ST. FRANCIS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

Service begins here at both 8am and 10:30am.

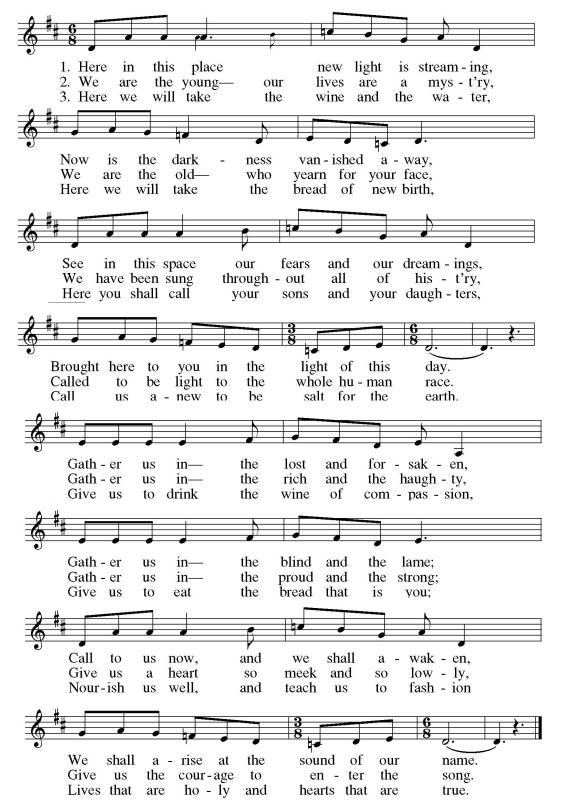
PRELUDE

COME THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING PIANO DUET—LYNNE GLICKERT AND STEPHANE ALLEE

GATHERING SONG

GATHER US IN

We begin by praising God through song and prayer. Stand. At 8am, sing verse 1. At 10:30am, sing all verses.



GREETING

Standing before the assembly, the Presider welcomes the community to worship.

Presider Blessed be the One, Holy and Living God.

People Glory to God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Presider 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.

People Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

As we enter in to worship we ask God's forgiveness for things done and things left undone and things done on our behalf so that we may be reconciled to each other and to God.

Deacon Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence is kept for a time.

People God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you,

opposing your will in our lives.

We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves,

and in the world you have created.

We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done,

and the evil done on our behalf.

Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ,

that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

Presider Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,

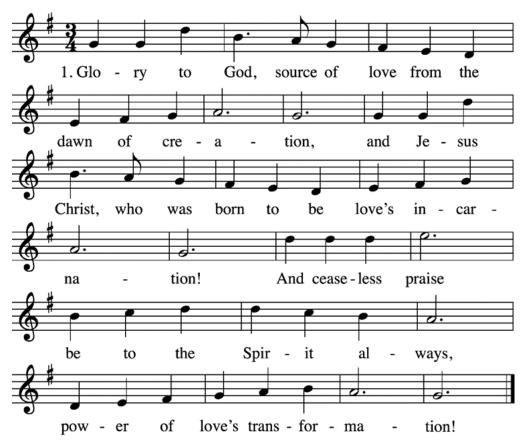
strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal

life.

People Amen.

Song of Praise: Glory to God 8am + 10:30am

Presider Let us glorify the Holy One as we sing.



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

The Presider continues with the prayer appointed for the day, called the collect.

The collect is written to go along with both the season of the church year and the readings for the day. It summarizes the attributes of God as revealed in the scripture for the day.

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People Amen.

WE HEAR THE SACRED STORIES Sit.

We hear the stories of the experience of God from our spiritual ancestors. Reading and commenting on scripture goes back to the earliest services of Christianity. Following the pattern of Jewish synagogue worship, readings follow a set pattern for what will be read when.

THE FIRST LESSON: A READING FROM HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Reader A reading from the Book of Esther.

7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

The king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me-- that is my petition-- and the lives of my people-- that is my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king." Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?" Esther said, "A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that." So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

Hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

124

The psalms are a part of the poetry of the Hebrew people. They express joy and sadness; loneliness and thanksgiving as part of the human longing to be united with God.

At 8am, the congregation reads the antiphon together. At 10:30, the congregation sings the antiphon together.



- 1 If the Lord had not been on our side, let Israel now say;
- 2 If the Lord had not been on our side, when enemies rose up against us;
- 3 Then would they have swallowed us up alive in their fierce anger toward us; ANTIPHON
- 4 Then would the waters have overwhelmed us and the torrent gone over us;
- 5 Then would the raging waters have gone right over us. ANTIPHON
- 6 Blessed be the Lord!

 he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.
- 7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; the snare is broken, and we have escaped.
- 8 Our help is in the Name of the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth. ANTIPHON

THE SECOND LESSON: A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT WRITINGS

Reader

A reading from the letter from James.

5:13-20

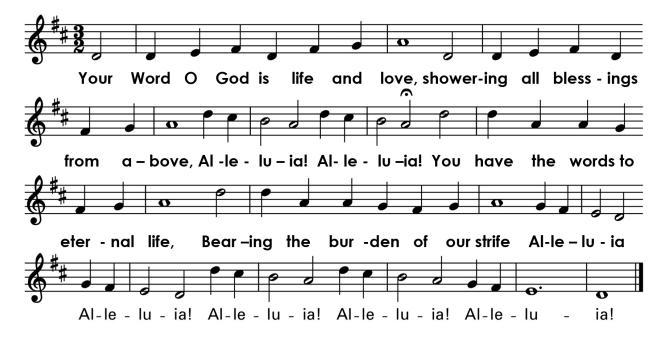
Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins. Hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL HYMN: PREPARING TO HEAR THE GOSPEL Stand.

