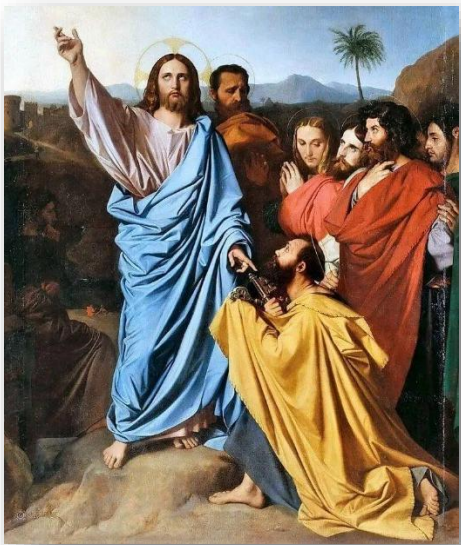




Grace Episcopal Church
The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 23, 2026
The Holy Eucharist: Rite II
10:30 a.m.

BCP **PRELUDE**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #522 (*In the Blue Hymnal*)

Glorious things of thee are spoken

*Glorious things of thee are spoken,
 Zion, city of our God;
 he whose word cannot be broken
 formed thee for his own abode;
 on the Rock of Ages founded,
 what can shake thy sure repose?
 With salvation's walls surrounded,
 thou may'st smile at all thy foes.*

*See! the streams of living waters,
 springing from eternal love,
 well supply thy sons and daughters
 and all fear of want remove.
 Who can faint, when such a river
 ever will their thirst assuage?
 Grace which, like the Lord, the giver
 never fails from age to age.*

*Round each habitation hovering,
 see the cloud and fire appear
 for a glory and a covering,
 showing that the Lord is near.
 Thus deriving from their banner,
 light by night, and shade by day,
 safe they feed upon the manna
 which he gives them when they pray.*

*Blest inhabitants of Zion,
 washed in the Redeemer's blood!
 Jesus, whom their souls rely on,
 makes them kings and priests to God.
 'Tis his love his people raise
 over self to reign as kings:
 and as priests, his solemn praises
 each for a thank-offering brings.*

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.

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 51:1-6

Lector A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness,
you that seek the Lord.
Look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.
Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you

for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.
For the Lord will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places,
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the Lord;

joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.
Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation;
for a teaching will go out from me,
and my justice for a light to the peoples.
I will bring near my deliverance swiftly,
my salvation has gone out
and my arms will rule the peoples;

the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.
Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats;
but my salvation will be for ever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

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

PSALM 138 (*responsively by whole verse*)

¹ I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my
whole heart;
before the gods I will sing your praise.

**² I will bow down toward your holy temple
and praise your Name,
because of your love and faithfulness;**

³ For you have glorified your Name
and your word above all things.

**⁴ When I called, you answered me;
you increased my strength within me.**

⁵ All the kings of the earth will praise you,
O Lord, when they have heard the words of
your mouth.

**⁶ They will sing of the ways of the Lord,
that great is the glory of the Lord.**

⁷ Though the Lord be high, he cares for the
lowly; he perceives the haughty from afar.

**⁸ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you
keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury
of my enemies;
your right hand shall save me.**

**⁹ The Lord will make good his purpose for me;
O Lord, your love endures for ever;
do not abandon the works of your hands.**

THE EPISTLE

Romans 12:1-8

Lector A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-- what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

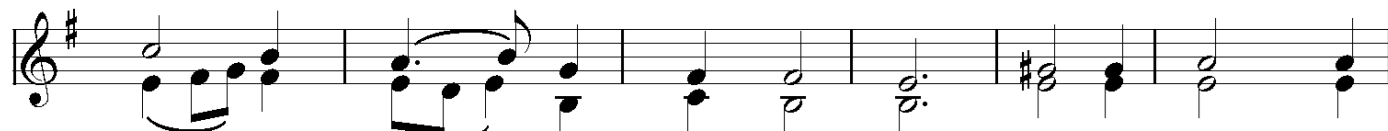
- The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**



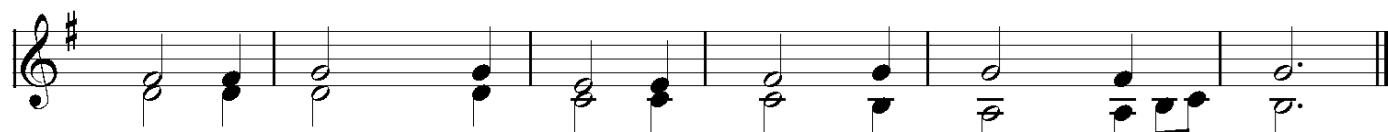
1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ the head and
 2 All that ded - i - cat - ed ci - ty, dear - ly loved of
 3 To this tem - ple, where we call thee, come, O Lord of
 4 Here vouch - safe to all thy serv - ants what they ask of



cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord, and pre - cious,
 God on high, in ex - ult - ant ju - bi - la - tion
 Hosts, to - day; with thy wont - ed lov - ing - kind - ness
 thee to gain; what they gain from thee, for ev - er



bind - ing all the Church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
 pours per - pet - ual mel - o - dy; God the One in
 hear thy serv - ants as they pray, and thy full - est
 with the bless - ed to re - tain, and here - af - ter



help for ev - er, and her con - fi - dence a - lone.
 Three a - dor - ing in glad hymns e - ter - nal - ly.
 ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in its walls al - way.
 in thy glo - ry ev - er - more with thee to reign.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 16:13-20

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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

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.

