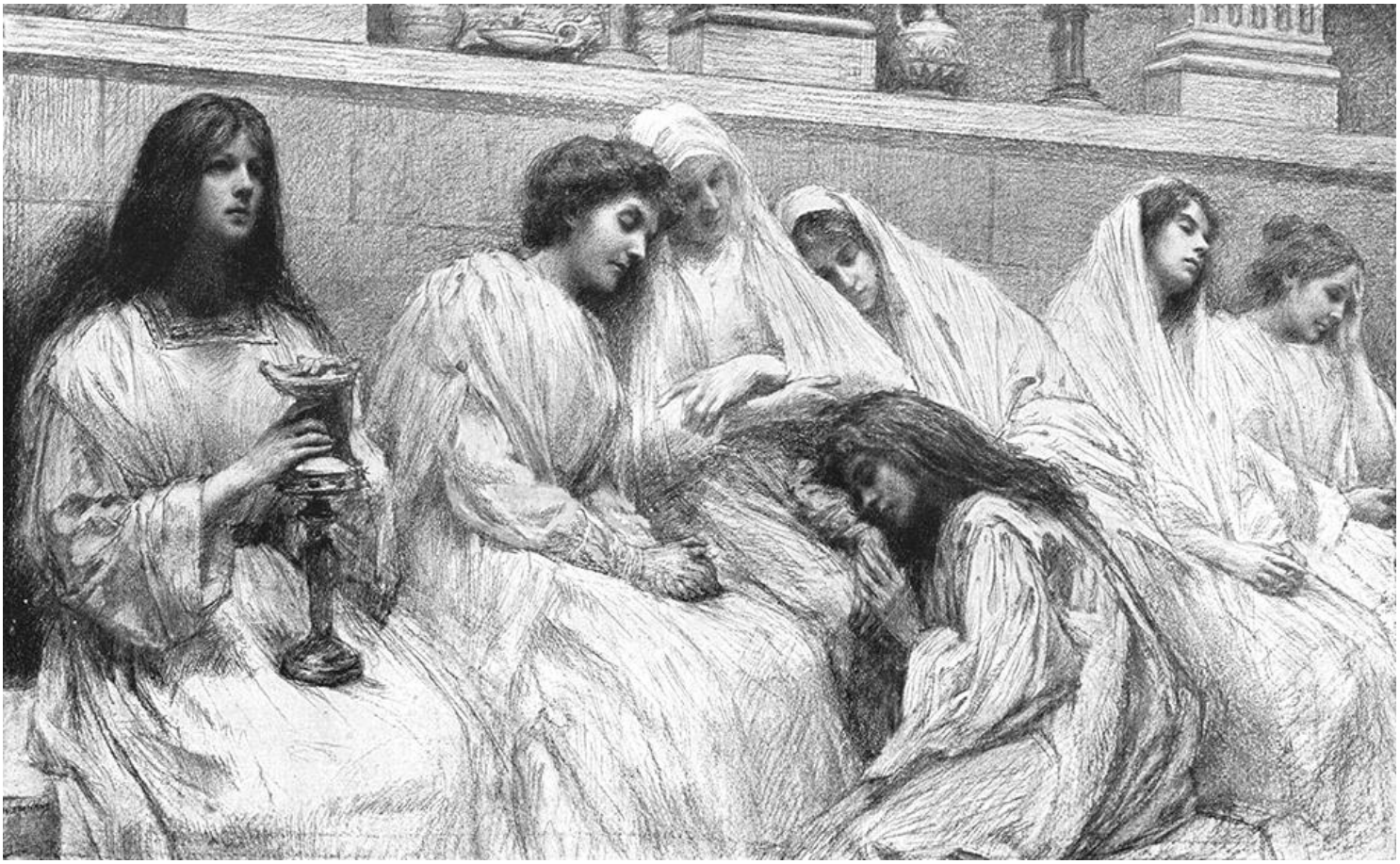
Christ Church Episcopal

Sparta, NC

A home to all sharing God's unconditional love.



The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 8, 2026

The Rev. Karla Woggon
Priest-in-Charge
Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina

Welcome to Christ Church Episcopal

We are delighted God has brought you to this special place.

What do you need to know about worship? Everything you need for your worship today is in the booklet you are holding. Our service is based on the Book of Common Prayer, using music from sources including the Hymnal 1982 and Taizé.

