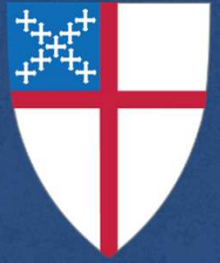




What is a labyrinth?



The labyrinth is an ancient sacred symbol of pilgrimage to the Divine. Early Christians took a vow to visit the Holy City of Jerusalem at some point in their lives, but during the Middle Ages, travel was unsafe, and other means were needed to fulfill that sacred commitment. Labyrinths were adopted by the Roman Church to offer a way of fulfilling the sacred pilgrimage vow.

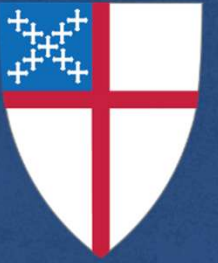
Unlike a maze, the labyrinth has only one path which leads to the center and out again. There are no tricks, dead ends, cul-de-sacs, or intersecting paths. There are no choices to be made, other than the primary one: the decision to enter the path. The path winds throughout and becomes a mirror for where we are in our own lives. Walking the path is a letting go of daily concerns and opening ourselves to God's healing presence in the center. The insights we receive are then taken back out the path into our lives.

Walking the labyrinth just naturally causes our attention to start turning inward, focusing in the present moment. Labyrinths can be used as a spiritual practice to help relieve stress, to help people work through grief, and also to provide comfort during illness. At the most basic level, walking the labyrinth focuses the attention, stills the mind, and quiets the breathing.





Sunday, December 7, 2025



WELCOME!
GOD IS GLAD YOU'RE HERE
(AND SO ARE WE!)



Please stand as you are able.

Processional

“Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending”

Helmsley (H 57)



Lo! he comes with clouds descending,
Once for our salvation slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of his train.



Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Christ the Lord returns to reign.



Yea, amen! Let all adore thee,
High on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the power and glory;
Claim the kingdom for thine own.



Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.





Advent Wreath Lighting

“Prepare the Way”

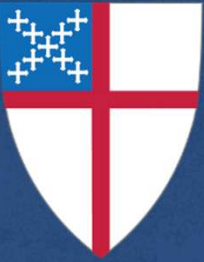
Joel Raney



*A candle of Peace to light our way,
With longing hearts, we watch and pray.
Creator of the stars of night;
Your people's everlasting light.
Come, O come, Emmanuel.*



Prepare the way of the Lord.
Make way for the Prince of Peace,
King of kings, Lord of lords,
Jesus, Emmanuel.
Prepare the way,
Prepare the way.





Today we light 2 candles; the candle of hope
and the candle of peace. In this season of
Advent we wait for the Prince of Peace, who
will come to bring wholeness to a
fractured world.

Prepare the way of the Lord with Peace.



When division and conflict surround us, we turn to Christ, the source of true peace, and long for his reconciliation in our hearts and in the world.

Prepare the way of the Lord with Peace.



In our homes, in our communities, and in our nations, we seek to be instruments of peace reflecting the love of Christ in all we do.

Prepare the way of the Lord with Peace.



When anger and strife seem overwhelming, we
trust in the calm presence of Christ, who can
still storms in our hearts and minds.

Prepare the way of the Lord with Peace.



In moments of anxiety, fear, or uncertainty, we
invite the peace of Christ to fill our hearts
and guide our actions.

Prepare the way of the Lord with Peace.



O God of peace, we await the coming of your Son, who will bring peace to all the earth. We remember that true peace comes not from the absence of conflict, but from the presence of Christ.

Prepare the way of the Lord with Peace.





Come, O Come, Emmanuel!

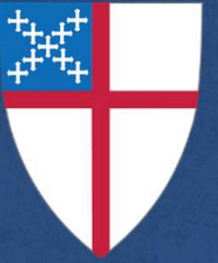


Prepare the way of the Lord.
Make way for the Prince of Peace,
King of kings, Lord of lords,
Jesus, Emmanuel.
Prepare the way,
Prepare the way.





