St. Andrew's Parish Church

established 1706



THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
The Holy Eucharist at 11:00 a.m.
22 September 2019



OLD ST. ANDREW'S PARISH CHURCH

The Clergy & Staff

THE REVEREND MARSHALL HUEY, Rector

THE REVEREND DR. DONALD McDaniel Associate Rector

THE REVEREND JOSEPH VELLA, Assistant to the Rector

THE REVEREND LEE HERSHON, Deacon

DAVID ACRES, Director of Music

KIRSTEN HOLLEY, Organ/Piano

BRAD NETTLES, JR., Director of Youth Ministry

ANNE SHAUL, Director of Children's Education

AMY AUSTEN, Parish Administrator

JEANNE GERHARDT, Parish Bookkeeper

GILLIAN BAGLEY, Administrative Assistant

WALTER STANLEY, Sexton

THE RT. REV. WILLIAM J. SKILTON

Bishop Suffragan, South Carolina, Ret.

Assistant Bishop, The Dominican Republic, Ret.

The Vestry

Gene Arner, 2022 Senior Warden

Roxanne Erskine, 2020 Junior Warden

Dean Bays, 2020

Jim Beall, 2022

Jim Beardsley, 2021

Doug Bostick, 2021

Danielle Butler, 2020

Clay Chandler, 2021

Tommy Compton, 2022

James Little, 2021

Michael Ulmer, 2022

James Wilson, 2020

John Steinmeyer, Treasurer

Sally Hartnett, Clerk

Andy Lacour, Chancellor

Paul Porwoll, Historian

THE RT. REV. MARK J. LAWRENCE, Bishop of South Carolina, XIV

SERVING TODAY

The Rev. Marshall Huey HOMILIST

> Jan Freeman Howard Williams LECTOR

Howard Williams CHALICE BEARER Mary Hope Martin Walker Martin Harrison Martin Azure Coomer ACOLYTES

> Brandon Lee Jim Beall USHERS

Virginia Moore GREETER

Carol Martin PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Gene Arner Danielle Butler Doug Bostick VESTRY IN CHARGE

> Dee Norton Donna Quick Betty Rucker ALTAR GUILD





"The Remarkable Mr Henry Purcell"

A glorious concert of rarely heard Sacred & Secular Music from the late 1600s, sung by The King's Counterpoint with members of The North Carolina Baroque Orchestra and their very special guest

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Sunday, 13th October 2019 at 3:00pm

Grace Church Cathedral

98 Wentworth Street, Charleston. 29401

General Admission: \$25:00 - Seniors & Students: \$20:00 - Reserved Seating: \$30:00 Tickets available via David & Judith & online www.thekingscounterpoint.com or on the door

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

22 September 2019

The Holy Eucharist at 11:00 a.m.

This service may be found in the red Book of Common Prayer beginning on page 355

THE INTROIT:

O nata lux

Words: Taken from the Hymn of the Transfiguration
Music: Thomas Tallis (c.1505-1585)

O nata lux de lumine, Jesu redemptor saeculi,

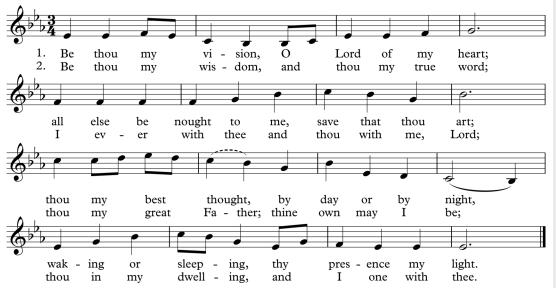
Dignare clemens supplicum laudes preces que sumere
Qui carne quondam contegi dignatus es pro perditis.

Nos membra confer effici, tui beati corporis.

O holy light once born from light, Jesus redeemer of mankind With loving-kindness pray receive the praise and prayer we offer Thee. Thou who once deigned to take on flesh to save the souls of those who strayed. Grant us to live as members here, of Thy most sacred body blest.

