GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

November 8, 2026 – The Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

8:30 Bulletin

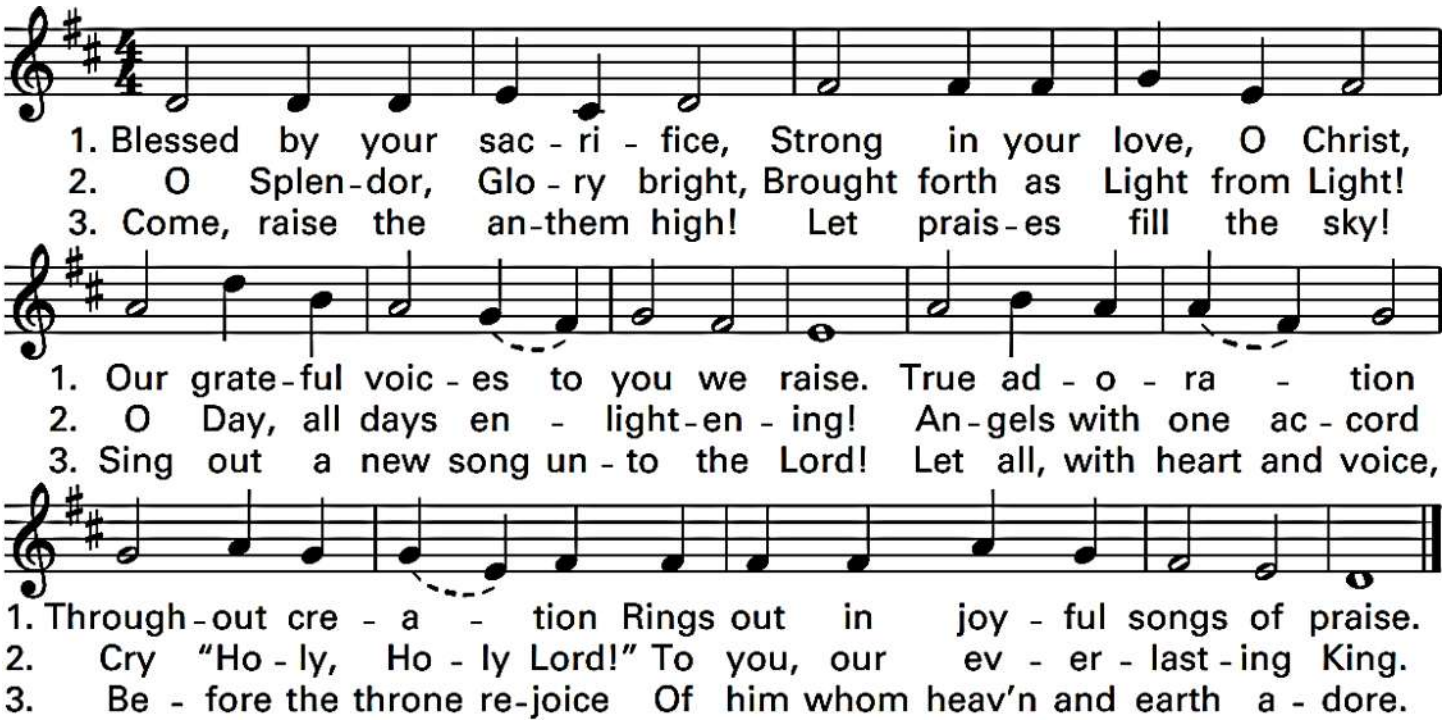
LITURGICAL SEASON EXPLAINED

The Season after Pentecost is not actually a liturgical season with a common focus, rather, it is just the weeks between the Day of Pentecost and the First Sunday of Advent. This period is often referred to as "Ordinary Time" and the liturgical color is **green**. These are the ordinary days in which we live our Christian faith in the regular routine of daily life. This seems simple enough, but the way the Sundays are counted on the calendar gets a bit confusing. It begins with the First Sunday after Pentecost and then counts sequentially until the 24th Sunday after Pentecost which is Christ the King, the Sunday before Thanksgiving. If it stopped here that would be clear, but each Sunday during this time is also given another title: Proper 7-29 where the numbers do not coincide with the numbered Sundays after Pentecost. This proper numbering system is based on the moveable date of Easter. Honestly, there is no need to be concerned about this numbering framework, just focus on the ordinary daily life of Jesus as he goes about teaching, healing, and loving people as you live your ordinary life each day!

PRESENTATION OF THE FLAGS

OPENING HYMN: Blessed By Your Sacrifice

Please stand as you are able





ACCLAMATION *BCP p. 355*

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

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. AMEN.**

Celebrant continues:

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 *BCP p. 356*

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

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.**

This Week's Reader: ***Cheryle Kahl*** ✞ *Next Sunday:* ***Karen Davenport***

FIRST READING Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 *Please be seated*

Reader A reading from the book of Joshua.