*Please be seated for the
scripture lessons.*



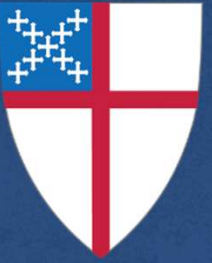


First Reading

Isaiah 11:1–10



A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.



He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.



The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together; and the lion
shall eat straw like the ox.



The nursing child shall play
over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand
on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;



for the earth will be full of the
knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a
signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of
him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.



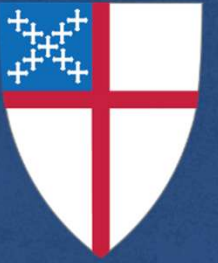
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.





Please stand as you are able.



The Psalm

Psalm 72:1–7, 18–19



Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;

That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;



That the mountains may bring
prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.

He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.



He shall live as long as the sun and
moon endure, *
from one generation to another.

He shall come down like rain upon the
mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.



In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the
moon shall be no more.

Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, *
who alone does wondrous deeds!



And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! *
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.
Amen. Amen.





Second Reading

Romans 15:4–13



Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,



"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name";

and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";

and again,



"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him";

and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope."



May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.



The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.





Please stand as you are able.

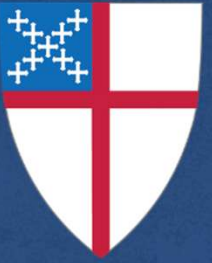
Sequence Hymn

“A Voice Cries Out”

Michael Joncas



A voice cries out in the wilderness:
“Prepare the way of the Lord!”
A voice cries out in the wilderness:
“Make straight a highway for God!”



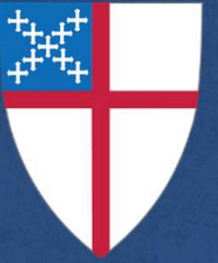


The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus
Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.



Matthew 3:1–12

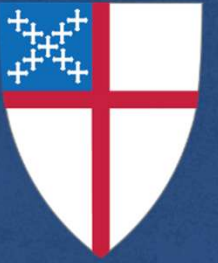


In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”



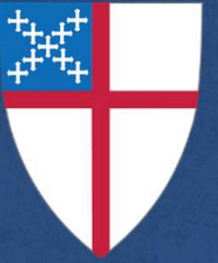
Matthew 3:1–12



Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.



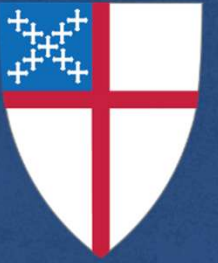
Matthew 3:1–12



But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance.



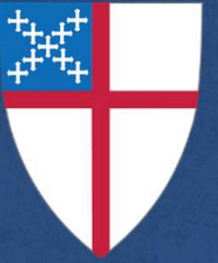
Matthew 3:1–12



Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.



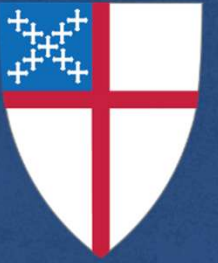
Matthew 3:1–12



“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.



Matthew 3:1–12



His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”



The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.





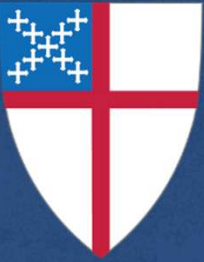
A voice cries out in the wilderness:
“Prepare the way of the Lord!”
A voice cries out in the wilderness:
“Make straight a highway for God!”





The Children's Message

Reverend Deacon Maureen Carey





Seashells

“May All Children ”

Kenneth K. Guilmartin



May, may all, may all children,
May all people ev'rywhere
Hear this pray.



May, may all, may all children,
May all people ev'rywhere
Live in peace.



Sweet peace.
Peaceful minds, peaceful hearts,
Peace on earth.
Sweet peace on earth.





