# St. Andrew's Parish Church

established 1706



PALM SUNDAY

The Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m. 5 April 2020



The Clergy & Staff

THE REVEREND MARSHALL HUEY, Rector
THE REVEREND DR. DONALD MCDANIEL, Associate Rector
THE REVEREND JOSEPH VELLA, Assistant to the Rector
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

PAUL PORWOLL, Historian

THE RT. REV. WILLIAM J. SKILTON

Bishop Suffragan, South Carolina, Ret.

Assistant Bishop, The Dominican Republic, Ret.

The Vestry
Kathy Abraham, 2021
Gene Arner, 2022
Jim Beall, 2022
Mandy Beckmann, 2023
Rich Carns, 2023
Clay Chandler, 2021
Tommy Compton, 2022
Carrie Davis, 2023
Jenny Fogle, 2023
Herb Huser, 2021
James Little, 2021, Junior Warden
Michael Ulmer, 2022, Senior Warden
John Steinmeyer, Treasurer
Sally Hartnett, Clerk

Andy Lacour, Chancellor

THE RT. REV. MARK J. LAWRENCE, Bishop of The Anglican Diocese of South Carolina

## Palm Sunday

5 April 2020

The Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.

THE INTROIT: RIDE ON KING JESUS—LARRY HARRIS

Ride on, King Jesus, no man can a-hinder me.

I was young when I begun: no man can a-hinder me

But now my race is almost done: no man can a-hinder me

Ride on, King Jesus, no man can a-hinder me.

King Jesus rides a milk-white horse: no man can a-hinder me

The river Jordan he did cross: no man can a-hinder me

Ride on, King Jesus, no man can a-hinder me.

If you want to find your way to God: no man can a-hinder me

The gospel highway must be trod: no man can a-hinder me

Ride on, King Jesus, no man can a-hinder me

THE ACCLAMATION (Please remain seated)

Celebrant: Hosanna to the Son of David, the King of Israel:

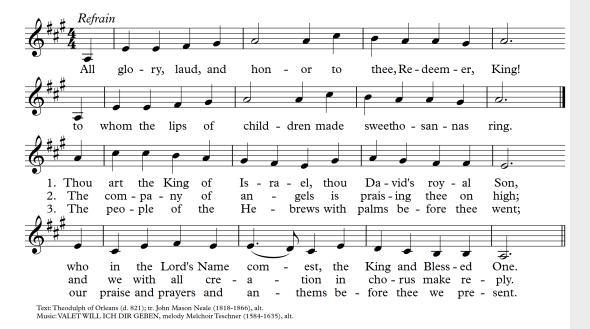
*People:* Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN (Please stand)

Tune: Valet will ich dir gebnest



ON THE COVER Jesus entering Jerusalem Giotto di Bondone (1266-1337) (painted in 1304)

Welcome!

to our historic, living

church where the saints

have gathered to worship since 1706!

#### Celebrant:

Dear brothers and sisters, from the beginning of Lent until now we have been preparing our hearts by repentance and self-sacrifice. Today, with the whole Church, we herald the beginning of the celebration of the Paschal Mystery. On this day our Lord Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem and was welcomed as King with palms and shouts of praise. Today we greet him as our King, though we know his crown was a crown of thorns, and his throne a Cross.

Therefore, I invite you to follow our Lord this Holy Week, from his triumphal entry, through his suffering and death, to the glory of his resurrection.

The Collect of the Day 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 with your spirit.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon himself our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen*.

## The Liturgy of the Word

THE FIRST LESSON

Zechariah 9 verses 9-17

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double. For I have bent Judah as my bow. I have made Ephraim its arrow. I will stir up your sons, O Zion, against your sons, O Greece, and wield you like a warrior's sword.

Then the LORD will appear over them, and his arrow will go forth like lightning; the Lord GOD will sound the trumpet and will march forth in the whirlwinds of the south. The LORD of hosts will protect them, and they shall devour, and tread down the sling stones, and they shall drink and roar as if drunk with wine, and be full like a bowl, drenched like the corners of the altar.

