ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

IN THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

THE TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PROPER 25, YEAR A

Holy Eucharist Rite II – 9:30 a.m.

October 25, 2026

SUNDAY SERVICES

8:00 a.m. — Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:30 a.m. — Holy Eucharist, Rite II
11:15 a.m. — Holy Eucharist, Rite I

Be thoughtful, be silent, be reverent, for this is the house of God.
Before the service speak to the Lord; during the service let the Lord speak to you;
after the service speak to one another.

THE RECTOR'S WELCOME

Welcome to Saint John's!

You always have a place here at Saint John's. Whether you have been coming for years or this is your very first visit, we are grateful to have you here. This wonderful parish is full of life and activities. We are excited for all that God is doing in and through Saint John's.

Sunday School and Children's Chapel are available for young people, and we have wonderful once-a-month Wednesday evening activities planned for the whole parish. I have a feeling this may be one of the most fun years we have ever had at Saint John's!

Most of all, we want Saint John's to be a place where people encounter Jesus Christ—where He is known, worshipped, and adored, and where we grow together in faith, hope, and love.

If you are new to Saint John's, or if you are looking for a church home, please stop by the welcome table in the courtyard and introduce yourself. We would love to meet you, get to know you, and welcome you into the Saint John's family.

Above all, let us remember that this is God's Church, and all that we do is ultimately for His glory. Let us continue with grateful hearts, joyful spirits, and great expectation for what God has in store for Saint John's.

Thanks be to God, and God bless us all!