Sermon

Reverend Stephen Haggerty



*Please take a few moments in silence
to hear what the Spirit is saying to you.*



The Nicene Creed

*As the Celebrant stands, the congregation is invited to
stand and say together:*



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 Rev. Deacon bids the Prayers:

God of promise and light, we come before
you in this season of waiting, longing for
your presence to be born anew among us.

Hear our prayers for the world you so
deeply love.



Celebrant:

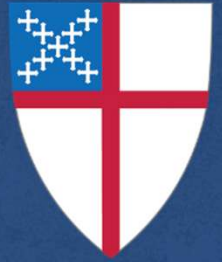
We pray for the world, for leaders seeking wisdom, and for communities longing for peace. May your justice and mercy flow into every dry and weary place.

God of Advent,

Fill our hearts with Advent **PEACE**.

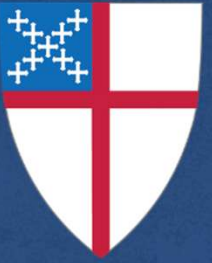


We pray for your people everywhere
and all communities of faith.



Strengthen us to be bearers of peace,
welcoming the stranger, feeding the hungry,
and proclaiming your good news in word
and deed as we strive to become a church
that looks and acts like Jesus.

God of Advent,
Fill our hearts with Advent **PEACE.**



We lift before you the sick, the
grieving, the lonely, and the weary.
Surround them with your healing presence
and the comfort of your Spirit. May they
know they are never forgotten.

God of Advent,
Fill our hearts with Advent **PEACE.**



In this season of preparation, quiet our
anxious hearts. Teach us to wait with
patience, to live with compassion, loving one
another as you love us.

God of Advent,
Fill our hearts with Advent **PEACE.**



We pray for saints who have gone to life eternal, especially Jim Cross, Marx Elliott, Neida Nagasawa, Thomas Simmons, Robert Cullen, Terrance Cullen and Thomas Cullen. Give holy rest to all who have died and wait with the peace that life eternal brings.

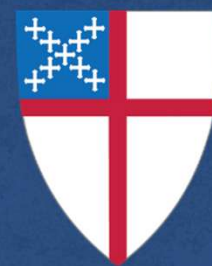
God of Advent,
Fill our hearts with Advent **PEACE.**



Celebrant:

God of Advent, we place all these prayers—
spoken and unspoken—into your hands,
trusting in your faithfulness. Come, Lord
Jesus, and make all things new.

Amen.



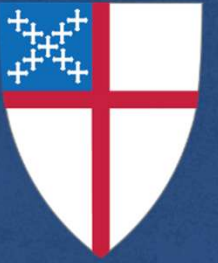


Seashells





CONFESSION OF SIN



(The Rev. Deacon bids the confession)

Let us confess our sins against God
and our neighbor.



Most merciful God,
we confess that we have
sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.



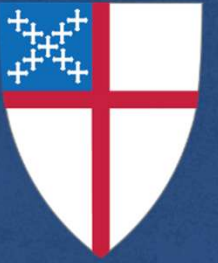
We have not loved you
with our whole heart;
we have not loved
our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry
and we humbly repent.



For the sake of your Son
Jesus Christ,
Have mercy on us
and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.



ABSOLUTION



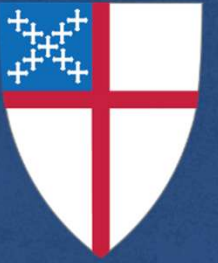
Almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you all your sins through our
Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all
goodness, and by the power of the Holy
Spirit keep you in eternal life.

Amen.





THE PEACE



The peace of the Lord
be always with you.

And also with you.





Announcements

Please be seated.



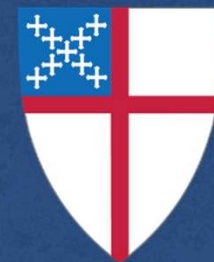
DIGITAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Scan Me!