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN (Please stand)

Slane (Hymnal 488)



Text: Irish, ca. 700; versified Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1880-1931); tr. Eleanor H. Hull (1860-1935), alt. Music: SLANE, Irish ballad melody; adapt. *The Church Hymnary*, 1927

Celebrant:

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

People:

And blessed be his kingdom. now and for ever. Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

Welcome!

to our historic, living church where the saints have gathered to worship since 1706!

If you are visiting with us today, please take a **wel-come brochure** (located in the card rack on the back of each pew) and fill out the visitor card. Please place it in the offering plate or leave it with an usher.

Hearing aids are available. Please ask an usher for assistance.

Please **silence** your cell phone.

Did you remember to **lock** your car?

A **nursery** is available. Please ask an usher for directions.

In the Collect for Purity, we ask God to cleanse our hearts and minds of anything that comes between Him and us, anything that would impede our worship of Him. Here we offer ourselves to the glory of Jesus Christ.

ON THE COVER The Parable of the Rich Man Rembrandt (1606-1669)

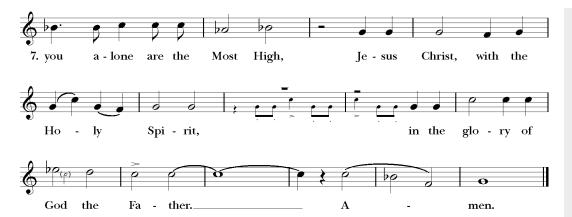
THE SUMMARY OF THE LAW

The Celebrant continues

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.







The **Collect** is a prayer that touches on the theme of the Scripture readings and transitions us from speaking and singing God's praise to listening to his Holy Scriptures.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God, in your goodness keep us, we pray, from all things that may hurt us, that we, being ready both in mind and body, may accomplish with free hearts those things which belong to your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*.

Please be seated for the Lessons

The Liturgy of the Word

THE FIRST LESSON Amos 8 verses 4-12

Hear this, you who trample on the needy and bring the poor of the land to an end, saying, "When will the new moon be over, that we may sell grain? And the Sabbath, that we may offer wheat for sale, that we may make the ephah small and the shekel great and deal deceitfully with false balances, that we may buy the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and sell the chaff of the wheat?" The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: "Surely I will never forget any of their deeds. Shall not the land tremble on this account, and everyone mourn who dwells in it, and all of it rise like the Nile, and be tossed about and sink again, like the Nile of Egypt?" "And on that day," declares the Lord GOD, "I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight. I will turn your feasts into mourning and all your songs into lamentation; I will bring sackcloth on every waist and baldness on every head. I will make it like the mourning for an only son and the end of it like a bitter day. "Behold, the days are coming," declares the Lord GOD, "when I will send a famine on the land—not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD. They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, to seek the word of the LORD, but they shall not find it.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Scriptures teach that much of our spiritual renewal is by the washing of the Word of God, which cleanses our minds and purifies our hearts. This portion of the service is known as the **Liturgy of the Word**, and it consists of the readings, the sermon, the creed, and the prayers of the people.

- I WILL give thanks unto thee, O Lord, with my whole heart : even before the gods will I sing praise unto thee.
- 2. I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy Name, because of thy loving-kindness and truth: for thou hast magnified thy Name and thy word above all things.
- 3. When I called upon thee, thou heardest me : and enduedst my soul with much strength.
- 4. All the kings of the earth shall praise thee, O Lord : for they have heard the words of thy mouth.
- 5. Yea, they shall sing in the ways of the Lord: that great is the glory of the Lord.
- 6. For though the Lord be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly: as for the proud, he beholdeth them afar off.
- 7. Though I walk in the midst of trouble, yet shalt thou refresh me: thou shalt stretch forth thy hand upon the furiousness of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me.
- 8. The lord shall make good his loving-kindness toward me: yea, thy mercy, O Lord, endureth for ever; despise not then the works of thine own hands.