Faithfully,
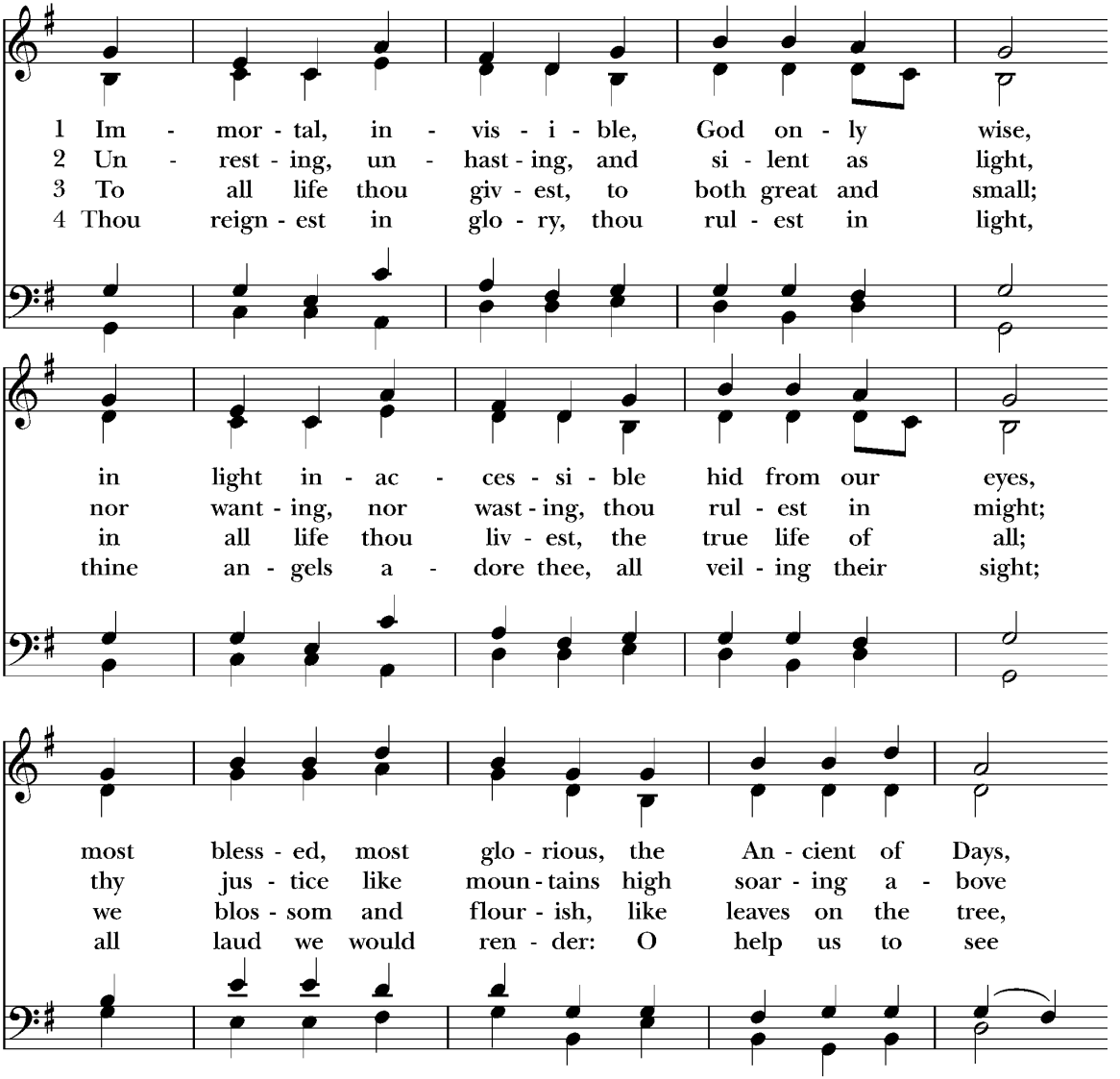


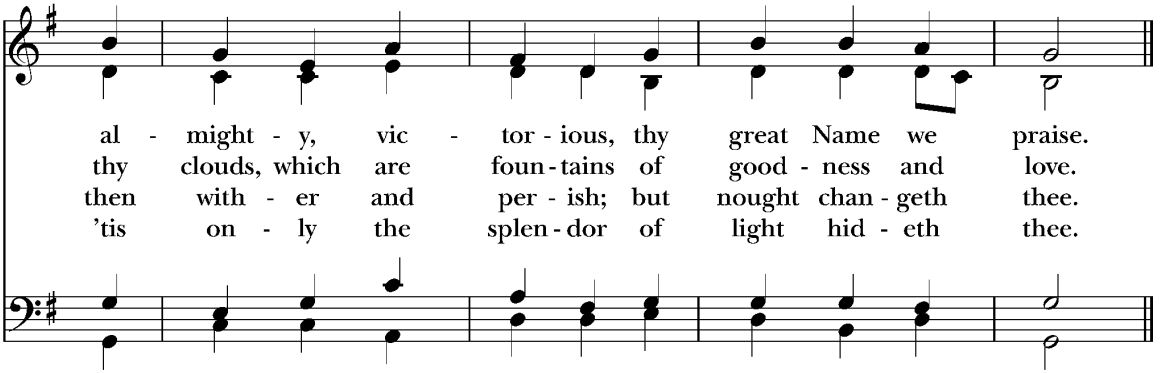
The Rev. Christian M. Wood
Rector

VOLUNTARY *Salix (from Plymouth Suite)* Percy Whitlock

The people stand as the Ministers enter

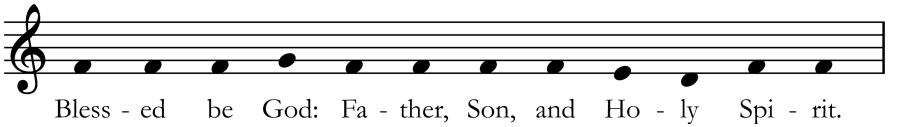
PROCESSIONAL HYMN 423 *St. Denio*



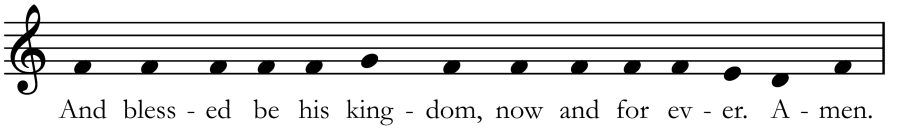


PROPER ACCLAMATION

Celebrant



People

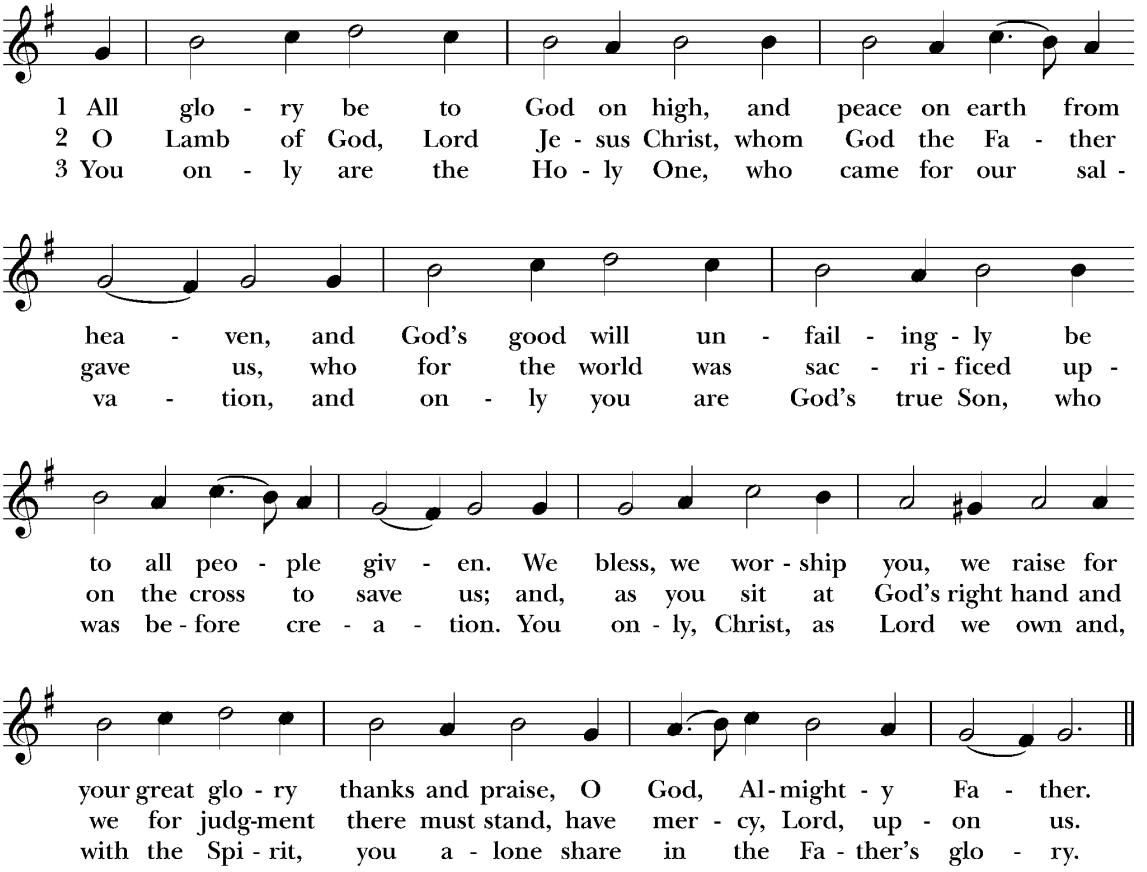


THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant

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 IN EXCELSIS 421 *Allein Gott in der Hoh*



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 people sit

THE LESSON Leviticus 19:1-2,15-18

Lector A Reading from the Book of Leviticus.

And the Lord said to Moses, "Say to all the congregation of the people of Israel, You shall be holy; for I the Lord your God am holy. You shall do no injustice in judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor. You shall not go up and down as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand forth against the life of your neighbor: I am the Lord. You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason with your neighbor, lest you bear sin because of him. You shall not take vengeance or bear any grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord."

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL Psalm 1 ***Sung by the choir*** Sir John Goss

BLESSED is the man that hath not walked in the counsel of the ungodly nor stood in the way of sinners, and hath not sat in the seat of the scornful.
But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law will he exercise himself day and night.
And he shall be like a tree planted by the waterside, that will bring forth his fruit in due season.
His leaf also shall not wither; and look, whatsoever he doeth, it shall prosper.
As for the ungodly, it is not so with them; but they are like the chaff, which the wind scattereth away from the face of the earth.
Therefore the ungodly shall not be able to stand in the judgment, neither the sinners in the congregation of the righteous.
But the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous; and the way of the ungodly shall perish.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THE EPISTLE Thessalonians 2:1-8