Are you worshiping with us for the first time? We would love to get to know you! Please email our office at christchurchspartanc@gmail.com with your name and contact information, and let us know if we can call you, answer questions, or pray for you. And know that wherever you are on your journey of faith, there is a place for you at Christ Church.

Newsletter: Sign-up today to receive our electronic newsletter, the weekly *Good News & Notes*. Email the church office at christchurchspartanc@gmail.com.

Do you need prayer? We have an active prayer ministry here at Christ Church. If prayer would be helpful to you, please fill out a prayer request card (found in the pew back), making sure you include your name and contact information (email and/or phone). We'll include you in our weekly prayers. Just complete the card & put it in the offering plate during the Offertory or share your request with the greeter.

We extend special thanks today to:

Kathy Sugishita for serving as musician and for being so generous with her talents, and

Cynthia Grant for providing the beautiful flowers at the altar and coffee hour refreshments.

Please enter the Sanctuary in silence to respect those who are preparing for worship. Save conversations, whispered or out loud, for outside or Coffee Hour.

Please silence your cell phone, too

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Online giving link: https: https://onrealm.org/CCEpiscopal/give/now
Office hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 8:00-1:00, Wednesday remote
All other music used by permission CCLI License #11138616
Cover art: *The Ten Virgins (The Parable of the Ten Virgins) by Eugene Burnand*

The Gathering

Prelude Kathy Sugishita

Announcements Nancy Wilson

Please stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #372 *Praise to the living God!*

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Celebrant 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**.

Song of Praise, hymn #376, vs 1 *Joyful, joyful, we adore thee*

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect

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.**

Please be seated.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: A reading from Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and

Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.

"Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God."

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

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The Response
Psalm 78:1-7

Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.

We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, *
and the wonderful works he has done.

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

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

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

The Second Reading: A reading from 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

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

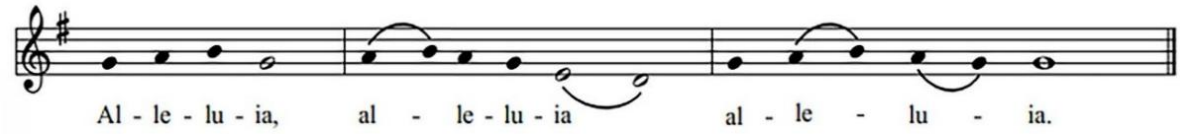
Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand, as able.

Gospel Hymn #61

"Sleepers, wake!"

Proulx Alleluia (sung twice)



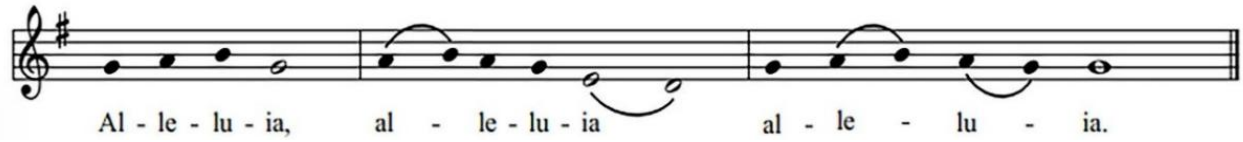
Please remain standing, as able.

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

The Gospel
Matthew 25:1-13

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



All are seated.

The Sermon

The Rev Karla Woggon

The Nicene Creed

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

BCP, Form III, pg 387

Leader Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
People **That we all may be one.**

Leader Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
People **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

Leader We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons; especially Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah, our Presiding Bishop, Sean, our Bishop Search Committee, and our Priest in Charge, Karla,
People **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

Leader We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
People **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Leader Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
People **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Leader Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
People **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Leader Give to the departed eternal rest.
People **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Leader We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
People **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Leader Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. *Please add your own petitions silently or aloud.*

Silence

Confession of Sin

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All **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.**

Celebrant 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

Celebrant The peace of God is with you.
People **And also with you.**

Please greet one another in a way that is comfortable as a sign of our participation in Christ's reconciling work in the world.

Please be seated.

Offertory Music Kathy Sugishita

Please stand, as able.