THE SECOND LESSON

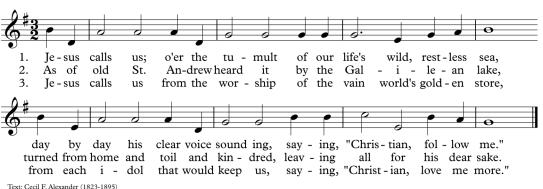
1 Timothy 2 verses 1-15

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling; likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works. Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. For Adam was formed first, then Eve; and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Galilee



Music: GALILEE, William H. Jude (1851-1922)

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 16 verses 1-13

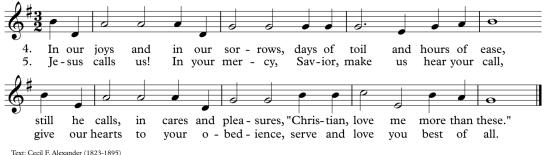
Gospeller: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus also said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. And he called him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.' And the manager said to himself, 'What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He said, 'A hundred measures of oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.' Then he said to another, 'And how much do you owe?' He said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.' The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.

"One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money."

Gospeller: The Gospel of the Lord. People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.



Music: GALILEE, William H. Jude (1851-1922)

The Scriptures tell us that Jesus is the Word that became flesh and dwelled among us. In the reading of the **Holy Gospel**, the ministers process with the Gospel Book to the Crossing of the church to read the selected passage and symbolize the Word dwelling among us. The ministers process to the Crossing during this hymn.

The word **Gospel** comes from the Old English word, *gōd-spell*, which means "good news" or "glad tidings." That word developed from the Latin word, *evangelium*, and Greek, *evangelion*, *which* also literally means "good news." These are the source of the English words "evangelism" and "evangelism"

THE SERMON

THE NICENE CREED (Please stand)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and 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 Nicene Creed is a statement of what the Christian community believes to be true about God. It was born of rigorous intellectual debate in the fourth century, culminating in councils of the whole church at Nicaea in 325 and at Constantinople in 381. The word "creed" comes from the Latin word "credo" which means "I believe."

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Form III

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

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

We pray for Archbishop Foley Beach; our Bishop, Mark Lawrence; for Bishop Bill Skilton; for all bishops, priests, and deacons; especially for our Rector, Fr. Marshall; our Associate Rector, Fr. Donnie; our assistant, Fr. Joe; Fr. David; Deacon Lee; and our church staff. We also pray for St. Andrew's Mission and their Vicar, Fr. Jimmy Gallant; for All Saints' Church in Florence and their Rector, Fr. Jason Hamshaw, Chelsea and their family; and for San Jose Church in the Dominican Republic and their Rector, Fr. Sandino Sanchez.

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest,

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence. The people may add their own petitions. The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

THE CONFESSION OF SINS (Please kneel)

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept

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.

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, stands and says

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COMFORTABLE WORDS

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you.

Matthew 11:28

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *John 3:16*

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. 1 Timothy 1:15

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the perfect offering for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world. 1 John 2:1-2

Christians pray. When we worship the living God, we bring before Him our concerns for ourselves and others, for the world, and for the church. We also thank God for hearing and responding to our prayers. At the Offertory, all of our prayers are presented to God along with our tithes and offerings.

We are sinful people. In the catechism section of our Prayer Book (pg. 845), it tells us that "From the beginning, human beings have misused their freedom and made wrong choices" and that "Sin is the seeking of our own will instead of the will of God, thus distorting our relationship with God, with other people, and with all creation." Here, in the Confession, we admit our wrongdoings and lay our sins at the feet of Jesus on the cross.

THE PEACE (Please stand)

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

People: And also with you.

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

At this time the Rector will welcome all to the Lord's Table and share the announcements of the day.

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Lord Bless You and Keep You Words: Numbers 6 verse 24 Music: John Rutter (b.1945)

The Lord bless you and keep you;

The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up the light of His countenance upon you, and give you peace. Amen.

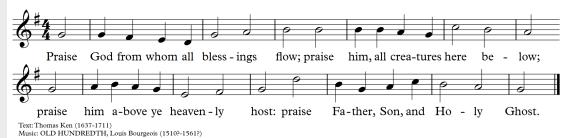
"The Lord bless you and keep you" is a classical sacred choral composition by John Rutter. It is a setting of a biblical benediction, followed by an extended "Amen". Rutter scored the piece for four vocal parts (SATB) and organ. He composed it in 1981 for the memorial service of Edward T. Chapman, the director of music at Highgate School, London, with whom he had studied when he attended the school.

