

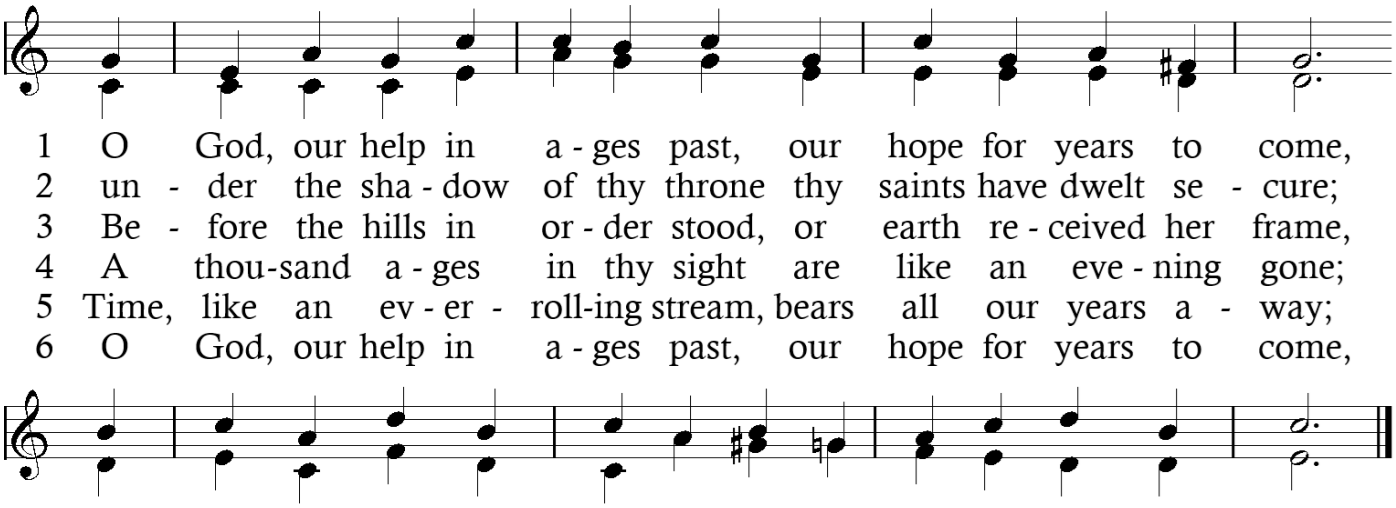
Grace Episcopal Church

The Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
November 15, 2026
The Holy Eucharist: Rite II
10:30 a.m.

BCP **PRELUDE**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #680 *(In the Blue Hymnal)* ***O God, our help in ages past***



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.

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON *Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18*

Lector A reading from the Prophet Zephaniah.

Be silent before the Lord God!
For the day of the Lord is at hand;
the Lord has prepared a sacrifice,
he has consecrated his guests.
At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,
"The Lord will not do good,
nor will he do harm."
Their wealth shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.
The great day of the Lord is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter,
the warrior cries aloud there.
That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.
I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the Lord,
their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.
Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the Lord's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

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

PSALM 90:1-12 *(Responsively by whole verse)*

1 Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.

**2 Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.**

3 You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Go back, O child of earth."

**4 For a thousand years in your sight are like
yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night.**

5 You sweep us away like a dream;
we fade away suddenly like the grass.

**6 In the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

7 For we consume away in your displeasure;
we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.

**8 Our iniquities you have set before you,
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

9 When you are angry, all our days are gone;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

**10 The span of our life is seventy years,
perhaps in strength even eighty;
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow,
for they pass away quickly and we are gone.**