Lector A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.
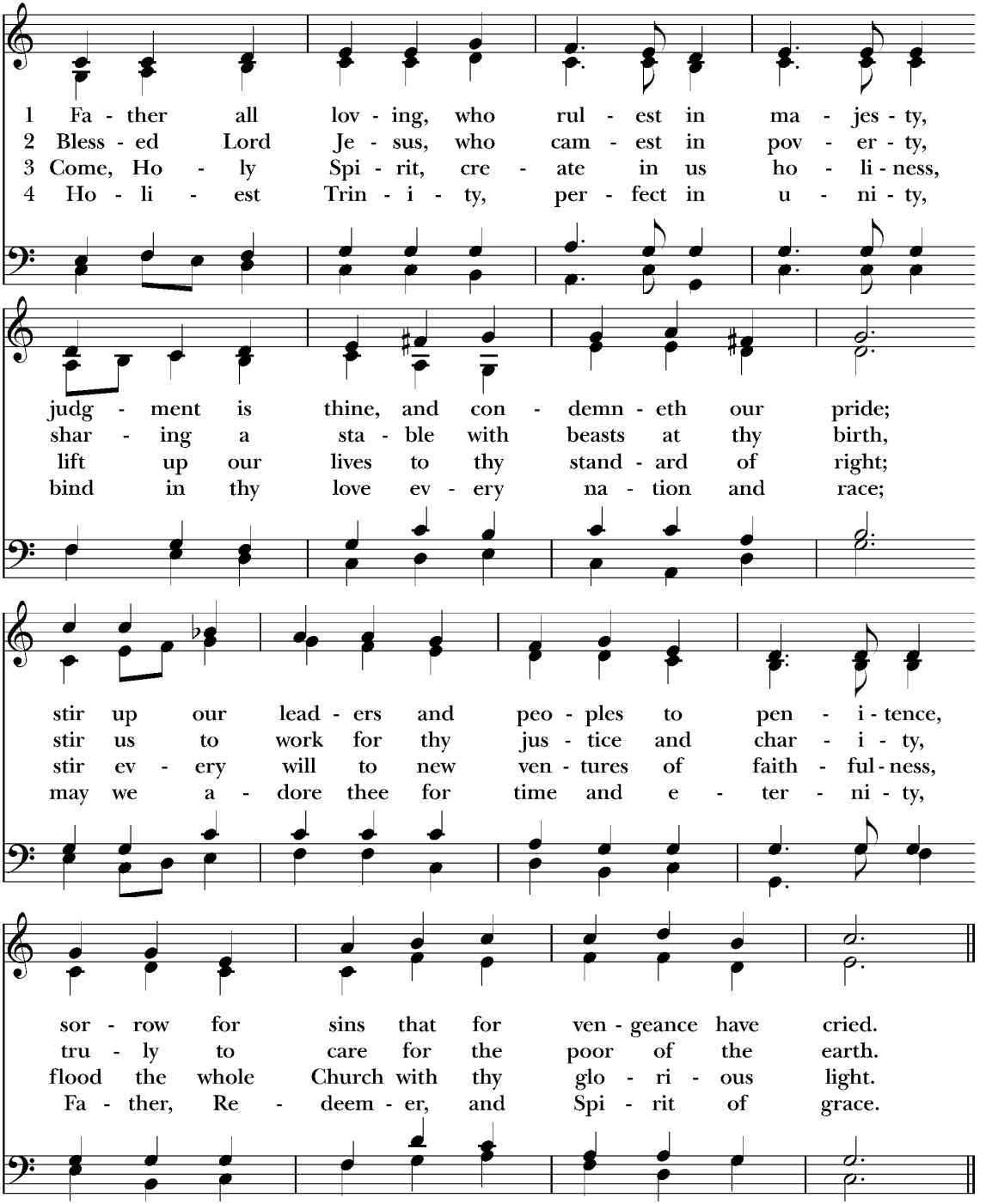
For you yourselves know, brethren, that our visit to you was not in vain; but though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the face of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from error or uncleanness, nor is it made with guile; but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please men, but to please God who tests our hearts. For we never used either words of flattery, as you know, or a cloak for greed, as God is witness; nor did we seek glory from men, 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 taking care of her children. So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

All elementary-aged students will now follow the cross down the center aisle and process to Children's Chapel in the Parish Hall

SEQUENCE HYMN 568

Was Lebet



THE GOSPEL Matthew 22:34-46

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

But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they came together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question, to test him. "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" And 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 great and first commandment. And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets." Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, saying, "What do you think of the Christ? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David, inspired by the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying, 'The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, till I put thy enemies under thy feet'? If David thus calls him Lord, how is he his son?" And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did any one dare to ask him any more questions.

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

THE SERMON Father Christian M. Wood

All stand

THE NICENE CREED

Celebrant and people

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(Form II)*

The people kneel

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury, Sean, the Presiding Bishop, and Douglas, our Bishop; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.
Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for Donald, our President; Ron, our Governor; and Jane, our Mayor; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.
Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble.
Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed. Pray for those who have died.

Silence

Additional petitions may be added here

Silence

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored especially the Ever-Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed John, and all the saints whom we remember today. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence

The Celebrant adds this concluding collect

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION

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

All 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.**

All stand

THE PEACE

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

The people sit for the announcements

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Come Down O Love Divine — Sir William Harris

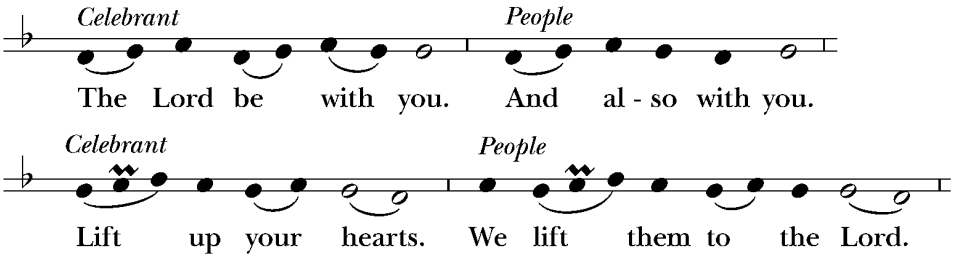
Come down, O Love divine Seek thou this soul of mine And visit it with thine own ardour glowing; O Comforter, draw near Within my heart appear And kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing O let it freely burn Till earthly passions turn To dust and ashes in its heat consuming; And let thy glorious light Shine ever on my sight And clothe me round, the while my path illuming Let holy charity Mine outward vesture be And lowliness become mine inner clothing: True lowliness of heart Which takes the humbler part And o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing And so the yearning strong With which the soul will long Shall far outpass the power of human telling; For none can guess its grace Till become the place Wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling

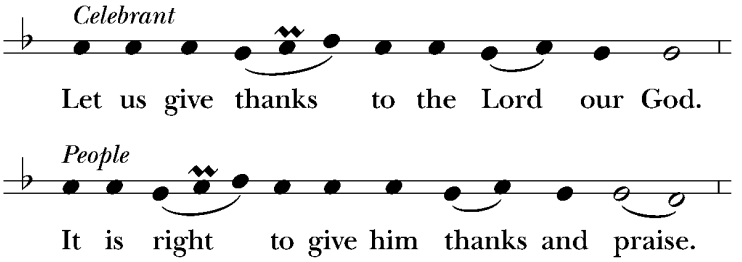
The people stand

DOXOLOGY 380 *Stanza 3* *Old 100th*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below.
Praise him above, ye heavenly host
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *Eucharistic Prayer A*





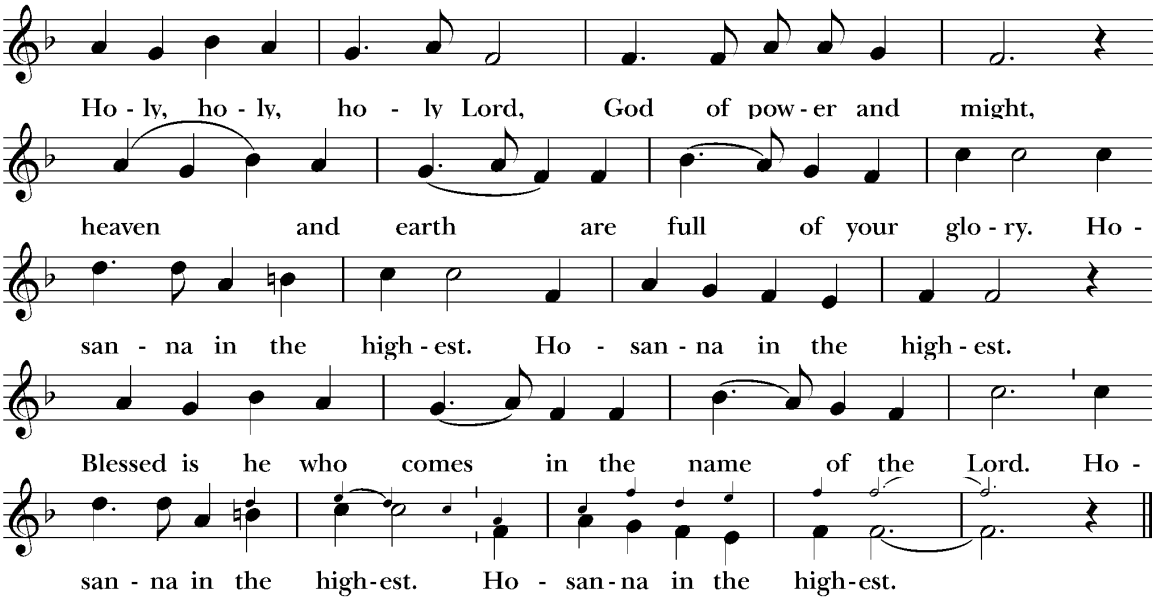
Celebrant

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said

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 AND BENEDICTUS S-125 Richard Proulx



The people kneel

Celebrant

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.

Celebrant

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,

Celebrant and people

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,
forever and ever. Amen.

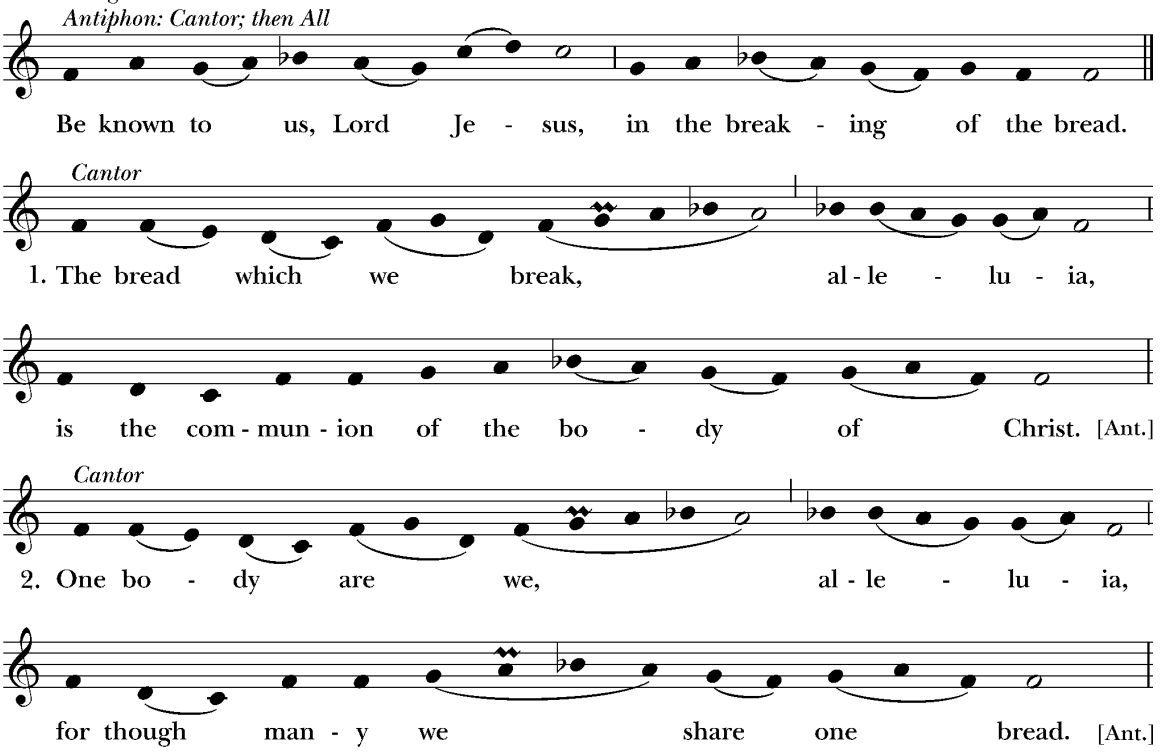
THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread after which the following is sung