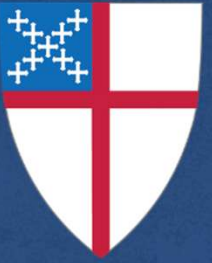




OFFERTORY SENTENCE



Let us with gladness present the offerings and
oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.



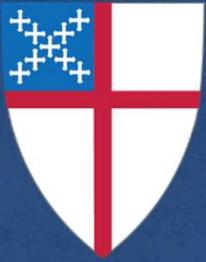
OFFERTORY

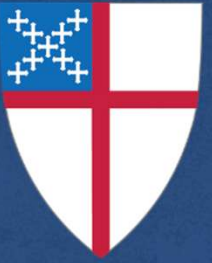
“Even So, Lord, Quickly Come”

Douglas E. Wagner, Charlotte Lee

St. David's is entirely funded by the generosity of God manifested through its parishioners and community. If you would like to support our many ministries, please consider contributing to the offering plate, or online by scanning this QR code with your phone camera. See the back page of this bulletin for more information and giving options.







The Great Thanksgiving

Enriching Our Worship Prayer 1

*Please stand as you are able.
The bells are rung three times as a reminder
that we are now focused on the
Table portion of the Liturgy.*



The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to
the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and
praise.



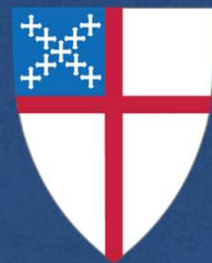
It is truly right, and good and joyful,
to give you thanks, all-holy God,
source of life and fountain of mercy.



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



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





Sanctus

“Holy, Holy”

Mass of a Peaceful Spirit

LaRosa

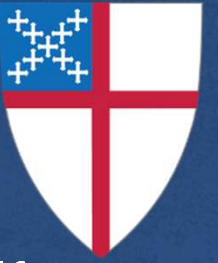


Holy, Holy, Holy
Lord God of hosts.

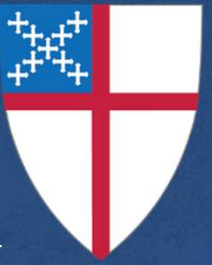
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.



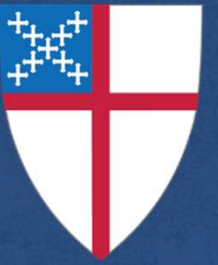
Blessed is he who comes
In the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.



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



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



Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus.



Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.



On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said:



Take, eat: this is my Body,
which is given for you.
Do this for remembrance of me.



After supper he took the cup of wine;
and when he had given thanks,
he gave it to them, and said,

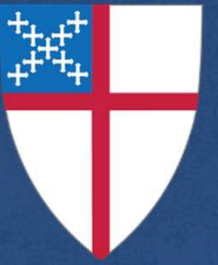


“Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”



Therefore we proclaim the
mystery of faith:

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



Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world.



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

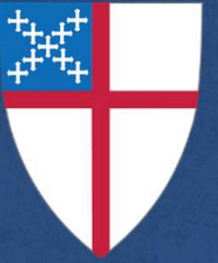
AMEN.



The bells are rung three times after the "Great Amen" as a reminder of the importance of the congregation's assent and affirmation of the Eucharistic Prayer.



THE OUR FATHER



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



Christ our Passover is
sacrificed for us.

Therefore, let us keep the feast.





Fraction Hymn

“Lamb of God”

Mass of a Peaceful Spirit

LaRosa



Lamb of God,
you take away
the sins of the world,
Have mercy, have mercy on us.



Lamb of God,
you take away
the sins of the world,
Have mercy, have mercy on us.



Lamb of God,
you take away
the sins of the world,
Grant us, grant us peace.



Grant us peace,
Grant us peace,
Grant us, grant us peace.





This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, because it is the Lord who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.



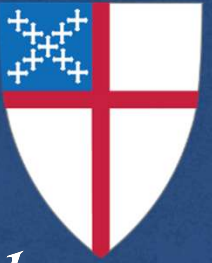
The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them
in remembrance that Christ died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith,
with thanksgiving.