When considering John Rutter's choral music, we are invariably drawn to "The Lord bless you and keep you." The work is a tender prayer, sensitively set to music by the incomparable Rutter. The gentle accompaniment and simple, lyrical voice parts combine to create one of the gently undulating Hymn of Praise that is now known the world over.

Here at Old St Andrew's Parish Church we sing an Offertory Anthem every week. Music can often help to add additional weight and emotion into the written texts. A congregation can hear a message via the singing of the choir, in a similar way that they do when they listen to a sermon. The message can be used to teach, offer praise, set a mood for more teaching, and/or offer a link to the whole Body of Christ through the ages and around the world by using traditional songs & texts or songs from another place.

THE PRESENTATION HYMN (Please stand)

Old Hundredth



Celebrant: All things come of thee, O LORD, *People:* And of thine own have we given thee.

The Holy Communion

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says

Celebrant: The Lord 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 him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

THE SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS (Hymnal S.130) Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, of power and might, Ho - lv, God ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, of power and might, God hea-ven and earth are full, full of your glo in the high - est. Ho ry. Ho-san - na san - na the high Bless-ed is who in the of the Lord. Ho in the name san na est. san the high Setting: from Deutsche Messe, Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828)

Please kneel

Our altar is The Lord's Table and all baptized Christians (baptized in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) are welcome to receive Holy Communion here.

In the Anglican tradition, Communion is received in two kinds: in the Bread and in the Wine. The Bread is offered first and is typically placed in one's open palm. After hearing the words "The Body of Christ, the bread of Heaven," the bread is ready to be consumed. A chalice bearer will then offer the Wine. As he or she presents the cup, please gently take hold of the base of the chalice, helping the chalice bearer to guide it toward your lips.

If you or your children are not baptized, you may receive a blessing at the altar rail from the Priest. Simply cross your hands over your chest as you kneel at the rail.

Ladies, please "blot" your lipstick prior to receiving communion, as this will help preserve our beautiful altar linens.

The Sanctus is the song of the seraphim contained in the great vision that the prophet Isaiah experienced while worshipping in the Temple in Jerusalem. This vision is recorded in the 6th chapter of Isaiah. It is inspired by Isaiah's vision of the heavenly court "Holy, holy, holy" acknowledging the transcendence of God.

When we gather together, we remember the presence of Jesus. By repeating the words and actions of Jesus' last meal with His disciples, we join the story and make it our own. We don't just watch the drama or listen to it unfold, we enter into the story as we, too, take the bread and wine and eat and drink and participate in the victory Christ has won for us.

This **AMEN** is often called the "Great Amen" because it is the apex of our liturgy, the powerful ending to the Eucharist Prayer.

The Lord's Prayer, so called because Jesus gave this prayer to His disciples as an example of how to pray, has been a part of Eucharistic liturgies since the fourth century. The link between "our daily bread" and the spiritual food we receive in the Eucharist is very ancient. In the Lord's Prayer, we ask for daily bread, meaning the things we need to get through each day. But as a part of that, the sacramental bread is Jesus Christ, truly present in this bread. When we eat of this bread, we most certainly receive our daily bread.

Holy and gracious Father: 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 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, our Lord Jesus Christ 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:

Celebrant and People

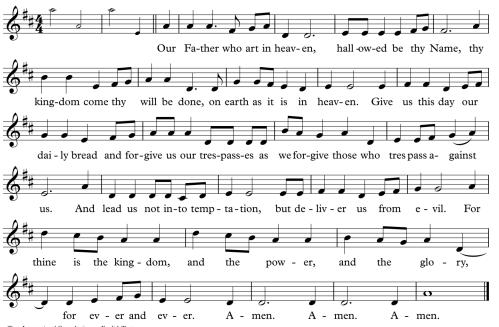
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again

The Celebrant continue

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, 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 Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

AMEN.