On that day the LORD their God will save them, as the flock of his people; for like the jewels of a crown they shall shine on his land. For how great is his goodness, and how great his beauty! Grain shall make the young men flourish, and new wine the young women.

*Lector:* The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Deus me Deus (O God, my God)

Psalm 22 verses 1-11

- 1. My God, my God, look upon me; why hast thou forsaken me : and art so far from my health, and from the words of my complaint?
- 2. O my God, I cry in the day-time, but thou hearest not: and in the night-season also I take no rest.
- 3. And thou continuest holy: O thou worship of Israel.
- 4. Our fathers hoped in thee: they trusted in thee, and thou didst deliver them.
- 5. They called upon thee, and were holpen: they put their trust in thee, and were not confounded.
- 6. But as for me, I am a worm, and no man: a very scorn of men, and the outcast of the people.

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.

- 7. All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot our their lips, and shake their heads, saying,
- 8. He trusted in God, that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, if he will have him.
- 9. But thou art he that took me out of my mother's womb: thou wast my hope, when I hanged yet upon my mother's breasts.
- 10. I have been left unto thee ever since I was born: thou art my God, even from my mother's womb.
- 11. O go not from me, for trouble is hard at hand: and there is none to help me.

#### THE SECOND LESSON

### Philippians 2:5-11

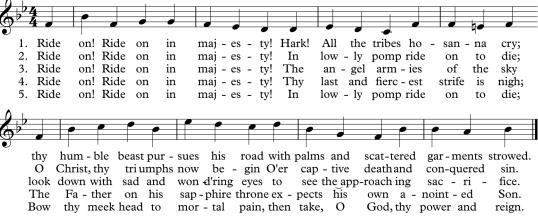
Tune: Winchester New

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Lector: The Word of the Lord. People: **Thanks be to God.** 

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 GRADUAL HYMN (Please stand)



Text: Henry Hart Milman (1791-1868) Music: WINCHESTER NEW, melody from *Musicalishes Hand-Buch*, 1690 Gospeller: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying:

"Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt the foal of a beast of burden.""

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee."

Gospeller: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON The Rev. Donnie McDaniel

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 "evangelist" and "evangelism"

THE NICENE CREED (BCP 2019 page 127)

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:

Celebrant and People:

We believe in one God,

The Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten 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, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit, and 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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.

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.

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 (BCP 2019 page 128)

Reader: Let us pray for the Church and for the world, saying, "hear our prayer." For the peace of the whole world, and for the well-being and unity of the people of God.

Reader: Lord, in your mercy:

People: Hear our prayer.

For Foley Beach, our Archbishop, and Mark Lawrence, our Bishop, for Bishop Bill Skilton; for all bishops, priests and deacons; especially for our Rector, Fr. Marshall; our Associate Rector, Fr. Donnie; our Assistant to the Rector, Fr. Joe; for our assistant Priest, Fr David, and our church staff. We also pray for St. Andrew's Mission and their Vicar, Fr. Jimmy Gallant;

Reader: Lord, in your mercy: People: Hear our prayer.

For all those who proclaim the Gospel at home and abroad; and in particular for All Saints' Church in Florence and their Rector, Fr. Jason Hamshaw, Chelsea and their family; and for San José Church in the Dominican Republic and their Rector, Fr. Sandino Sanchez.

Reader: Lord, in your mercy: People: Hear our prayer.

For our brothers and sisters in Christ who are persecuted for their faith.

Reader: Lord, in your mercy: People: Hear our prayer.

For our nation, for those in authority, and for all in public service, especially our President, Donald Trump, our Governor, Henry McMaster and our Mayor, John Tecklenburg.

Reader: Lord, in your mercy: People: Hear our prayer.

For all those who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity, particularly those on our parish prayer list. (pause)

Reader: Lord, in your mercy: People: Hear our prayer.

For all those who have departed this life in the certain hope of the resurrection, (pause) in thanksgiving let us pray.

Reader: Lord, in your mercy: People: Hear our prayer.