11 Who regards the power of your wrath?
who rightly fears your indignation?

**12 So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

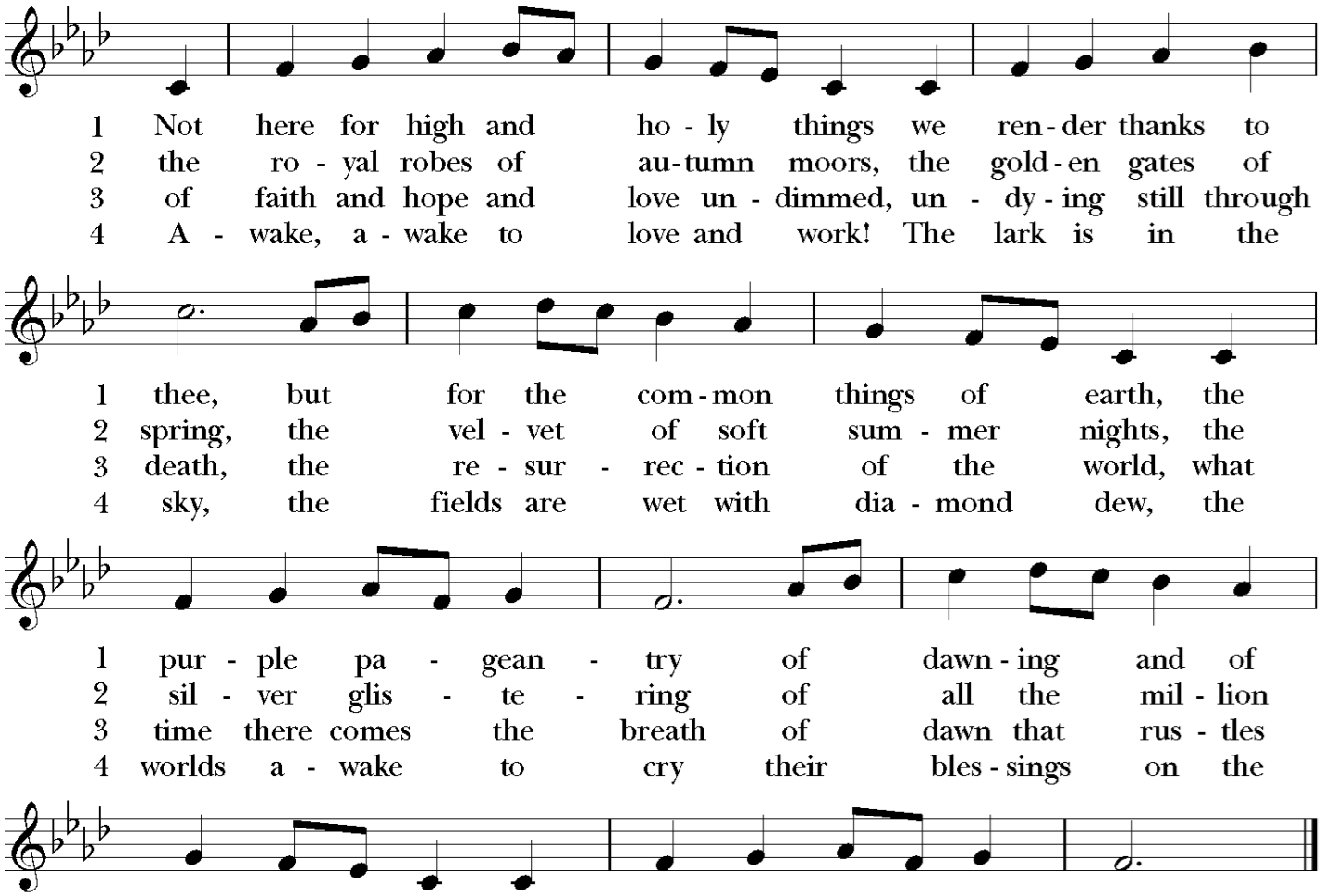
THE EPISTLE *1 Thessalonians 5:1-11*

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

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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

SEQUENCE HYMN #9 (vv. 1-3) ***Not here for high and holy things***



THE GOSPEL *Matthew 25:14-30*

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

Jesus said, "It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

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

SEQUENCE HYMN #9 (v. 4) ***Not here for high and holy things***

THE HOMILY The Rev. 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 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, **David** Fulton, **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, **Kathie** Nelson, **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
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.**

