

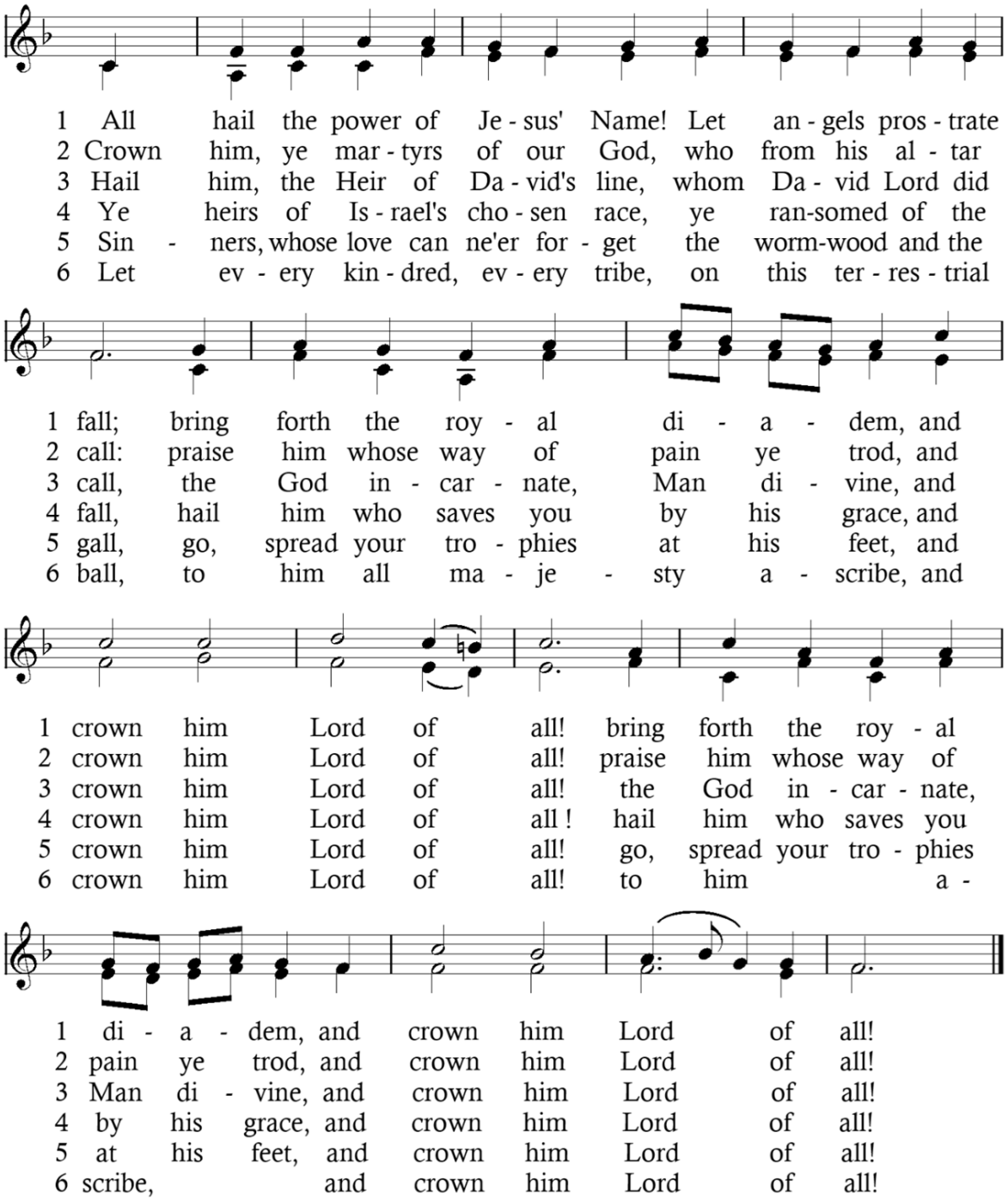
# Grace Episcopal Church

**The Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost**
**October 25, 2026**
**The Holy Eucharist: Rite II**
**10:30 a.m.**