*Celebrant:* Heavenly Father, grant these our prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.** 

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION OF SIN (Please kneel as able) (BCP 2019 page 130)

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

Silence

Celebrant and People:

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.** 

We are all 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

THE COMFORTABLE WORDS (BCP 2019 page 130)

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

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. *John 3:16* 

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. 1 Timothy 1:15

If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. 1 John 2:1-2

THE PEACE (Please stand) (BCP 2019 page 131)

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

People: And with your spirit.

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

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OFFERTORY

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM - HOSANNA FILIO DAVID

Music by Tomás Luis de Victoria (1548-1611)

Words: The Gospel According to St. Matthew: Chapter 21 verse 9

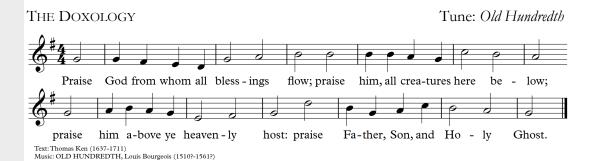
Hosanna filio David: benedíctus qui venit in nomine Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.

Hosanna to the son of David: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The dominating figure of sixteenth century Spanish music, Tomás Luis de Victoria was born in Avila. He was sent to Rome to study, possibly for a time under Palestrina during the latter's years at the Roman Seminary. In 1571 he succeeded Palestrina there as choirmaster, a post he also subsequently occupied at the Jesuit Order's German College. Later he became active as a priest, working at St. Girolamo della Carità. Following his return to Spain in 1585, Victoria served the Empress Maria and her daughter as teacher, organist, and choirmaster until his death in 1611.

Parish Church the choir 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.

Here at Old St Andrew's



Celebrant: (BCP 2019 page 131)

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for everything in heaven and on earth is yours; yours is the Kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as Head above all. All things come from you, O Lord,

People: And of your own have we given you.

## The Holy Communion

THE SURSUM CORDA (BCP 2019 page 132)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And with your spirit.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them up to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

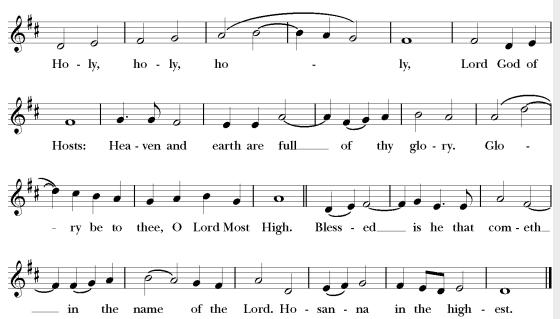
The Celebrant continues

It is right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. For our sins he was lifted high upon the Cross, that he might draw the whole world to himself; and by his suffering and death he became the author of eternal salvation for all who put their trust in him.

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



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.

THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION (BCP 2019 page 132)

Please Kneel

The Celebrant continues:

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you have made us for yourself; and when we had sinned against you and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent your only Son Jesus Christ into the world for our salvation. By the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary he became flesh and dwelt among us. In obedience to your will, he stretched out his arms upon the Cross and offered himself once for all, that by his suffering and death we might be saved. By his resurrection he broke the bonds of death, trampling Hell and Satan under his feet. As our great high priest, he ascended to your right hand in glory, that we might come with confidence before the throne of grace.

On the night that he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this is my Body, which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, Jesus took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for 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 in remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People:

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

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Word and Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Sanctify us also, that we may worthily receive this holy Sacrament, and be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us and we in him. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us with all your saints into the joy of your heavenly kingdom, where we shall see our Lord face to face.

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

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.** 

THE LORD'S PRAYER (BCP 2019 page 134)

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.

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: Therefore let us keep the feast.

THE PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS (BCP 2019 page 135)

Celebrant and People: We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table; but you are the same Lord whose character is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

THE AGNUS DEI God, Lamb of that ta the sins the world, have mer - cy on up Lamb God, of that ta kest a world, the sins of the have mer - cy up O Lamb of God that world, the of the kest sins ta way thy grant us peace.

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.

