

Grace Episcopal Church

The Last Sunday after Pentecost

CHRIST THE KING

November 23, 2025

The Holy Eucharist: Rite II

10:30 a.m.

BCP PRELUDE

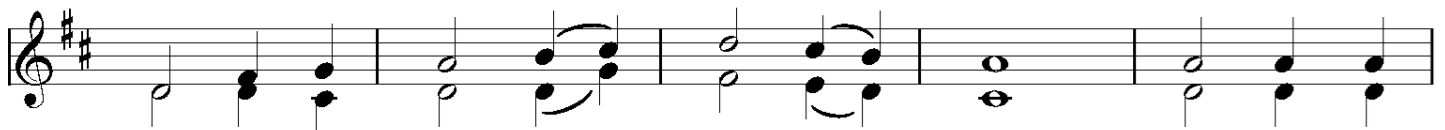
O Worship the King – arr. J. Curnow

Wes Allred, Trombone

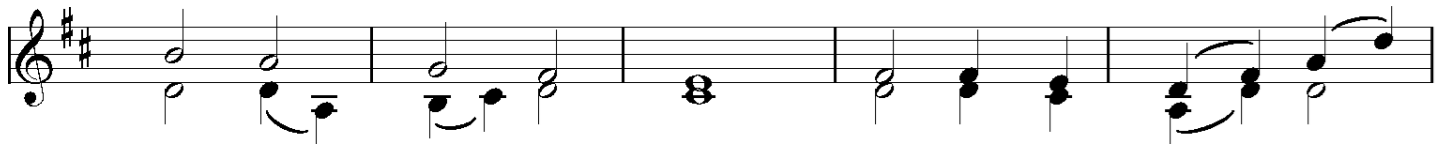
THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #544 (In the Blue Hymnal)

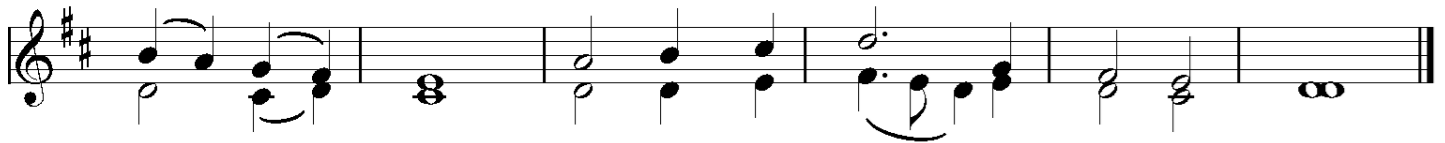
Jesus shall reign where'er the sun



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun doth his suc -
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue dwell on his
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - oners
 5 Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar



1 ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
 2 throng to crown his head; his Name like sweet per -
 3 love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
 4 leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
 5 hon - ors to our King; an - gels de - scend with



1 shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 2 fume shall rise with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 3 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his Name.
 4 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
 5 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

355 OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

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

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

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.**

GLORIA *(Sung by all)*

Organ *Unison Voices*

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. Lord God, hea - ven - ly King,
al - migh - ty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.
slower Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:
have mer - cy up - on us; you are seat - ed at the right hand
a tempo of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer. For you a - lone
are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit,
in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

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THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Lector A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah.

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them.

So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

- The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 46 (*responsively by whole verse*)

¹ God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

² **Therefore we will not fear, though the
earth be moved,
and though the mountains be toppled into
the depths of the sea;**

³ Though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble at its
tumult.

⁴ **The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

⁵ There is a river whose streams make glad
the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.

⁶ **God is in the midst of her;
she shall not be overthrown;
God shall help her at the break of day.**

⁷ The nations make much ado, and the
kingdoms are shaken;
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.

⁸ **The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

⁹ Come now and look upon the works of
the Lord,
what awesome things he has done on earth.

¹⁰ **It is he who makes war to cease in all the
world;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,
and burns the shields with fire.**

¹¹ "Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted in the earth."

¹² **The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

THE EPISTLE

Colossians 1:11-20

Lector A reading from the letter to the Colossians.