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 78:1-7

*Verses read alternately by the reader and the people, breaking at the **

[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 mysteries 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.

[5]He gave his decrees to Jacob
and established a law for Israel,*
which he commanded them to teach their children;

[6]That the generations to come might know,
and the children yet unborn;*
that they in their turn might tell it to their children;

[7]So that they might put their trust in God,*
and not forget the deeds of God,
but keep his commandments.

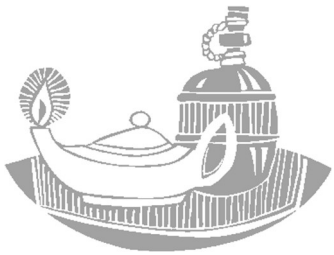
SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Reader A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

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.**



GOSPEL HYMN: Give Me Oil In My Lamp

Please stand as you are able



GOSPEL Matthew 25:1-13 The Rev. Chris Humphrey

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord 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 to 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 our Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

SERMON The Rev. Chris Humphrey *Please be seated*

NICENE CREED *BCP p. 358* *Please stand as you are able*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by

the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

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

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

The Leader and people pray responsively:

We pray for those who have served our nation, and for those who have laid down their lives to protect our country.
Hear us, O God.

We pray for those who have fought, for those whose spirits and bodies are scarred by war, whose nights are haunted by memories too painful for the light of day.
Hear us, O God.

Comfort our ill and wounded veterans who languish in hospitals or homes. Lighten their burdens; relieve their suffering and pain.
Hear us, O God.

We pray for those who serve us now, especially for those in harm's way. Shield them from danger and bring them home.
Hear us, O God.

Watch over all those who live and work in war-torn areas of the world, especially in Ukraine, the Middle East, Haiti, and Sudan.
Hear us, O God.

Grant your healing grace to all who are sick, injured, or disabled due to war and violence.
Hear us, O God.

Bless physicians, nurses, medics, chaplains, and all others who minister to the suffering and injured in time of war.

Hear us, O God.

Look with compassion on all victims of war; ease their sufferings and heal their wounds.
Hear us, O God.

Put an end to wars over all the earth, and hasten the day when the human family will rejoice in lasting peace.
Hear us, O God.

Restore to wholeness all those who are grieving, suffering, or in pain, especially those on our prayer list. Are there others?

We humbly pray:
Hear us, O God.

Be with all of those who are close to death and those who have died, as well as their families and caregivers.
Hear us, O God.

CONCLUDING COLLECT

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.**



RECOGNITION OF OUR VETERANS

Celebrant continues:

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the women and men of our armed forces both present and past. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be seated

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Please stand as you are able

Celebrant May God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant continues:

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, O God, Creator of heaven and earth.

And now we give you thanks because you prepared the way of your Son Jesus by the preaching of your servant John the Baptist, who proclaimed him as the Lamb of God, our Savior.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

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.

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus our Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, Jesus took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; 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 shed for you and for many 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.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in

him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus our Christ. For it is by him, with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, that all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER *BCP p. 364*

Celebrant:

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

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

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Celebrant The Gifts of God for all of us, the holy People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died and rose for us, and feed on him in your hearts by faith and with thanksgiving.

COMMUNION *Please be seated*

<u>*Communion at Grace is Open to Everyone*</u>

Whoever you are, wherever you find yourself on the journey of faith, there is a place for you at God's table. You may choose to receive bread (gluten free wafers available upon request). You may choose to receive wine in the silver chalice or grape juice in the white and blue chalice. You may drink from either cup or intinct (dip) the bread into the chalice. You may refrain from the bread and chalice and just receive a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER *BCP p. 366*

Please stand as you are able

After Communion, the Celebrant says:

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People:

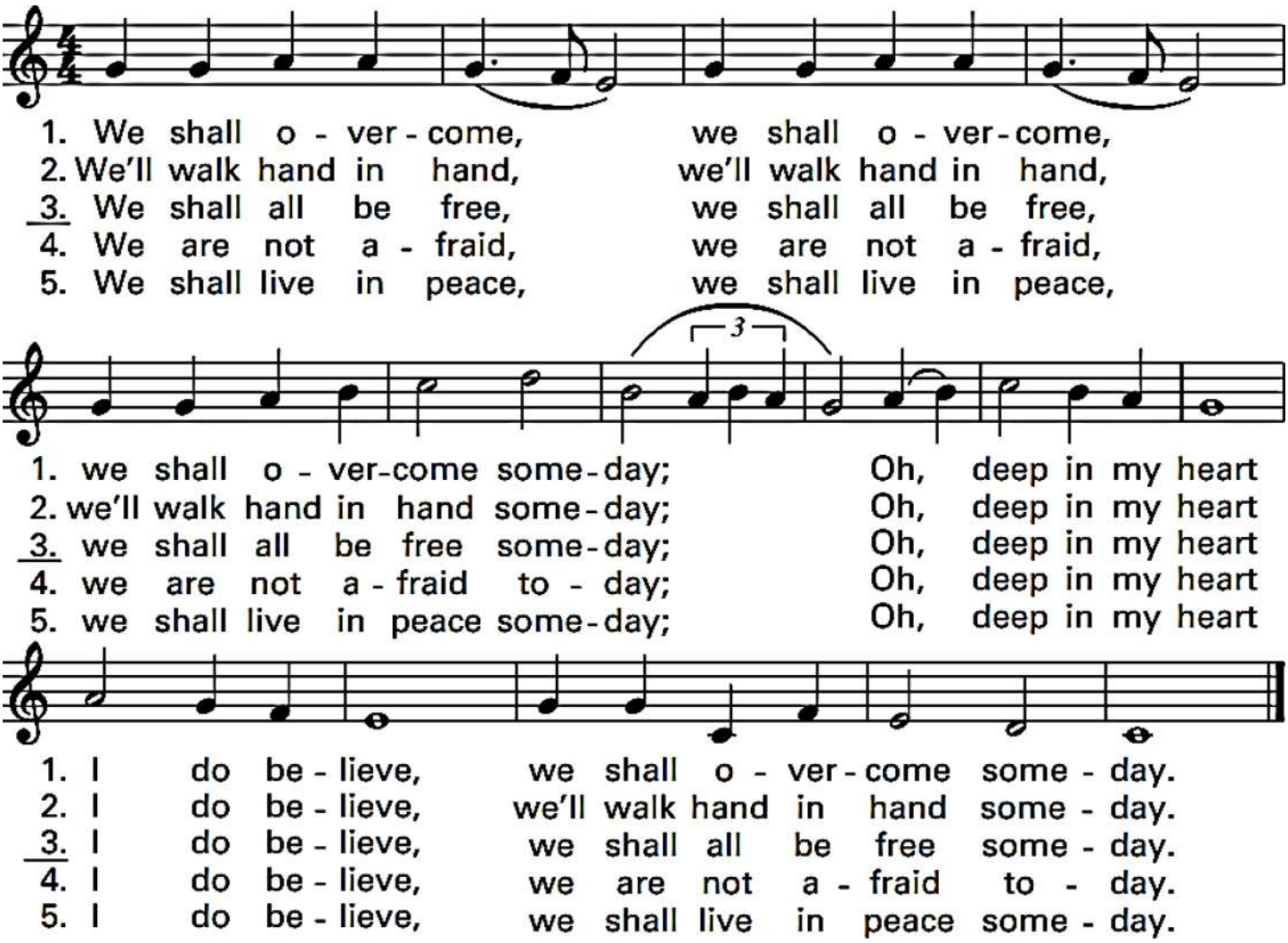
Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart through Christ our Lord. AMEN.



BLESSING

May the blessing of God Almighty—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit—be with you this day and forevermore. **AMEN.**

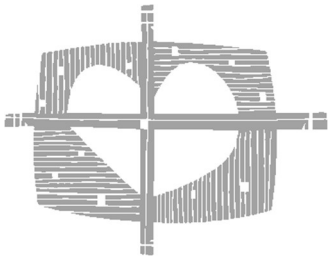
CLOSING HYMN: We Shall Overcome



DISMISSAL

Celebrant Our worship has now ended; go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**



The Prayers of this Congregation

Sean Rowe, our Presiding Bishop; our Bishop, Bonnie Anne Perry; Moises Quezada Mota, Bishop of the Diocese of the Dominican Republic; Elizabeth Eaton, ELCA Presiding Bishop; Donald P. Kreiss, ELCA Bishop, SE Michigan Synod; Julie E. Schneider-Thomas, ELCA Bishop, NW Lower Michigan Synod. Our retired bishop, Wendell Gibbs; our retired community, spouses, and companions. Our diocesan household: Committees, commissions, ministries, agencies, priests, deacons, lay leaders, volunteers, and staff members; Steven Steinberger–Domienik; Grace Church Mt. Clemens; Bonao, DR Church of the Pentecost.