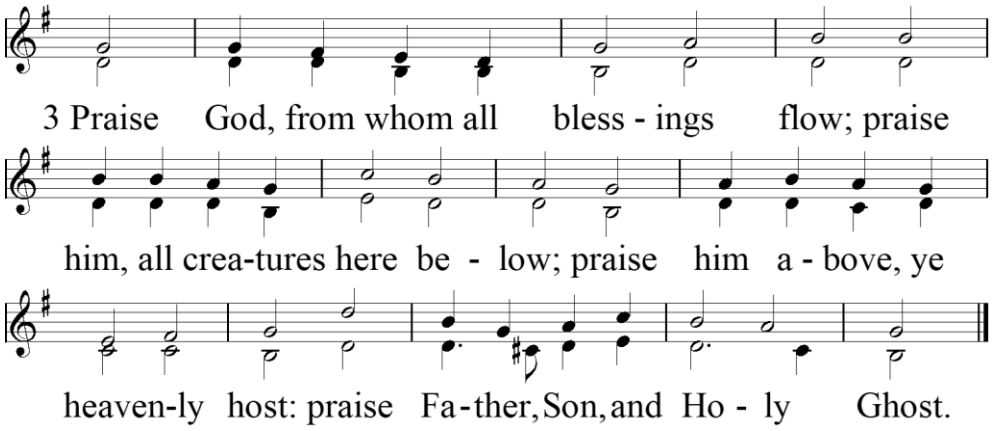
ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* – arr. M. Schweizer

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS HYMN 380 (v. 3)



361 THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *(Eucharistic Prayer A)*

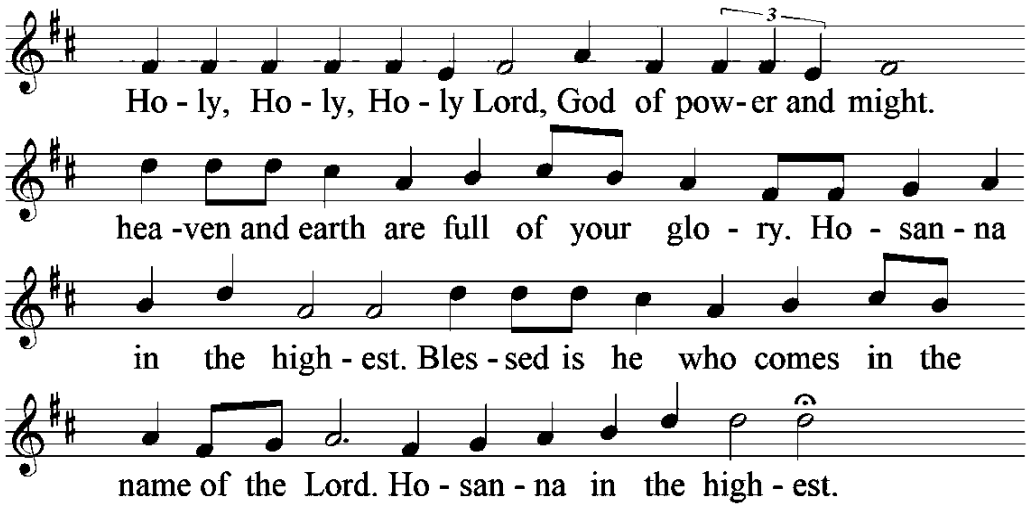
Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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 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)



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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 #574 ***Before thy throne, O God, we kneel***



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 God give you the courage to use your gifts faithfully, the wisdom to recognize the opportunities before you, and the faith to serve generously in all that you do. 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 #561 *Stand up, stand up, for Jesus*



THE DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

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The flowers at the altar today are given to the glory of God
by Mary Crump
in loving memory of Wesley Eugene Crump.

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Lector:	Lynn Meeks	**Greeter:**	Penny Taylor
LEMs:	Pam Harvey, Louie Cox	**Acolytes:**	Merritt Carter
Ushers:	Joe Wallace, Sims Riggan		Fisher Welborn
Intercessor:	Belvie Gilleland		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 and join us immediately following the service in the Parish Hall (in the building next door) for refreshments and conversation. **Today are hosts are Merritt Carter, Sally Dodd, Barbara Presnell, and Sandy Reynolds.**

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 November is Kristie Miller.