*BCP* **PRELUDE** *Toccata in E Minor* – J. Pachelbel

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN #450** *(In the Blue Hymnal)* ***All hail the power of Jesus' Name!***
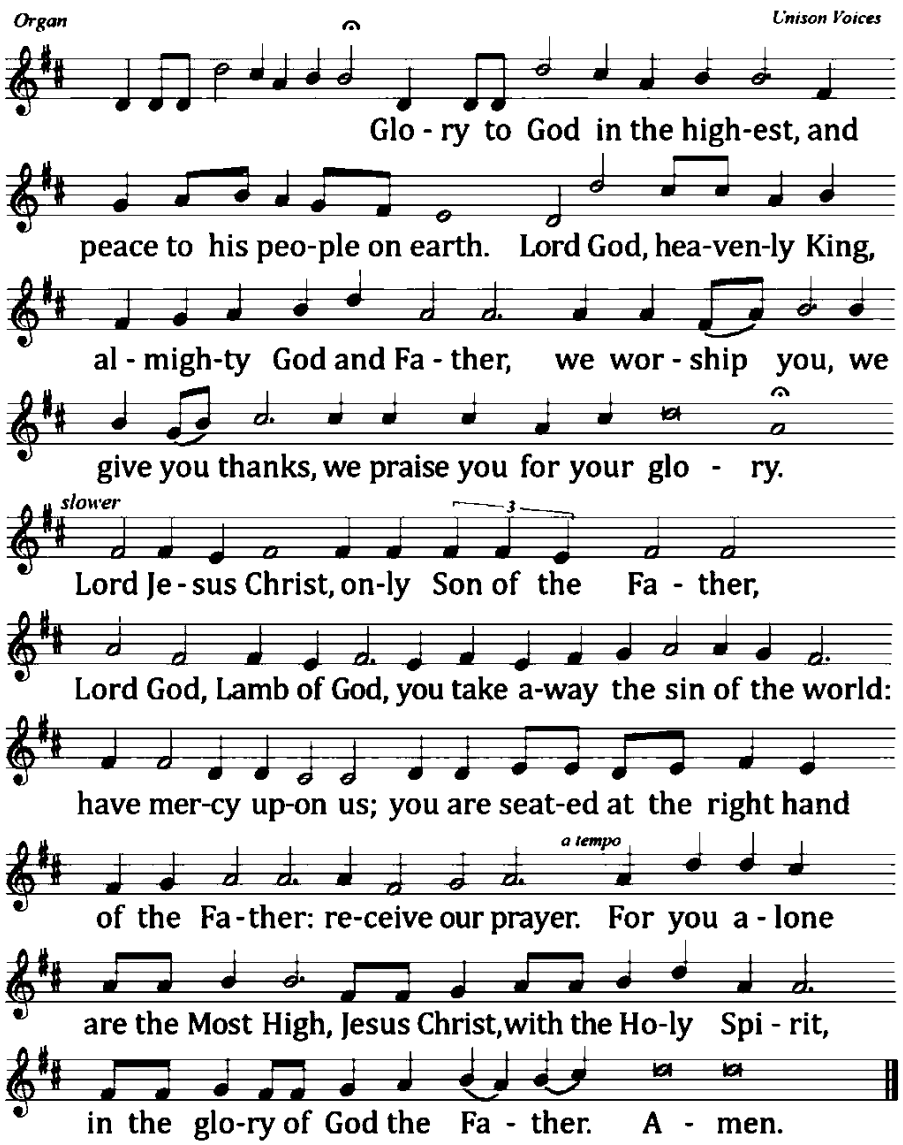


## 355 OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

*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)*




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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, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; 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** *Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18*

*Lector* A reading from the Book of Leviticus.

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying:

Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.

You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the Lord.