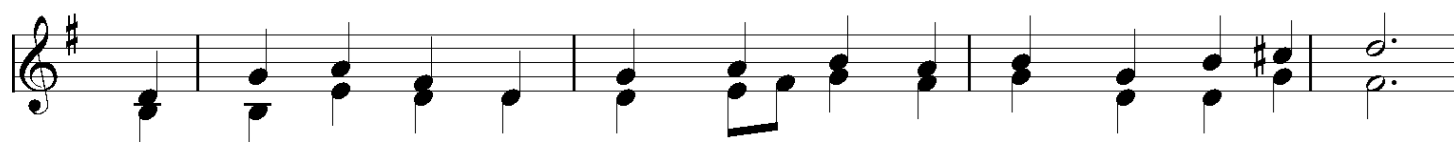
May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers-- all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

- The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN #483 (vv. 1-3)

The head that once was crowned with thorns



1 The head that once was crowned with thorns is crowned with glo - ry now;
 2 The high - est place that heaven af - fords is his, is his by right,
 3 the joy of all who dwell a - bove, the joy of all be - low,
 6 The cross he bore is life and health, though shame and death to him:



1 a roy - al di - a - dem a - dorns the might - y vic - tor's brow.
 2 the King of kings, and Lord of lords, and heaven's e - ter - nal Light;
 3 to whom he man - i - fests his love and grants his name to know.
 6 his peo-ple's hope, his peo-ple's wealth, their e - ver - last - ing theme.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 23:33-43

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

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. The people stood by, watching Jesus on the cross; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

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

THE HOMILY

The Reverend Stephen Becker

358 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.

387 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FORM III AND CONFESSION OF SIN

The Leader and People pray responsively

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 all bishops, priests, and deacons;
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*

We pray for all who are traveling, especially **Cameron** Klass, **Julia** Klass, **Josey** Parker, and **Brianna** Cantrall,

and those with special needs:

Ed Kelaher, **Jackie** Allgood, **Lou** Adkins, **Mark** Adkins, **Ella** Asebes, **Jeannie** Belk, **Louise** Billings, **Jean** Binnicker, **Tom** Blalock, **Sissy** Bolstad, **Judy** Boyd, **Mike** Bralkowski, **Alice** Brandon, **Lynne** Broch, **Jack** Buckheit, **Gayle** Burke, **Seraphina** Byers, **Lynne** Cleckley, **Jim** Clodfelter, **Joan** Clodfelter, **Bob** Cook, **Susan** Dixon, **Renee** Ewbank, **Cathy** Farley, **Jenny** Gallen, **Shana** Garland, **Angie** Gowen, **Lilly** Griffin, **Jane** Grimes, **Jimmy** Hall, **George** Hanna, **Nancy** Hinkle, **Jennifer & Michael** Hinton, **Chris** Hodges, **Bob** Holcomb, **Andrew** Jones, **Marlene** Jones, **Ray** Kent, **Lisa** Lightfoot, **Lloyd** Lohr, **Warren** MacKinstry, **Debbie** Mason, **Kate** McKenzie, **Charles** McNeair, **Arnold** Miller, **Angela** Mott, **Debbie** Painter, **Walker** Peoples, **Gabby** Plott, **Ellen** Rickert, **Jacklyn** Rojas, **Lucas** Sanabria, **Lynn** Santolla, **Suzy** Sheets, **Lisa** Shepherd, **Carol** Sills, **Talmadge** Silversides, **Morgan** Simmons, **Robin** Sink, **Clyde** Smith, **Martha Ellen** Smith, **Jenny** Hedrick Stilwell, **Sean** Sullivan, **Jackie** Touchton, **Brenda** Tyndall, **Perry** Grimes Van Dyke, **Sandy** Wallace, **Flynn** Williams, **Paul** Wylie, **Charlotte** Young, and **Edward**.

"Are there others?"

Hear us, Lord; *For your mercy is great.*

Celebrant

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you." Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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

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.

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.**

Please stand if you are able

360 THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies – arr. G. Krapf

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

-Lasst uns erfreuen

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him, all creatures here below.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

361 THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (*Eucharistic Prayer A*)

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.**

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:

SANCTUS (*Sung by All*)

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might.
hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na
in the high - est. Bles - sed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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The people may stand or kneel

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:

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. 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 hath taught us, we are bold to say,

364 **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.**

364 THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Facing the people, the Celebrant may say 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.

All baptized Christians are invited to come forward for Holy Communion at the Lord's Table.

You may receive both the bread and wine, or only the bread or only the wine.

Receiving Communion in one or both forms is sufficient sacramentally.

If you prefer neither bread nor wine, you also are invited to come forward and to simply cross your arms over your chest as a sign for the minister to provide you with a holy blessing of the Lord.

During Holy Communion, if you are unable to receive communion at the altar rail, please notify an usher so that communion can be brought to you.

