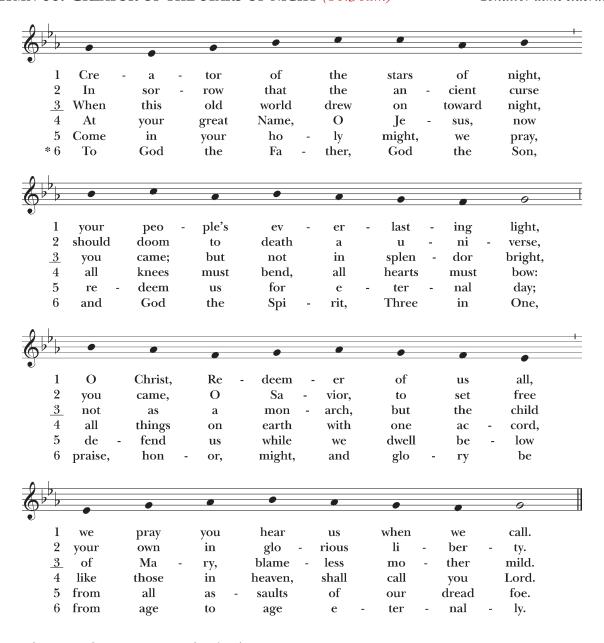


- 5. The desert shall rejoice and blossom as a rose: as the ransomed return to God and come singing back to Zion.
- 6. The desert shall rejoice and blossom as a rose: unto Zion we come with joy, for our God has come to save us.

Words: Gracia Grindal (b. 1943) Music: Joy F. Patterson (b. 1931)

Hymn 60: Creator of the stars of night (10:30am)

Conditor alme siderum



Words: Latin, 9th cent.; ver. Hymnal 1940, alt.

Music: plainsong, Mode 4

The people stand or kneel.

### Post-Communion Prayer

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

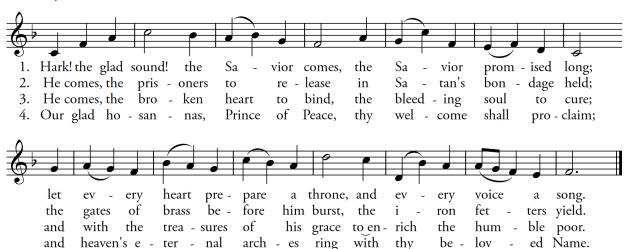
Athese holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

### THE BLESSING

### The people stand.

### Hymn 72: Hark! the glad sound! the Savior comes

Richmond



**Words**: Philip Doddridge (1702-1751) **Music:** harm. *The English Hymnal* 

### THE DISMISSAL

The Deacon dismisses the people, who respond: Thanks be to God.

**VOLUNTARY:** March on "Lift up your heads"

Alexandre Guilmant

**Birthdays:** Katie Dunbar, Larry Paulson, Pierce O'Neil, Joy Hennigan, Tere Arana, Patrick Mink, Eila McMillin, Robert Pearson, Carys Novak, Bode O'Neil, Aila Garcia-Fahey, Anne Cook, Joanne Dewberry, Lanny Adams, Mark Basenberg, Sarah Arehart

Anniversaries: Mark & Martha Basenberg, Bryan & Vanessa Womack, Bill & Corinne Shaffer

### We pray for those who are sick, in trouble, or in harm's way:

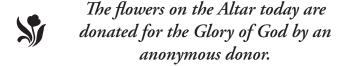
Those in crisis of health or circumstance: Gus Gustafson, Debra Millsap, Calvin Wulf, Marcus

*Those who have died and those who grieve:* Martha deUlibarri, Doris Hardy (friend of Leigh MacHaffie), Sue Stoner, Beverly Verbridge (mother of Susan Paulson)

Those in need of ongoing prayer: Canon Jon Anderson, Laura Bayless, Lee Ehrhart, Mary Ellis, John Hough, Annika Johnson, Dorothy Kipp, Devon Mack, John McVikcer, Ed Quinn, Edie Reichert, Jill Wasinger, Pete Zobenica, Alice, Ericka, Jennifer, Oliver & family, Nancy, Wes

Those in harm's way: Mark Jaskot, Bill Mack, Rachel Pearson, Adam Tayhar, Marcus

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The Rev. Dr. Robert Black, Rector
The Rev. Katie Presley, Priest Associate
Sr. Marcella Taylor, Children's Formation Minister
Denise Gustafson, Interim Youth Group Co-Leader
Katherine Murphy, Interim Youth Group Co-Leader
Amily Beidelman-Almy, Director of Engagement & Finance
Joseph Gilbert, Sexton

The Rev. Kris Lewis, Deacon
The Rev. Sam Pillsbury, Deacon
Clare Davis, Nursery Director
Joel Trekell, Director of Music & Organist
John Herman, Assistant Director of Music
Emily Rueber, Church Administrator



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