FRACTION ANTHEM S-171

Mason Martens

This setting is not used in Lent.



Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

✠✠✠

Sunday School students and teachers receive first.
All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion at the Lord's Table.
If you are not baptized or choose not to receive, you are invited to come forward for a blessing, indicated by crossing your arms over your chest. Please follow the direction of the ushers, and inform them if you need communion brought to you. Gluten-free hosts are available upon request.
Communion is offered in both kinds (bread and wine). You may receive the host and then sip from the chalice, receive the host only, or receive by intinction. For intinction, a member of the clergy or a chalice bearer will dip the host into the chalice and place it directly on your tongue. Even if receiving in one kind, please remain at the altar rail until the chalice has passed.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words:

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. **Amen.**
The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. **Amen.**

or with these words

The Body (Blood) of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. **Amen.**
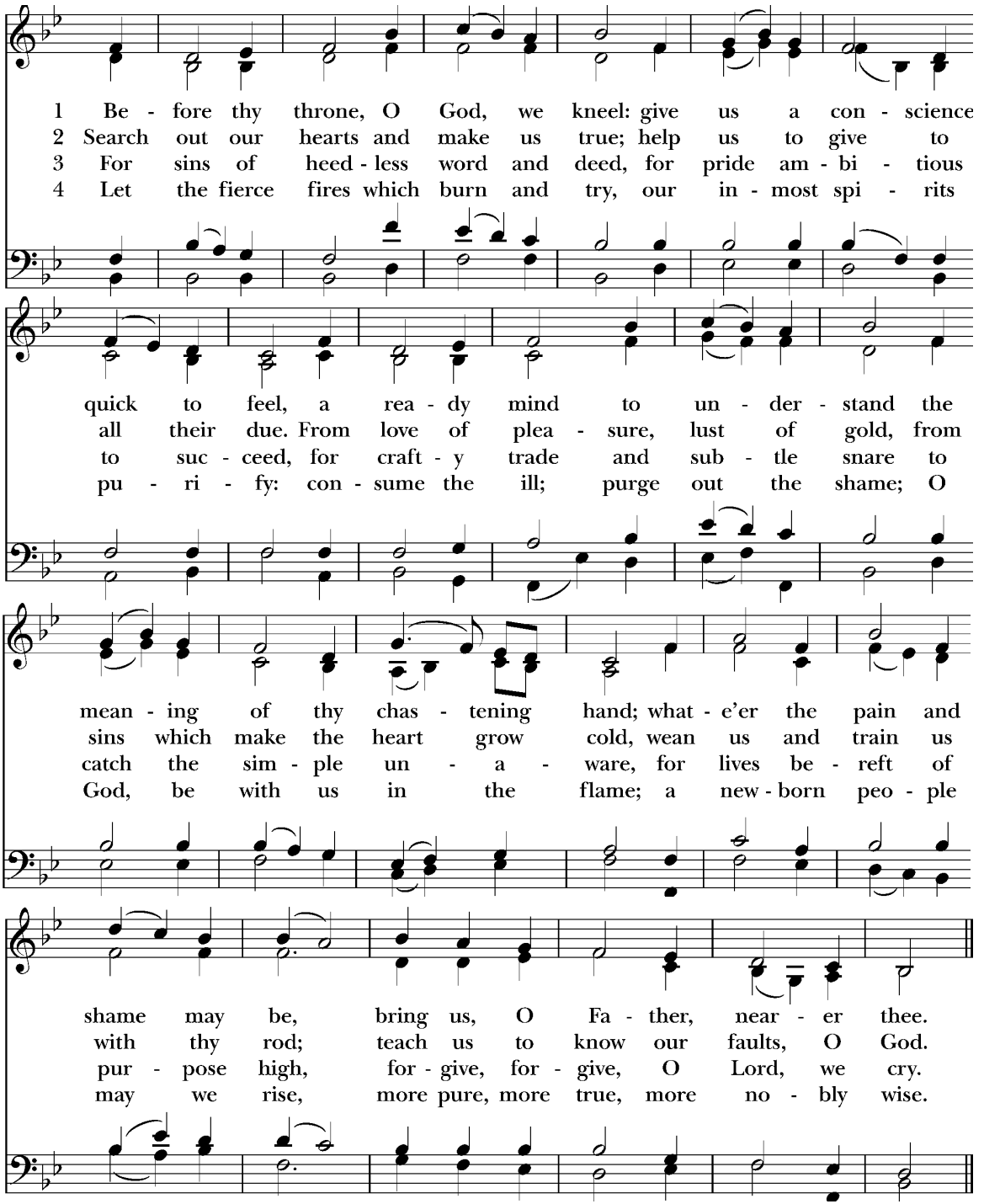
COMMUNION MOTET