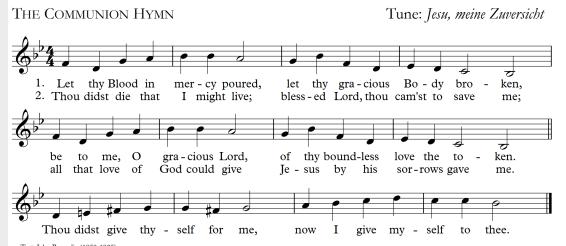
The Prayer of Humble Access is a very distinctive element of worship in the Anglican Tradition. Assembled in the earliest prayer books by Thomas Cranmer, it includes phrases and concepts from Mark 7:28, the Liturgy of St. Basil, a Gregorian collect, John 6:56, and some ideas of Thomas Aquinas.

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

*Celebrant::* The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The 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.



Text: John Brownlie (1859-1925) Music: JESUS, MEINE ZUVERSICHT, melody Johann Cruger (1598-1662); harm. after *The Chorale Book for England*, 1863



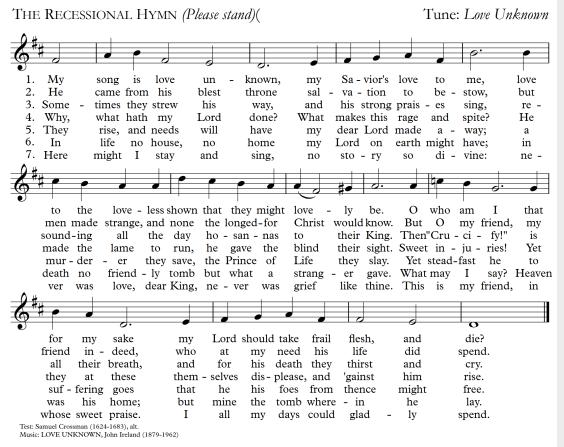
THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER (BCP 2019 page 137)

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People:

Heavenly Father, thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries, that we are living members of the body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal Kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING (BCP 2019 page 137)



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 DISMISSAL (BCP 2019 page 138)

Deacon or Priest: Let us go forth in the Name of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

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

## A Brief History of Saint Andrew's Parish Church

Built in 1706, this simple, elegant church is the oldest surviving structure used for worship south of Virginia. It is South Carolina's only remaining colonial cruciform church.

St. Andrew's Parish Church (commonly known as Old St. Andrew's) was one of ten Anglican churches in South Carolina established in 1706 by the Church Act. It was built to serve the Anglican planters along the Ashley River, a thriving tidal waterway that connected them to the city of Charles Town and to each other.

The ancient building holds a full schedule of worship services every Sunday. Some of its earliest counterparts are still used, but less often. (None is older.) Others have been replaced or augmented by newer buildings, some centuries old themselves, some modern. Still others have vanished, or their ruins stand in eerie silence to ages past. Visitors to this national treasure see a beautifully restored building, but the church hides a past that left it for dead many times.

Rice, indigo, and slaves brought prosperity to the lands along the Ashley, where some of the wealthiest plantations in British North America were located. The church was expanded to the shape of a cross in 1723 to accommodate a growing population. It survived a major fire in the 1760s but was quickly rebuilt inside its existing walls. But the parish declined before the Revolution and into the antebellum era. Ministering to the slaves, at the church and three plantation chapels, became the focus of the clergy. From 1851 to 1891, the Rev. John Grimké Drayton, the renowned horticulturalist at Magnolia-on-the-Ashley just north of St. Andrew's, was rector.

The church was one of the few buildings along the Ashley that Union troops did not burn to the ground during the Civil War. It became a polling place and did not reopen until 1876, eleven years after the war ended. The parish found itself at the epicenter of two of the most important events of late nineteenth century Charleston: the phosphate mining boom along the Ashley and the Great Earthquake of 1886, which caused significant damage to the church. After Rev. Drayton died in 1891, St. Andrew's lay dormant for the next fifty-seven years.

In 1948 Episcopalians moving to the West Ashley suburbs reopened the dilapidated church, even though it was far away from new residential developments. Dogged perseverance brought slow but continual improvements. A parish house was built, and then expanded twice in quick succession. Hurricane Hugo (1989) caused major damage to the graveyard. Into the twenty-first century, the church undertook the most extensive restoration in its history and celebrated its tercentennial.

For more than 300 years, St. Andrew's has survived, indeed has thrived, against all odds.