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer C, BCP, pg 369-372

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 God of all power, Source and Sustainer of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.
People **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

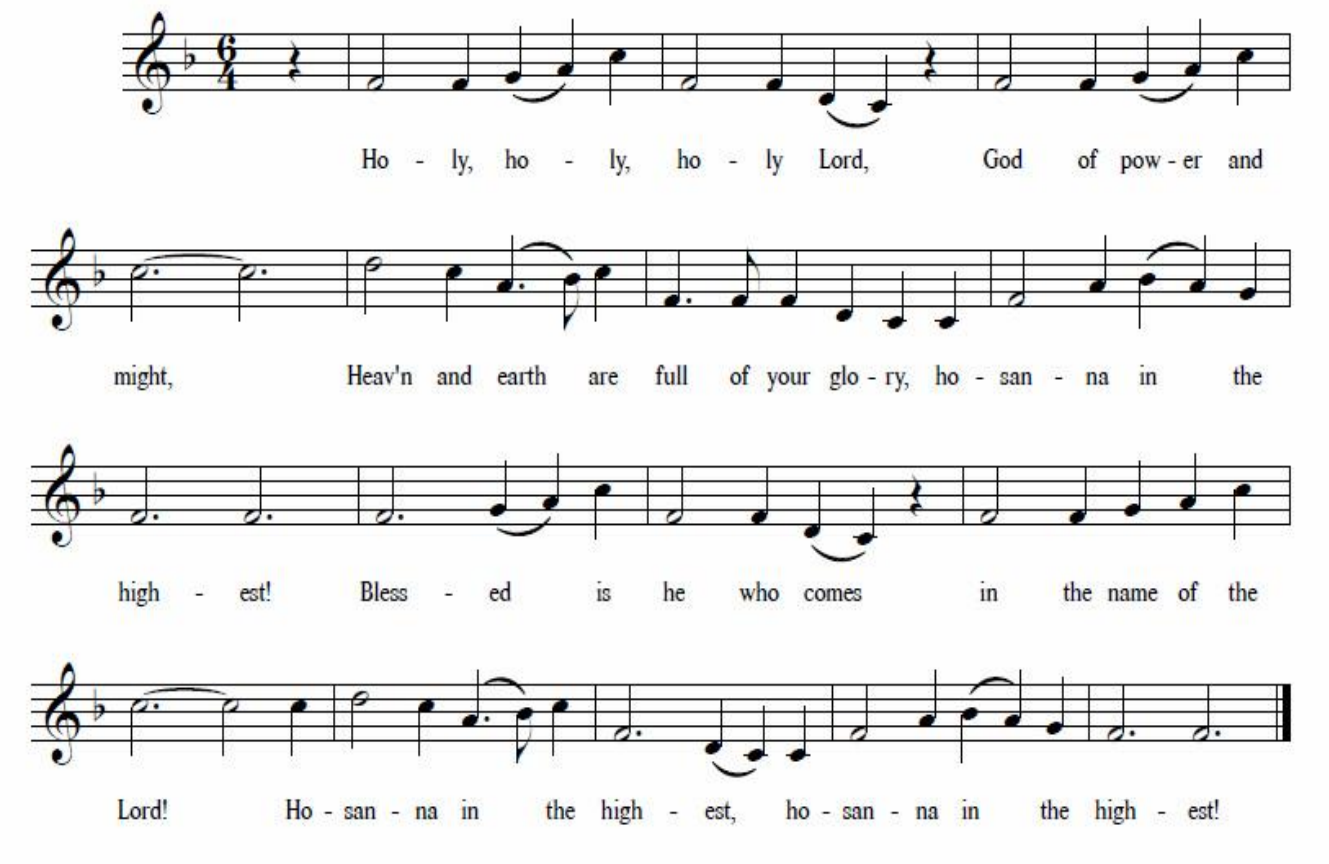
Celebrant At your command all things came to be: shining light and enfolding dark; the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.
People **By your will they were created and have their being.**

Celebrant From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with the capacity for memory, reason, and skill. You made us the stewards of your creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.
People **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Celebrant 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 eternal Word, born of your servant Mary, to fulfill your Law, opening for us the way of freedom and peace.
People **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: *(sung by all)* *The Land of Rest tune*



Blessed are you, Lord our God, for sending us Jesus, the Christ, who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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, Jesus 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 all 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 Christ's death and resurrection as we await the day of his coming.

Therefore, O God, we who have been redeemed by Jesus Christ, 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 Savior.

Sanctify us also, and 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.

God of our ancestors; Redeemer and Mother of Israel; 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.