388 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FORM IV AND CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us pray for the Church and for the world. Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. *Silence* Lord, in your mercy *Hear our prayer.*

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. *Silence* Lord, in your mercy *Hear our prayer.*

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. *Silence* Lord, in your mercy *Hear our prayer.*

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. *Silence* Lord, in your mercy *Hear our prayer.*

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. *Silence* Lord, in your mercy *Hear our prayer.*

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. *Silence* Lord, in your mercy *Hear our prayer.*

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

and those with special needs:

Lou Adkins, **Mark** Adkins, **Ella** Asebes, **Bob** Beard, **Louise** Billings, **Tom** Blalock, **Sissy** Bolstad, **Alice** Brandon, **Lynne** Broch, **Jack** Buckheit, **Gayle** Burke, **Seraphina** Byers, **Lynne** Cleckley, **Bob** Cook, **Linda** Cox, **Wesley** Crump, **Chris** Davila, **Dylan** Daw, **Susan** Dixon, **Renee** Ewbank, **Phyllis** Finger, **Shana** Garland, **Lilly** Griffin, **Jimmy** Hall, **George** Hanna, **Nancy** Hinkle, **Chris** Hodges, **Bob** Holcomb, **Marlene** Jones, **Ed** Kelaher, **Ray** Kent, **Beattie** Logan, **Warren** MacKinstry, **Debbie** Mason, **Arnold** Miller, **Sherry** Moore, **Angela** Mott, **Walker** Peoples, **Gabby** Plott, **Cheryl** Reed, **Shirley** Remsburg, **Ellen** Rickert, **Jacklyn** Rojas, **Betty Jo** Sadler, **Jacob** Salazaar, **Lucas** Sanabria, **Lynn** Santolla, **Suzy** Sheets, **Carol** Sills, **Talmadge** Silversides, **Clyde** Smith, **Martha Ellen** Smith, **Sean** Sullivan, **Pat** Tarlton, **Jackie** Touchton, **Brenda** Tyndall, **Flynn** Williams, **Paul** Wylie, and **Charlotte** Young.

“Are there others?”

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

Celebrant

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, 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

A LITANY FOR BLESSING BACKPACKS AND BRIEFCASES - by Wendy Claire Barrie

For schools and classrooms and for the teachers and students who fill them each day,
God of Wisdom, **We give you thanks.**

For homes and workplaces and everywhere we find ourselves thinking, creating, and
experimenting, God of Wisdom, **We give you thanks.**

For the gift of making mistakes and trying again, God of Wisdom, **We give you thanks.**

Help us to remember that asking the right questions is often as important as giving the right
answers. God of Wisdom, **Hear our prayer.**

That our schools, homes, and workplaces may be places of safety, compassion, and inclusion,
God of Love, **Hear our prayer.**

For education equity in this country and around the world, that all people everywhere might
have access to knowledge and opportunity, God of Justice, **Hear our prayer.**

God our teacher, we ask you to bless your people of all generations gathered here with curiosity,
understanding, and respect. May their backpacks and briefcases be a sign to them that they
have what they need to learn and to grow this year. May they be guided by your love. All this
we ask in the name of Jesus, who as a child in the temple showed his longing to learn about
you, and as an adult taught by story and example your great love for us. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY VOLUNTARY

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS HYMN 178 (v. 4)

Refrain

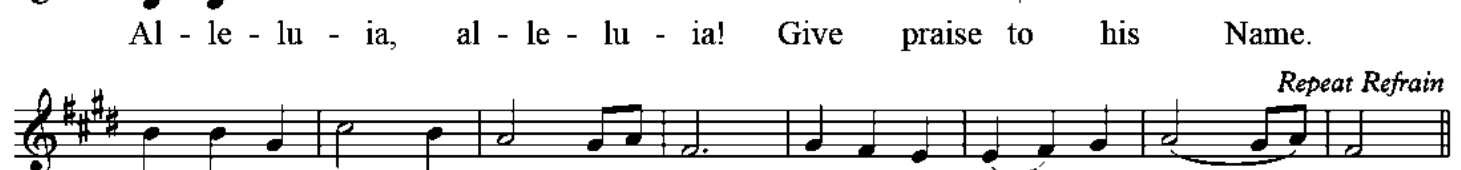


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the ris - en Lord.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give praise to his Name.

Repeat Refrain



4. Come, let us praise the liv - ing God, joy - ful - ly sing to our Sa - vior.

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.