You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

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

**PSALM 1** *(Responsively by whole verse)*

1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

**2 Their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and they meditate on his law day and night.**

3 They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither;
everything they do shall prosper.

**4 It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

**6 For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked is doomed.**
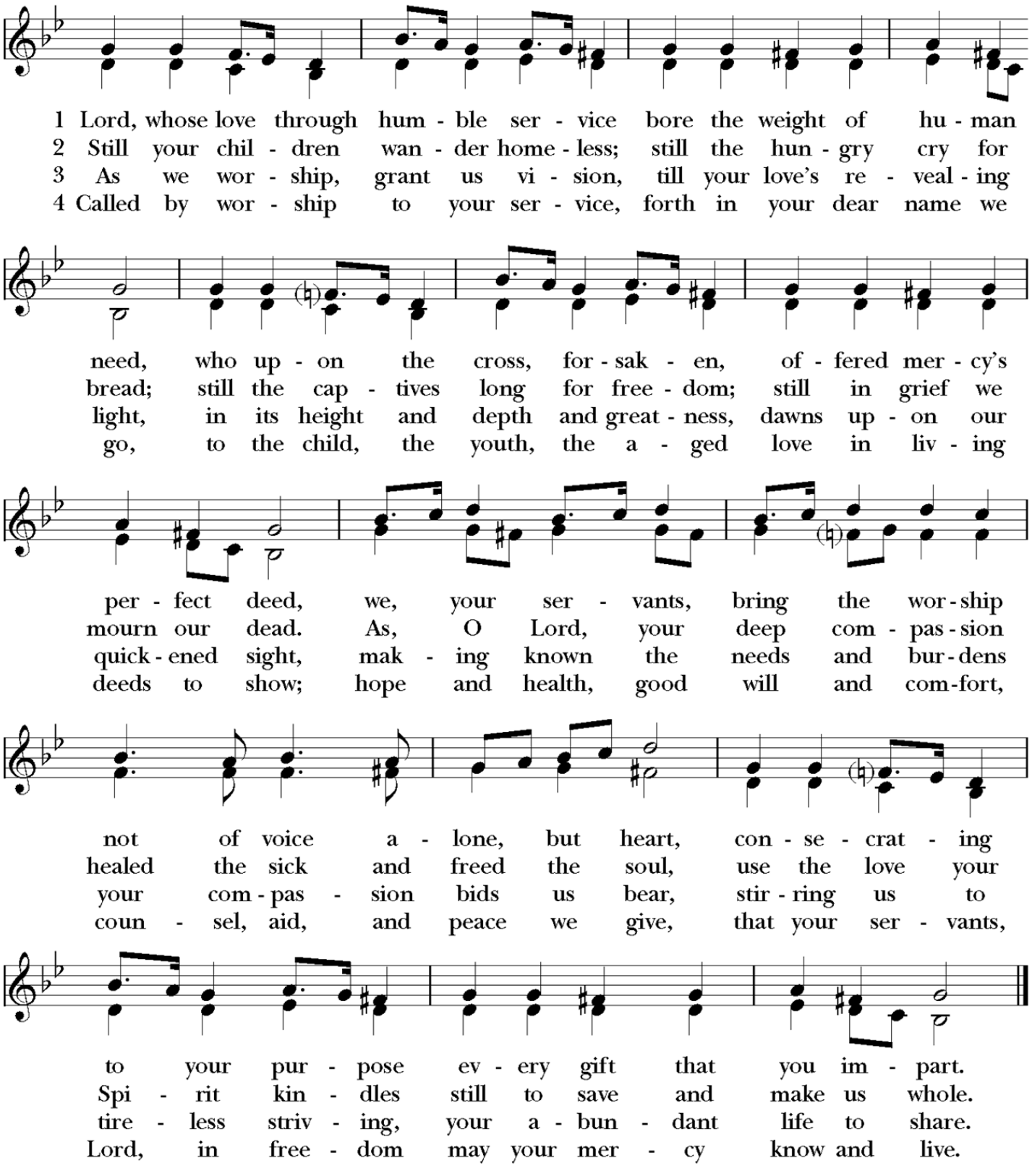
**THE EPISTLE** *1 Thessalonians 2:1-8*

*Lector* A reading from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians.

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

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

**SEQUENCE HYMN #610 (vv. 1-2)** *Lord, whose love through humble service*



**THE GOSPEL** *Matthew 22:34-46*

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

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

> 'The Lord said to my Lord,
> "Sit at my right hand,
> until I put your enemies under your feet"'?