If Ye Love Me — Thomas Tallis

If ye love me, Keep my commandments, And I will pray the Father And he shall give you another comforter, That he may 'bide with you forever, E'en the spirit of truth

COMMUNION HYMN 574

St. Petersburg



POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

The people kneel

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

The Celebrant gives the Blessing

People **Amen.**
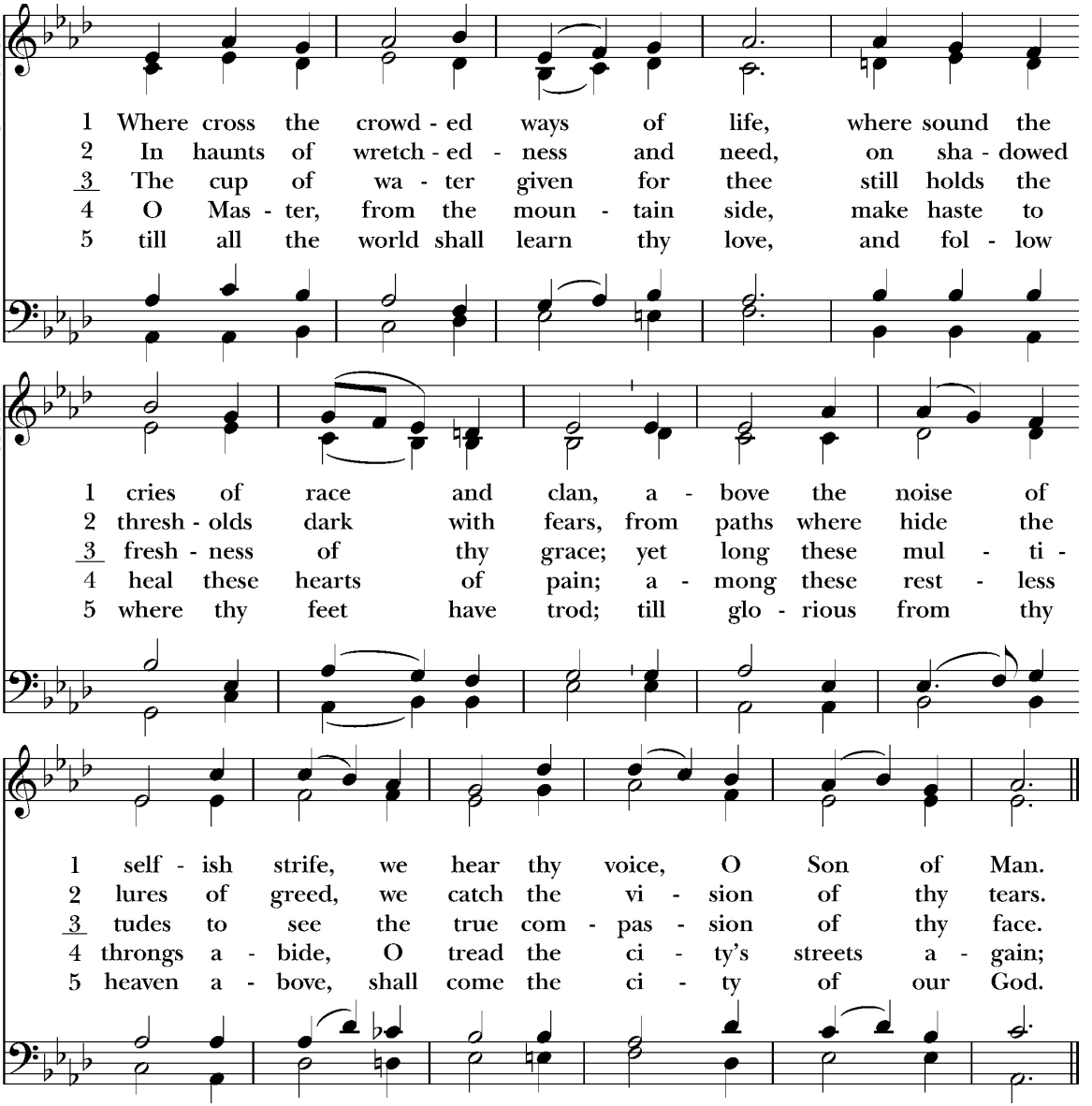
THE DISMISSAL

The Deacon gives the Dismissal

People **Thanks be to God.**

The people stand

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 609 *Gardiner*



VOLUNTARY *Toccata (from Plymouth Suite).* Percy Whitlock

The Organ Voluntary is an integral part of the service. Please leave the church quietly out of respect for those people who choose to stay to listen.

Prayer Requests

Your prayers are bid today and throughout the week for:

All bishops and other ministers: Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean, the Presiding Bishop; Douglas, our Bishop; and the clergy and staff of our Parish

Those who govern: Donald, our President; Ronald, our Governor; and Jane, our Mayor

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Resurrection Episcopal, Largo; St. Stephen's, New Port Richey; St. Alfred's, Palm Harbor; Holy Spirit, Safety Harbor; St. Andrew's, Spring Hill, and All Saints', Tarpon Springs.

Our Companion Dioceses: Dominican Republic, Georgia, South Carolina, and Western Louisiana

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of the Province of Central Africa

Also remembering in prayer: Our Parish Day School, our Pastoral Care Team, healthcare workers, first responders, and all who serve the common good, peace in Ukraine and the Holy Land

Members of our armed forces deployed abroad and their families: Rich, Mike, Jake, Matthew, David, Tyler (Libya), and Brandon

Those celebrating the anniversary of their birth:
October 25: Lynda White, Andre Ruas, Dean Hamric, Mike Hickey, Artan Balliu
October 26: Carson Schrils, Mason Morales, Beatrice Jennewein, Isabella Jordan
October 27: Eric Wiese, Wendy Robbins, Brooks Allen, Matt O'Brien
October 28: Adam Burden, Patrick Phillips, Hinton Sutika
October 30: Scott Greacen, Steve Straske, Carter French, Haydon Swanson