For our Wednesday and Sunday supper guests; Donna Hanes; Frankie Dion; Elliott Belair; Charlotte Kalligeros; Jennifer Holland; Elizabeth Gage; Logan & Teresa Davidson; Jeanne Nowak; Donna Powell; Pamela Sherry; Linda Fields; Michael Woodard; Sara Mattocks; Gene Skladnowski; Sherie Borsa; Joan Donald; Rob Haynes; Scott Kadets; Brenda Steinberger-Domienik; Laurisa; Pat Ruditis; Jean & Terry Hitchcock; Laura Mary Lake; Allen Clay; Martha Wehba; Jody Gorney; Tammy Murphy; Eka & Kiana Bassey; Suzanne LaMontagne; Vito Fontana; Christa Carpenter; Nancy Johnson & family; Rick Ghersi; Rory Heinz; Carole Schwertman; Tish Germain; Shirley & Nelson Rumpel; Helen Fitzgibbon; Joyce & Roy Schafer; Danielle; Betty Brogan; Ulrike Lamb; Debbie H.; Beverly Wolff; Beth Jarvis; Dave Salyer; Al Gazoul; Sharon Fedchenko; Joyce Geiger & family; Steve Burns; Sandy Krell; Bobby Couts; Sharon Potter; Rita Vermeersch; Sallie Coffer; Frank Davis; Shelly Volpe; Bud Denham; John Schober; Tish Mastro-Burns; Gary Cynowa; Linda Hurley; Fran Merlo; Betty Gillis; Robert Tuten; Daniel Ranger; Gary Keranen; Leslie Sasges; Louise Lambert; Norris Satterly; Dan Kotesky; Judy Kuase; Brian Negran; Takashi Nawafune; Mary Lang; Sue Sargent; Jess Taylor; Scott Satterly; Sue Retherford; Carole Marshall; Kris Eckert; Margaret Morgan.

Do you know someone who can use our prayers?
Please contact the office to add them to or keep them on the prayer list.

CURRENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please send all bulletin submissions to bulletins@gracechurchmtclemens.org

PLENTY GOOD ROOM

Plenty Good Room means radical welcome. This week, we give thanks for the hospitality of this parish and the ways we extend God's welcome to others.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Please sign up for altar flowers on the bulletin board in the hallway leading to the sanctuary.

COFFEE HOUR

Please volunteer to host a coffee hour; the sign-up sheet is in the hallway. The host(s) makes and sets up the coffee and any snacks and then cleans up afterwards. You may also be reimbursed for any money you spend for snacks—just let Marchea (in the office) know! Thank you for sharing in the hospitality ministry of our parish!

BIBLE STUDY

Please join us on **Sundays** at **9:30 AM** in the Guild Room for our Bible study. No preparation needed; just come and listen and join in the conversation. Each session is self-contained so you do not have to attend each week; come when you can. We learn a great deal about Scripture, our faith, ourselves, and each other! Hope to see you there!

COME, CHRISTIANS, JOIN AND SING!

Join us at choir rehearsal **Wednesdays** at **6:30 PM** in the sanctuary. Faces and voices both new and familiar are most welcome as we lift up our praises in song and help guide our Grace community into the seasons of thankfulness, Advent, and the birth of our Lord!

INQUIRER CLASSES

Interested in being confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church by our bishop? Join us for four one-hour sessions from **2 to 3 PM** on the following **Wednesdays**: **November 11** and **18** and **December 2** and **9**. Attend in person or via Zoom. If you're interested but cannot make this time, please speak to Pastor Steve and we'll come up with a time that works for you.

BOOK CLUB

The next book club meeting will be at Grace **this Thursday, November 12** at **6 PM**, and we'll be discussing John Grisham's *The Widow*. We would love for you to attend! Just read the book, come to the meeting, and be prepared for a lively discussion in a comfortable setting. Call or see Ann Strevel with any questions or concerns.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Please consider taking the opportunity to familiarize yourself with the contents of our new first-aid kits during coffee hour **next Sunday, November 15**.

MACOMB COUNTY WINTER SHELTER 2026–27

Save the date! We'll need volunteers for the Macomb County Winter Shelter (**January 3** through **February 21**). See this month's *Amazing Grace* for more info.

For Children Who Attend Immigration Court Alone

Merciful **God**, whose son welcomed children and placed them in the midst of his disciples, **we pray for migrant children** who must face immigration proceedings without a parent or guardian beside them. **Be near to them**, O Lord. Give your angels charge over them and **raise up people** who will stand beside them, **advocate** for them, and **safeguard** their dignity. **Give** our governing authorities the **wisdom** to protect the rights and future of migrant children; give those entrusted with our laws and courts wisdom **to ensure that children** have access to independent counsel and **do not have to navigate our legal system alone**. Help us to follow in the lead of your son, to **welcome the little ones**, to protect them, to love them, and **uphold their dignity** as your beloved children. We ask this in the name of Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE Episcopal CHURCH