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

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

**SEQUENCE HYMN #610 (vv. 3-4)** ***Lord, whose love through humble service***

**THE HOMILY** The Rev. Canon Jeff Jackson
Regional Canon Missioner for Congregational Vitality

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 **Lyndon** Briggs, **Julia** Klass, **Josey** Parker, **Brianna** Cantrall, **Jack** Tincher, and **Chase** Tincher,

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, **Jennifer** Cashion, **Lynne** Cleckley, **Bob** Cook, **Linda** Cox, **Wesley** Crump, **Chris** Davila, **Susan** Dixon, **Renee** Ewbank, **Phyllis** Finger, **Shana** Garland, **Lilly** Griffin, **Jimmy** Hall, **George** Hanna, **Nancy** Hinkle, **Chris** Hodges, **Bob** Holcomb, **Jimmy** Holshouser, **Marlene** Jones, **Melissa** Keates, **Ed** Kelaher, **Ray** Kent, **Peggy** Klass, **Beattie** Logan, **Warren** MacKinstry, **Debbie** Mason, **Arnold** Miller, **Sherry** Moore, **Nancy** Northcott, **Walker** Peoples, **Gabby** Plott, **Blanche** Poole, **Shirley** Remsburg, **Ellen** Rickert, **Jacklyn** Rojas, **Betty Jo** Sadler, **Lucas** Sanabria, **Lynn** Santolla, **Suzy** Sheets, **Carol** Sills, **Talmadge** Silversides, **Clyde** Smith, **Martha Ellen** Smith, **Sean** Sullivan, **Jackie** Touchton, **Brenda** Tyndall, **Donna** Wiederhold, **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.**

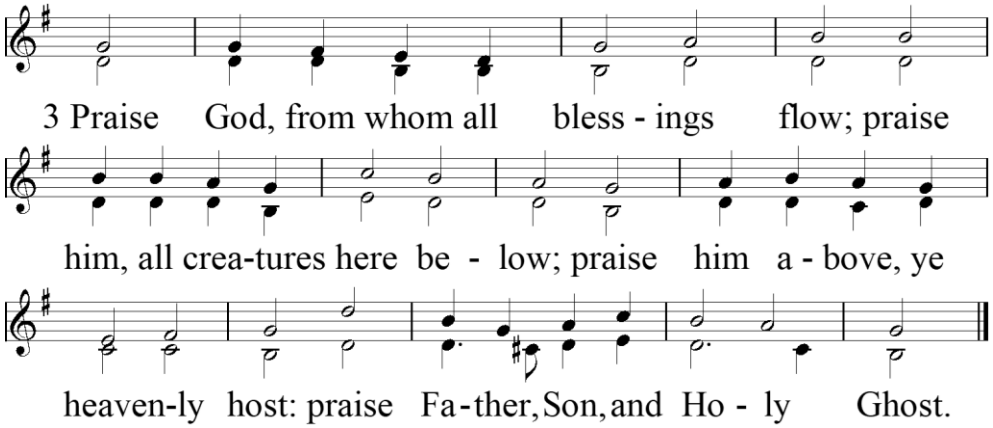
**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

**OFFERTORY SENTENCE**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM** *A Pentecost Prayer* – C. Cooman

**PRESENTATION OF GIFTS HYMN 380 (v. 3)**



**361 THE GREAT THANKSGIVING** *(Eucharistic Prayer A)*

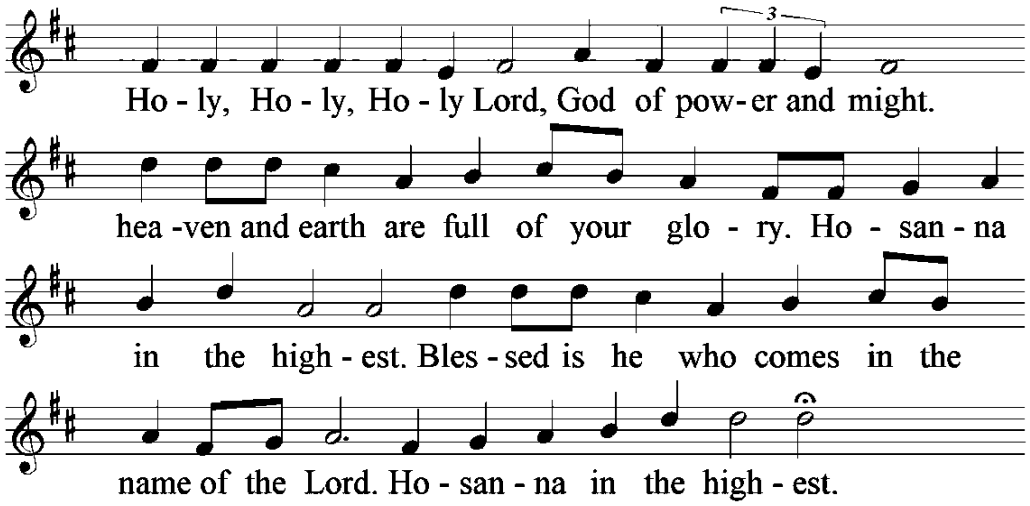
*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.
***People*** **And also with you.**
*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.
***People*** **We lift them to the Lord.**
*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
***People*** **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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 by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world.