Accept these prayers and praises, Almighty God, 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. **AMEN.**

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

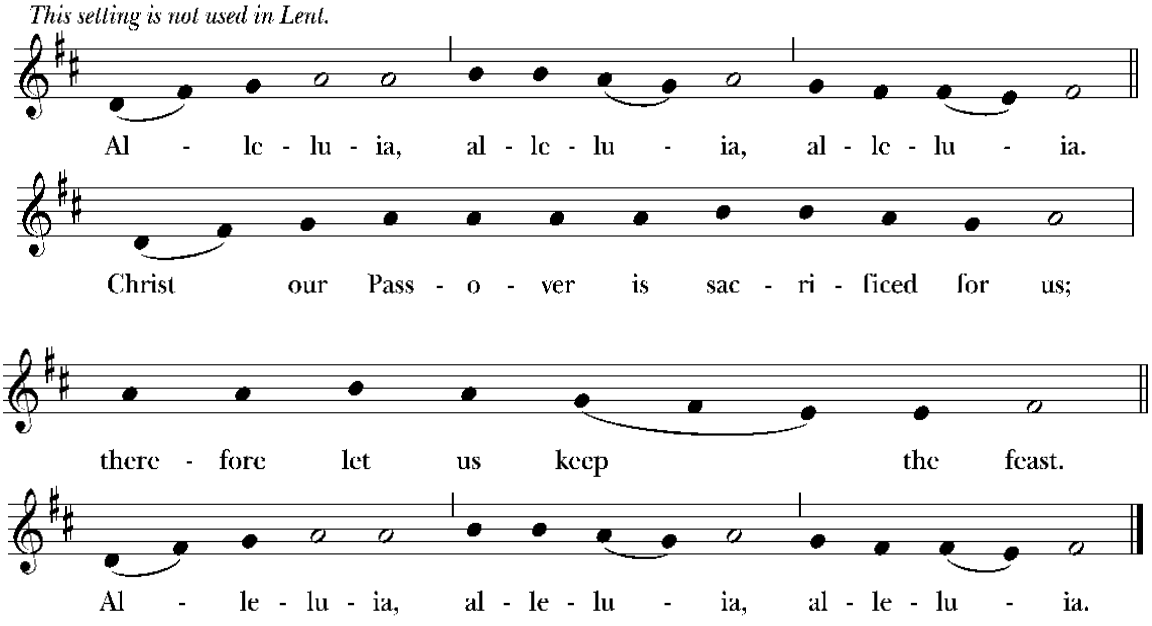
The Lord's Prayer

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

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction: S154 *(sung by all)*



Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

The Invitation to Holy Communion

All who seek God and are drawn to Christ are welcome at the Lord's Table.
If you are gluten allergic, please ask for a rice wafer at the distribution.

Please be seated.

Communion Music Kathy Sugishita

Surely the Presence of the Lord *(sing twice)*

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,
I can feel God's mighty power and God's grace,
I can hear the brush of angels' wings,
I see glory on each face.
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

Please stand or kneel, as able.

Prayer after Communion

Celebrant Let us pray,

Eternal God, heavenly Father, 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.

Blessing The Rev Karla Woggon

Please stand, as able.

Recessional Hymn #594 *God of grace and God of glory*

The Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude Kathy Sugishita

Coming Lessons – Next Sunday

Judges 4:1-7
Psalm 123
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

Prayer List

Intercessions for Members & Friends:
Allan Joyce, Brenda Weems, Buck Hunnicutt, Cara Todd, Cathy Davis (The Rev), Denise Seckel, Gary Medley, Janice Harrison, John & Jane Gehring, Ken & Janice Kleva, Margaret, Martha Honaker (The Rev), Pat Hardee, Sally & Chuck Besaw, Sara Brown Davis, Rita Woodruff, Susan & Jim Doss (The Rev), and Vicky Fischer Faw. We also pray for Cliff & Kathy, Geoff & his family, Jeanne, and Marybeth as they grieve.

Intercessions for Community Friends & our Family Members:
Antje & Bill, Bonnie, Carol Greer, Chris, Debbie & Doug Bebber (Cynthia's friends), Coralie & her mother Mary, Diana Asher, Diane Morrison & family following Lou's death, Donald & Audrey Carter, Donna & Mike Hohnstine, Edwin (Nancy's brother), Erin Mohr & her family, Gwen (Ann), Inza & Blair, Isabel Tomé, Jeff & his wife Karen, Jerry & Theresa (Ann's friends), Jim & Diane (Nancy's BIL & sister), John & Diane (Judy's BIL & sister), Karen & Dick Dewald, Jonathan, Langhorne Jones, Linda/Cindy/Trent, Liz Lee Williamson (Mary Lee's cousin), Lynn Ellis, Lynn & Ajit, Michael, Mike, Paul Norman, Raymond Hindman (Cara Todd's father), Rudy McKnight, Tom Warndorf, and Vanita. **And we pray for all the foster children & foster families in AL Co; all those impacted by violence, war and weather disasters; our local neighbors that fear detention; and Christ Church, its leaders & ministry teams.**