We stand, as we are able, for the Gospel reading to show the particular importance we place on Jesus' words and actions, and sing the Gospel Hymn.



THE PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Deacon God is with you.

People And also with you.

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Mark. 9:38-50

People Glory to you, O Christ.

John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

"If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to

enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

"For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

At the end of the Gospel the Deacon says

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

GOSPEL HYMN The music on the previous page is sung one time through.

THE SERMON Sit.

THE REV. LAURIE ANZILOTTI

We remain seated for the sermon. Having someone comment on the scriptures read goes back to the earliest days of Christianity and to the Jewish Synagogue worship which preceded it.

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Stand.

Deacon Please stand, as you are able, as we affirm our faith.

Silence is kept for a time.

Deacon We are not alone; we live in God's world.

People We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word

made flesh, to reconcile and make anew, who works in us and others by the Spirit.

Deacon We trust in God.

People We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in

Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God

is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayer changes people. Prayer is not about changing God but about changing us more into the likeness of God. Collectively and individually we offer the hopes and desires of our hearts to God. The Deacon offers the prayers for those who are sick or have asked our prayers.

Deacon: God of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ you promise to hear us when we pray to

you in faith with thanksgiving. Therefore we come to you with grateful hearts asking you,

God of Love, grant our prayer.

After each prayer, the people reply, "grant our prayer."

Presider: Merciful God, you look with compassion on all who turn to you. Hear the prayers of your

people. Grant that what we have asked in faith we may by your grace receive; through

Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE EXCHANGE OF THE PEACE

As we enter the most sacred portion of our worship we exchange a sign of God's promised peace. There are no set words to use in greeting each other, but "Peace be with you," "God's peace," and "Shalom" are all commonly used.

Presider The Peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us offer each a sign of Christ's peace.

As a community of reconciliation and peace, we greet each other with a sign of our desire for peace.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Sit.

GATHERING AT CHRIST'S TABLE

Having been nourished from the richness of God's love in sacred story and reconciled to each other through prayer and peace, we gather at Christ's table to offer ourselves to be transformed for service in the world. We listen to or sing a hymn to continue to prepare our hearts and minds for the Eucharistic Prayers to come.

*THE OFFERTORY 10:30 only

The gifts of bread, wine, money and other gifts are offered by the assembly to be set apart or consecrated as a reminder of Christ's sacrificial love and life. Once the Holy Table or Altar is prepared, the Presider and people give thanks to God for the many gifts we have been given by standing and singing our praise.

MEDITATION HYMN 8:00am

IT IS WELL

SOUNDS LIKE REIGN

OFFERTORY HYMN 10:30am

BE STILL MY SOUL

PIANO/ORGAN DUET

From here, continue to the yellow bulletin labelled "An Order for The Celebration of The Holy Eucharist," page 4, and return to this green insert for Communion Hymn and Sending Hymn.

COMMUNION HYMN 8:00am

WE REMEMBER

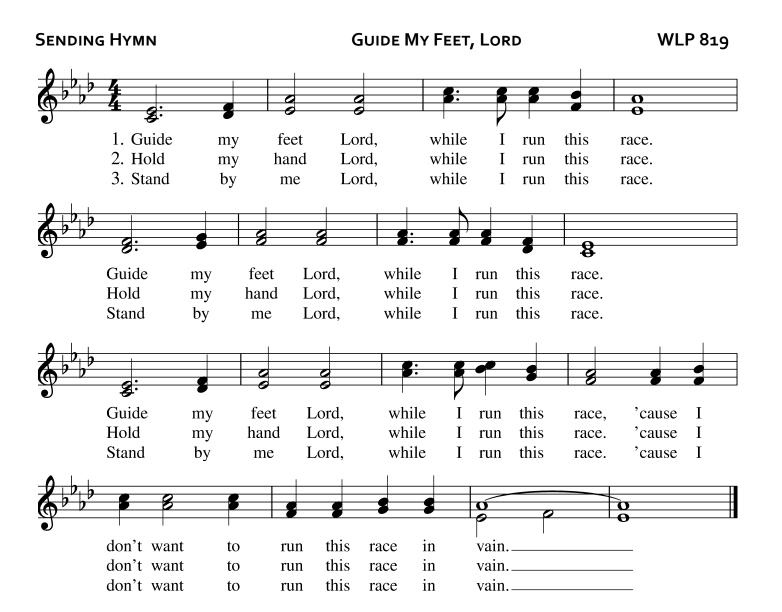
OCP CHOIR

COMMUNION HYMN 10:30am

WE REMEMBER



From here, continue to the yellow bulletin labelled "An Order for The Celebration of The Holy Eucharist," page 10, for the Post-Communion Prayer.



Continue to the yellow bulletin labelled "An Order for The Celebration of The Holy Eucharist," page 11.

You are welcome to take this green insert home with you for prayer or pondering.