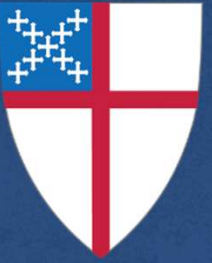
Holy Communion

The congregation remains seated until an usher invites them forward for Communion.



*Jesus invites the whole world
to be in a relationship with him. All baptized
persons of any denomination are welcome to our
Lord's Table where bread and wine are blessed
and broken and shared in remembrance of Christ
Jesus our Lord.*

*If you would like a blessing, please cross your
arms over your chest.*



*Gluten-free wafers are available;
please make your needs known to the ushers.*

*A healing minister will be near the entrance to
provide healing prayers for anyone who would
like a prayer for themselves or someone else
during the distribution of the Holy Eucharist.*

All are welcome.





Communion Hymn

“Waiting Here for You”

Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves,
and Martin Smith



If faith can move the mountains,
Let the mountains move.
We come with expectation,
Waiting here for you,
Waiting here for you.



You're the Lord of all creation,
And still you know my heart;
The author of salvation,
You've loved us from the start.



Waiting here for you,
with our hands
Lifted high in praise.
And it's you we adore,
Singin' Alleluia!



You are everything you've promised,
Your faithfulness is true.
We're desperate for your presence;
All we need is you.



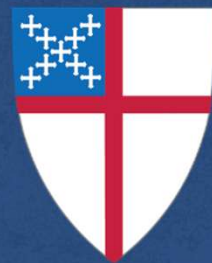
Waiting here for you,
With our hands
Lifted high in praise.
And it's you we adore,
Singin' Alleluia;



Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Singin' Alleluia,
Alleluia!



Waiting here for you,
With our hands
Lifted high in praise.
And it's you we adore,
Singin' Alleluia;
Singin' Alleluia!



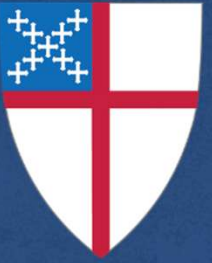


Post-Communion Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray together.



O Lord our God,
as we wait for the coming of thy Son our Lord,
preserve us in watchfulness and faith, that when
he shall appear he may not find us asleep in sin
but active to serve him and joyful to praise him;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



May Almighty God, by whose providence
our Savior Christ came among us in great
humility, sanctify you with the light of his
blessing and set you free from all sin;
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father,
the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you,
and remain with you always.

Amen.





RECESSIONAL

“The Lion and the Lamb”

Leeland



He's coming on the clouds
Kings and kingdoms will bow down.

And ev'ry chain will break
As broken hearts declare his praise
For who can stop the Lord Almighty



Our God is the Lion,
The lion of Judah
He's roaring with power
And fighting our battles
And ev'ry knee will bow before him.



Our God is the Lamb,
The lamb that was slain
For the sins of the world
His blood breaks the chain
And ev'ry knee will bow before
the lion and the lamb
And ev'ry knee will bow before him!





Who can stop the Lord Almighty
Who can stop the Lord Almighty
Who can stop the Lord Almighty
Who can stop the Lord Almighty



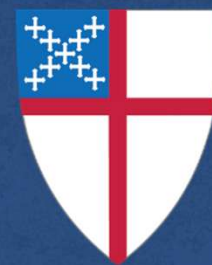
Who can stop the Lord Almighty
Who can stop the Lord Almighty
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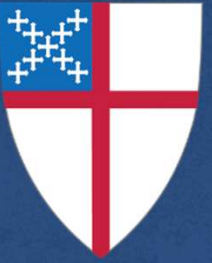
Our God is the Lamb,
The lamb that was slain
For the sins of the world
His blood breaks the chain
And ev'ry knee will bow before
the lion and the lamb
And ev'ry knee will bow before him!





Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God!





Postlude



Thank you!

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