Felix Dorsch, Denise Dickerson
October 31: Simon Morley

The sick and others for whom our prayers have been especially requested:

Jackie and family; Jeff, Pam, Shailee, and Courtney; Anna, her family, and her medical team; Jayce, Richard, Will, Tor, Ron, Scott, Sam, Collin, Lee, David, Jack, Jim, Katy, Minnie, Berta, Mary, Ellie, Sunny, Gwen, David, Melinda, Damian, Cole, Sue, Kathy, Lee, Holly, Brandon, Lisa, Christopher, Harry, Jill, John, Ava, Barbara, Jim, Billy, Theodore, Paul, Hallie, Molly, Michael, Jim, Judi, Monroe, John, David and family and all those who in this transitory life are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

For all the faithful departed

Joy Hobby

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon them. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Assisting in Today's Services

Want to know who's serving today? Scan the code to view all our serving schedules:



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
AND Episcopal Parish Day School

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STJOHNSTAMPA.ORG

THE DIOCESE OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

THE RIGHT REVEREND DOUGLAS FREDERICK SCHARF
VI Bishop of Southwest Florida

THE WARDENS, VESTRY, AND OFFICERS OF THE PARISH

JEFFREY M. HUNT (2026)
Senior Warden

NORMAN F.J. ALLEN III (2027)
Junior Warden

DOUGLAS F. ARTHUR
Treasurer

ELIZABETH S. GRAHAM
Assistant Treasurer

AMY YOST
Clerk of the Vestry

ROBERT O. ALTER (2026)
CLAYTON BRICKLEMYER (2028)
CARY R. BROWN (2026)
HUGH CRUSE (2028)
VERA FARMEN (2028)
LYNN L. FLUHARTY (2027)
ANDREW B. GALAVIS, SR. (2027)
ELIZABETH S. KURZ (2028)
LISA J. LEAL (2026)
CHRISTINA C. MCADAMS (2027)

CLERGY AND STAFF

THE REVEREND CHRISTIAN M. WOOD
XVII Rector

THE REVEREND CAROLINE F. DEVITT
Priest Associate for Evangelism & Communications

THE REVEREND MARY ALICE LOPEZ
Deacon

SIMON J. MORLEY
Organist and Director of Music

LAURIE D. LAWTHER
Parish Administrator

AYANA S. GRADY
Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries

LAURYN ORTIZ
Communications Manager

SAMANTHA SANTOS
Parish Coordinator

KRISTEN PEREZ
Finance Manager

THE REVEREND DONALD P. GOODHEART
Retired Priest in Residence

THE REVEREND CHARLES E. CONNELLY
Retired Priest in Residence

HUGH A. R. JEBSON
Head of St. John's School