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)*




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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.**

**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**
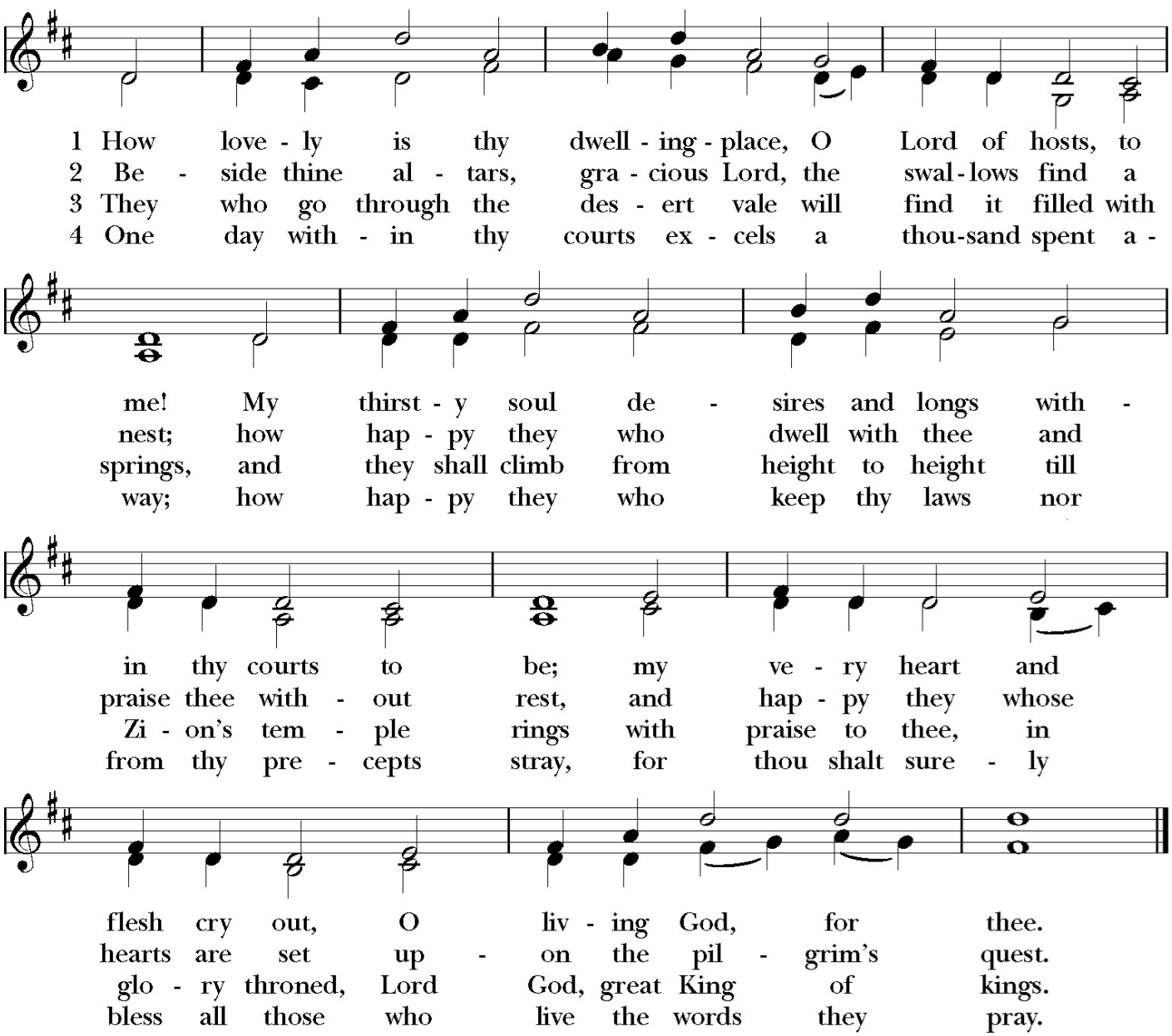
*Facing the people, the Celebrant may say the following Invitation*