For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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:

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. 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 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.
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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

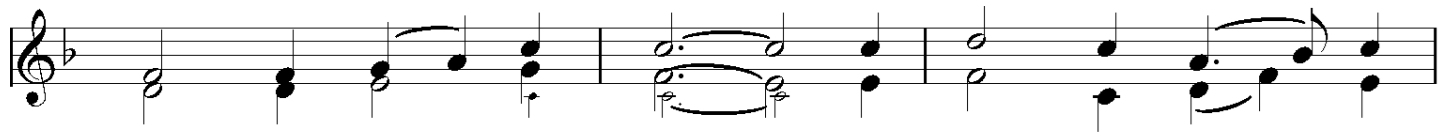
The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

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.

Unison or harmony

1 I come with joy to meet my Lord, for -
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to
 3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each
 4 And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, we'll



1 giv - en, loved, and free, in awe and won - der
 2 find, as all are fed, the new com - mu - ni -
 3 proud di - vi - sion ends. That love that made us
 4 pres - ence, al - ways near, is in such friend - ship
 5 go our dif - ferent ways, and as his peo - ple

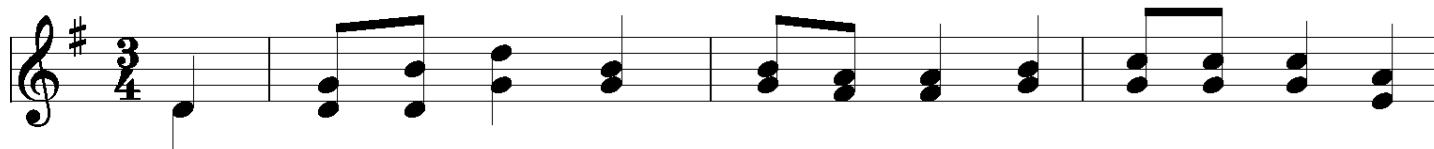


1 to re - call his life laid down for me.
 2 ty of love in Christ's com - mun - ion bread.
 3 makes us one, and stran - gers now are friends.
 4 bet - ter known: we see, and praise him here.
 5 in the world, we'll live and speak his praise.

365 POST-COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*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**

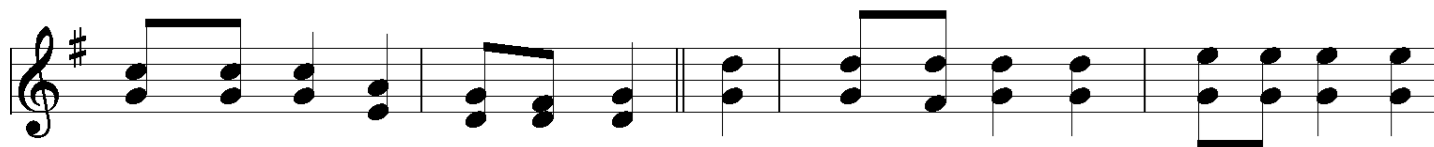
May the God who reveals to us the truth of Christ strengthen you in faith, give you courage to confess him as Lord, and guide you as living stones in the building of his Church. And the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**



1. My hope is built on noth - ing less Than Je - sus' blood and
2. When dark - ness veils His love - ly face, I rest on His un -
3. His oath, His cov - e - nant and blood, Sup - port me in the
4. When He shall come with trum - pet sound, O may I then in



1. right - eous - ness; I dare not trust the sweet - est frame, But
2. chang - ing grace; In ev - 'ry high and storm - y gale, My
3. whelm - ing flood; When all a - round my soul gives way, he
4. Him be found; Dressed in His right - eous - ness a - lone, Fault -



1. whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
2. an - chor holds with - in the veil. On Christ, the so - lid Rock, I stand, All
3. then is all my hope and stay.
4. less to stand be - fore the throne.



oth - er ground is sink - ing sand, All oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia!

People Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

*The flowers at the altar today are given to the glory of God
 In Loving Memory of W. Vaughan Spencer
 On Behalf of All Who Loved Him
 With Deepest Appreciation to Fr. Ed Kelaher
 Who Gave Him Guidance Back to the Light & Love of Christ.*

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Lector:	Peny Taylor	Intercessor:	Staley Nance
LEMs:	Kathie Goodman, Mary Matthews	Greeter:	Mary-Cameron Welborn
Ushers:	Sims Riggan, Bill Gilleland	Acolyte:	Tucker Sheets

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.

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.



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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The Reverend Stephen Becker, Interim Rector

Bill Herndon, Organist and Choir Director

Maureen Tincher, Parish Administrator

Kristi Allred, Media Specialist

John Taylor, Facilities Manager

Joan Clodfelter, Minister of Music Emerita



THE VESTRY

2027

Dan Briggs Junior Warden

Elizabeth Purdy

Mary Matthews Clerk of Vestry

Leslie Sheets

2028

Kristi Allred

Lynn Meeks Treasurer

Neil Shepherd

David Inabinett

2029

Kristie Miller

Marjorie Parker Senior Warden

Cathy Riggan

Mary-Cameron Welborn

Vestry Person of the Month for August is Cathy Riggan.