366 POST-COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God, we 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.

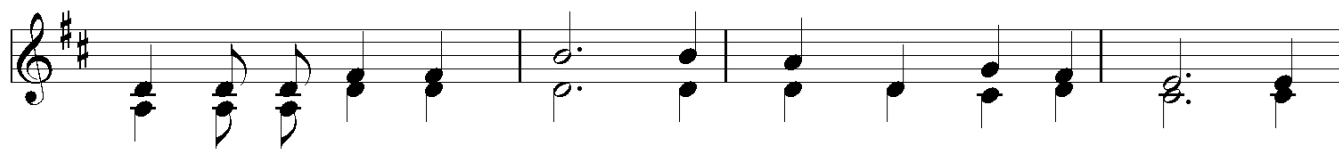
THE BLESSING

May the Christ who reigned from the cross,
whose mercy opened paradise,
lift your heart with compassion,
steady your steps in hope,
and draw you ever into his healing light.

And the blessing of God Almighty,

✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**



*The flowers at the altar today are given to the glory of God
by Nancy & Doug Hartzog
in honor of Lynn Meeks
and all that she does as the Grace Church Treasurer.*

WELCOME GUESTS AND NEWCOMERS!

We are delighted to have you worship with us today, and we would welcome the opportunity to get acquainted. Please sign the Guest Book in the narthex and join us immediately following the service in the Parish Hall (in the building next door) for refreshments and conversation. **Today our hosts are Kathy Cashion and Ellen, and Sandra Husted.**

Infants and young children are always welcome to worship with their families in the sanctuary. The restrooms are located in the rear hallway, and diaper-changing stations are provided in both rooms.

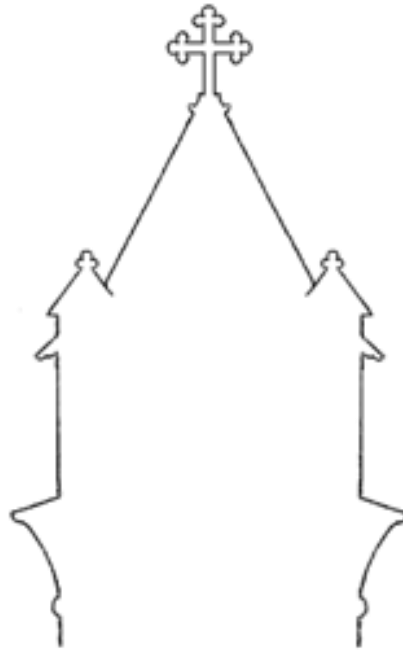
During Holy Communion, if you are unable to receive communion at the altar rail, please notify an usher so that communion can be brought to you.

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Lector:	Penny Taylor	Intercessor:	Elizabeth Purdy
Lay Eucharistic Ministers:	Kathie Goodman, Karl Bolstad	Greeter:	Sandra Husted
Ushers:	Wes Allred, Chandler Allred	Acolytes:	Anderson Carter Merritt Carter Ward Inabinett

Today we welcome as our guest priest The Reverend Stephen Becker

The Rev. Stephen Becker has served as a priest in the Episcopal Church since 1992. He recently retired as the Vicar of Saint Mary Magdalene in Seven Lakes, where he served for over six years. He resides in High Point, North Carolina, with his wife, Ellen. They have three grown children and eight grandchildren. His 33 years of ministry in the Episcopal Church have provided him with a wide range of experiences, including serving as the Canon Educator on the Cathedral staff in St. Petersburg, Florida. In Northern Virginia, he served as a Hospice chaplain for over 10 years. He has been blessed by his participation in Cursillo in this and other dioceses. In his free time, he enjoys traveling, gardening, home improvement projects, and biking on the Greensboro Greenway.



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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The Reverend Edward T. Kelaher, Rector
Bill Herndon, Organist and Choir Director
Kathy Johnson, Christian Education Director
Summer Blackburn, Youth Leader
Maureen Tinchler, Parish Administrator
John Taylor, Facilities Manager
Joan Clodfelter, Minister of Music Emerita

THE VESTRY

2026

Karl Bolstad
Bright Carter
Sally Dodd
Henry Duquette Junior Warden

2027

Dan Briggs
Elizabeth Purdy
Mary Matthews Clerk of Vestry
Leslie Sheets Senior Warden

2028

Kristi Allred
Lynn Meeks Treasurer
Neil Shepherd
Chuck Taylor

Vestry Person of the Month for November is Elizabeth Purdy.