Departed: Lou Morrison (Oct 24)

Birthdays: Denise Seckel (Nov 8), Linda Blevins (Nov 9)

Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings:
Sarah, **Archbishop of Canterbury,** Sean**, Presiding Bishop,** our **Bishop Search Committee, and** Karla**, our Priest-in-Charge**

In the Anglican Community: the Province of the Anglican Church of the Congo

In the Diocese of WNC: the Diocese of WNC Convention and all Delegates

In Alleghany County: Old Saddle Mountain Union Baptist Church

The following people are assisting with the services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Nancy Wilson	Nancy Wilson
Chalice Bearer	Nancy Wilson	Bruce Smith
Lector	Mary Lee Joines	Patti Phelps
Prayers of the People	Mary Lee Joines	Patti Phelps
Greeter/Usher(s)	Rod Pace & Louise Law	Cynthia Grant

Schedule

Sunday, November 8 – The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with The Rev Karla Woggon
Coffee hour follows the service
Worship Team meeting following coffee hour

Monday, November 9
10:30 am – 30th Anniversary planning team meeting

Tuesday, November 10
1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group
2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Sunday, November 15 – The Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with The Rev Dr Katherine Shaner
Coffee hour follows the service

Tuesday, November 17
1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group
2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Wednesday, November 18 & Thursday, November 19 – the Office will be closed

Sunday, November 22 – Christ the King
10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with The Rev Karla Woggon {*pledge cards will be blessed*}
Coffee hour follows the service

Monday, November 23
11:00 am – Vestry meeting; 2027 budget draft

Tuesday, November 24
1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group
2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Thursday, November 26 – the Office will be closed for Thanksgiving

Sunday, November 29
10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with The Rev Karla Woggon
Coffee hour follows the service
5:00 pm – Taizé service

Announcements

Pledge cards We encourage you to prayerfully consider making a pledge. Completed pledge cards can be put in the offering plate, mailed to PO Box 1866, or dropped off at the office. *Our pledge cards will be blessed on Sunday, Nov 22nd – Christ the King Sunday.*

Save-the-date! The First Sunday of Advent, **November 29th**, we will have a **Taizé service** at **5:00 pm**. This service combines reading, prayer, chanting, and candlelight. And we're fortunate to have several musicians playing for us that evening. *All are welcome!*

The Office will be CLOSED on Wednesday, Nov 18 & Thursday, Nov 19, and again on Thursday, Nov 26 for the holiday.

The Centering Prayer/Book Discussion groups continue on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm During the month of November, we will practice *Lectio Divina*. If you want to join us for this contemplative deep dive into the Gospel lesson, please come. For Advent, we will discuss a John Philip Newell book. John P Newell is a prolific writer about Celtic spirituality and our relationship to the earth. We haven't picked which of his books we'll read but we'll announce it here as soon as we do. If you have any questions, contact Patti Phelps at frankandpatti@yahoo.com. All are welcome to join either or both groups!

If you have a pastoral need or would like home communion or a visit when you are sick or homebound, please contact Karla at priest.christchurchspartanc@gmail.com or 828.638.0533.

The Prayer Shawls & Lap Blankets are available for you to give someone who needs our Christ Church love and support. *For more information, read the GNN.*

We take an offering for the Solid Rock Food Closet the first Sunday of each month. If you'd like to give, make sure you write 'SRFC' or 'food closet' on your check or offering envelope. Another way to give is with a donation of non-perishable food, cleaning supplies, paper products, and/or personal care products. Just bring those items and leave them in the red wagon in the narthex. Wanda will make sure they get to the food closet. Periodically, the food closet will share a list of what they need most. **There are mini shopping lists AND a green holiday shopping lists in the red wagon.** *A new notice from the food closet asks that we double-check expiration dates because they cannot accept expired items.*

Monthly Altar Flowers and Coffee Hour sign-ups:

Date	Altar Flowers	Coffee Hour
Nov 8	Cynthia Grant	Cynthia Grant
Nov 15	Marybeth Lentz	Patti Phelps
Nov 22	Wanda McKnight	Wanda McKnight
Nov 29	Altar Guild	Mary Lee Joines