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

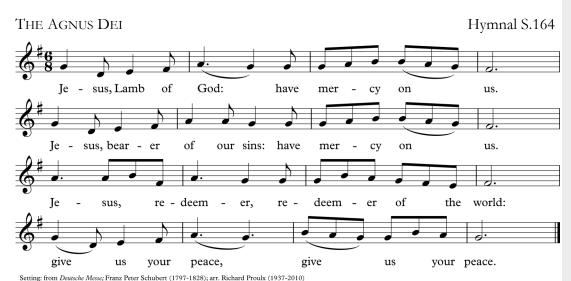


Text: International Consultation on English Texts
Music: R.D. Duckett (1959-2013) Used by permission.
Harmonization: M. Wilkinson (b. 1991) & C.L. Walchesky (b. 1989). Used by permission.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.



THE PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

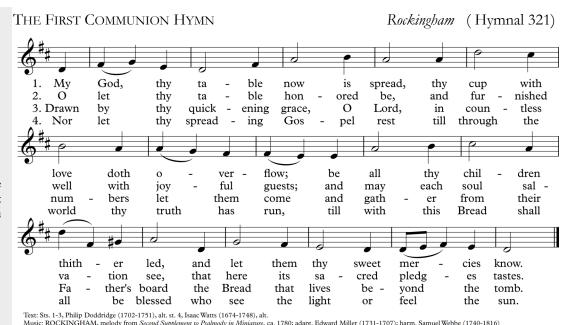
The following prayer may be said. The People may join in saying this prayer

We do 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.

The Prayer of Humble Access is a very distinctive element of worship in the Anglican Tradition. Assembled in the earliest prayer books by Thomas Cranmer, it includes phrases and concepts from Mark 7:28, the Liturgy of St. Basil, a Gregorian collect, John 6:56, and some ideas of Thomas Aquinas.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

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.



If you require a gluten-free wafer, please ask the priest at the altar rail when you kneel for Communion.

THE COMMUNION ANTHEM

SUNG BY OUR PARISH CHOIR

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole Music: Afro-American Spiritual

Refrain: There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole; There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

- 1. Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain.

 But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.
 - There is a balm in Gilead.....
- I you can not preach like Peter, if you can not pray like Paul,
 Just tell the love of Jesus, and say he died for all.
 There is a balm in Glead......

In the Old Testament, Gilead was the name of the mountainous region east of the Jordan River. This region was known for having skillful physicians and an ointment made from the gum of a tree particular to that area. Many believed that this balm had miraculous powers to heal the body. In the book of Jeremiah, God tells the people of Israel that though many believe in the mysterious healing power of this balm, they can't trust in those powers for spiritual healing or as a relief of their oppression. He reminds them that He is ultimately in control, and only He can relieve their suffering. In the New Testament, God answers the suffering of His people by sending His own son to take our place. Jesus becomes our "balm in Gilead." It is Him we are called to turn to in our times of trial for healing and comfort. We sing this song with that assurance: no matter our hardships or supposed shortcomings, Jesus loves us enough to take our suffering upon Himself.



The Christian life is deeply personal yet is essentially corporate by nature, not private. Every act of worship is intended not only to glorify God for His own sake, but to lift up and build up one another in Christ for His sake as well. The word "liturgy" literally means "the work of the people." A central function of liturgy is to send the message that in a worship community there are no bystanders. It is corporate through and through and from one end to the other. Singing is also a form of prayer that can help carry the heart to God not only in the words being sung but beyond the reach of words.

At Old St. Andrew's, we encourage you to continue to pray by singing both before and after you come to the Communion Rail. In this way, all of us are helping each other to lift our hearts continuously in the midst of receiving the greatest gift ever given: the life of Jesus Christ.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

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. Amen.

THE BLESSING



We have been blessed by being here. Now, at the end of the service, we are reminded that God takes loving delight in blessing us abundantly. We leave in peace, forgiven, fed, and sent out with a purpose in the name of Jesus Christ.

The Scripture quotations are from the English Standard Version of the Bible.

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Let us go forth in the Name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.