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.*

**COMMUNION HYMN #517** *How lovely is thy dwelling place*




**365 POST-COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

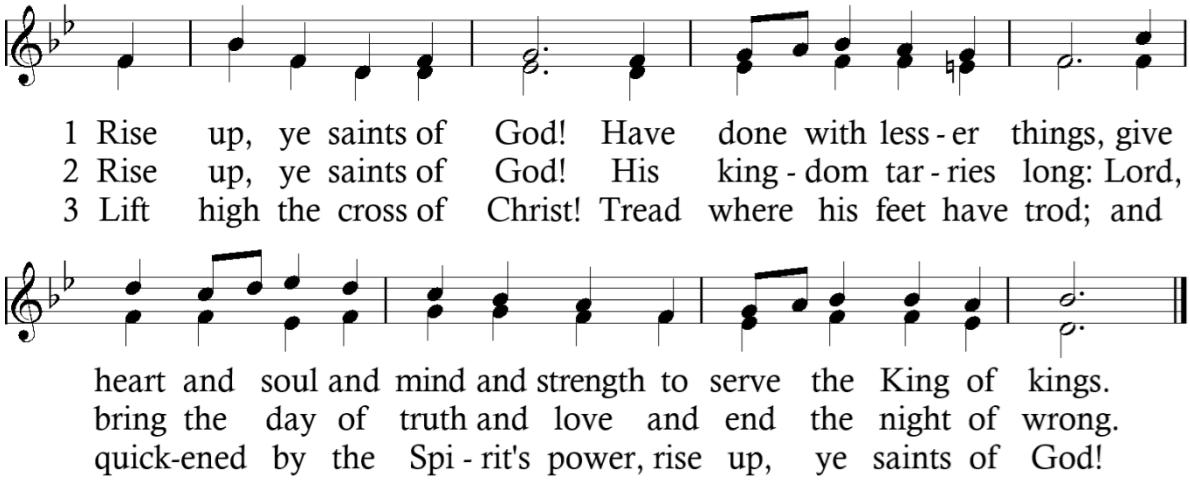
*Celebrant and People*

**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**

Go forth loving God with all your heart and loving your neighbor as yourself. May Christ guide your steps and fill your days with grace. And the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**DISMISSAL HYMN #551** *(In the Blue Hymnal)* ***Rise up, ye saints of God!***




**THE DISMISSAL**

*Celebrant* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia!
***People*** **Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**POSTLUDE** *Toccata and Fugue in D Minor* – J. S. Bach

***The flowers at the altar today are given to the glory of God***
***by Chris & Mike Hodges***
***in loving memory of her parents Dorrie Stocking and C.L. Van Dyke.***

**WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY**

**Lector:** Karl Bolstad
**LEMs:** Kathie Goodman, Louie Cox
**Ushers:** Richard Wolfe, Tommy Black
**Intercessor:** Kathy Johnson
**Acolytes:** Jack Briggs
Tanner Sheets
Merritt Carter

## 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 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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**www.gracelexingtonnc.org**


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 | 2028 | 2029 |
|---|---|---|
| Dan Briggs Junior Warden | Kristi Allred | Kristie Miller |
| Mary Matthews Clerk of Vestry | Lynn Meeks Treasurer | Marjorie Parker Senior Warden |
| Leslie Sheets | Neil Shepherd | Cathy Riggan |
| Joe Wallace | David Inabinett | Mary-Cameron Welborn |

Vestry Person of the Month for October is Marjorie Parker.


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