



St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church

324 E. 11th St.
Lockport, IL 60441

WWW.STJOHNS-LOCKPORT-IL.ORG

(815) 834-1168

WORSHIP BOOKLET FOR THE SEASON OF PENTECOST (YEAR A) AUGUST - NOVEMBER 2026

ZOOM ID NUMBER: 816 8827 2001

PASSWORD: Church (case sensitive)

ZOOM DIAL IN NUMBER: 1-312-626-6799

PASSCODE: 030692

Welcome to worship at St. John's!

Our church holds together a progressive outlook and a rootedness in our Anglican/Episcopal tradition. We welcome people of different races, economic status, cultural backgrounds, faith backgrounds, political views, gender identities, and sexual orientations.

We honor both belief and doubt, seekers of faith and everyone on their particular journey.

We value the ministry of our clergy and our laity.

We hope that you will consider St. John's to be a place where you can come as you are and whose you are: Beloved Children of God.

*Fr. Scott Barron, Visiting Clergy,
Ben Curless & Stephen Polich, Wardens,
and the Bishop's Committee and congregation of St. John's*

IN CASE OF PASTORAL EMERGENCY, CALL (815) 834-1168

Soft Space & Activity Bags:

Near the communion rail, as you come in the side door (the first set of pews), you'll notice a space with pillows and little activity bags – please let your younger kids settle into that space during the service. They can see and hear what's going on and they can settle in with the activity bags placed in that space. Also, if the kids prefer to sit with you, there are baskets of activity bags at the front door near the choir space, and at the side door. Feel free to let the kids grab a bag and explore it during the service. If you have questions about this area or the bags, please ask!

ORDER OF SERVICE – WHEN A PRIEST IS PRESENT

The Order of Service follows The Book of Common Prayer (BCP), a red book with a cross on the front. When a priest is present, communion is distributed. Please turn to the pages as noted; any additional information will be provided during the service.

Music is found in “The Hymnal 1982” and occasionally in hand-outs provided.

OPENING HYMN	HYMN BOARD
OPENING ACCLAMATION	BCP 355
COLLECT FOR PURITY	BCP 355
GLORIA (HYMNAL, SERVICE MUSIC IN THE FRONT OF THE BOOK)	S 277
COLLECTS OF THE DAY	SEE PG. 3-5
LESSONS & GOSPELS	SEE CHART ON PG. 3 FOR SPECIFIC DATES
SERMON	
NICENE CREED	BCP 358
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE	SEE PG. 6
CONFESSION OF SIN, PASSING OF PEACE & ANNOUNCEMENTS	BCP 360
OFFERTORY HYMN	HYMN BOARD
EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER	BCP 361
SANCTUS (HYMNAL, SERVICE MUSIC IN THE FRONT OF THE BOOK)	S 124
THE LORD’S PRAYER	BCP 364
COMMUNION HYMN	HYMN BOARD
POST-COMMUNION PRAYER, BLESSING & DISMISSAL	BCP 365-66
CLOSING HYMN	HYMN BOARD

*We gather with our questions as spiritual seekers on a journey.
We gather to find God.*

The Liturgy of the Word -- A Gathering Time

PRELUDE

OPENING HYMN

OPENING ACCLAMATION:

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

Assembly: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

LESSONS & GOSPELS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGES:

DATE	PAGE	DATE	PAGE	DATE	PAGE
AUG. 2	8	SEPT. 13	26	OCT. 25	45
AUG. 9	11	SEPT. 20	29	NOV. 1	48
AUG. 16	14	SEPT. 27	32	Nov. 8	(MP)
AUG. 23	17	OCT. 4	35	NOV. 15	51
AUG. 30	20	OCT. 11	39	NOV. 22	54
SEPT. 6	23	OCT. 18	42		

Morning Prayer bulletins will be used on Sundays marked MP.

PENTECOST 8/2 – 11/22/2026

YEAR A - Collects

Aug. 2 Proper 13

COLLECT: Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Aug. 9 Transfiguration (transferred)

COLLECT: O God, who on the holy mount revealed to chosen witnesses your well-beloved Son, wonderfully transfigured, in raiment white and glistening: Mercifully grant that we, being delivered from the disquietude of this world, may by faith behold the King in his beauty; who with you, O Father, and you, O Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Aug. 16 Proper 15

COLLECT: Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Aug. 23 Proper 16

COLLECT: 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.**

Aug 30 Proper 17

COLLECT: Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**



Sept. 6 Proper 18

COLLECT: Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Sept. 13 Proper 19

COLLECT: O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Sept. 20 Proper 20

COLLECT: Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Sept. 27 Proper 21

COLLECT: O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**



Oct. 4 Proper 22

COLLECT: Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Oct. 11 Proper 23

COLLECT: Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Oct. 18 Proper 24

COLLECT: Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession 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.**

Oct. 25 Proper 25

COLLECT: 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.**



Nov. 1 All Souls/All Saints

COLLECT: Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

Nov. 15 Proper 28

COLLECT: 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.**

Nov. 22 Christ the King

COLLECT: 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 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessor: Friends, the Lord has been our refuge from one generation to another. Let us pray to our God, saying, “*Show your servants your works, O Lord;*

Assembly: *...and be gracious to us.*”

We pray for the leaders of the Church. Give bishops, priests, deacons, and lay leaders gentle and loving hearts. Empower us to share the gospel and ourselves with those in need.

Silence

Leader: Show your servants your works, O Lord...

Assembly: *...and be gracious to us.*

We pray for all humankind. Prosper the work of our hands. May all those who work earn a fair wage. May those without work find strength and encouragement in your love. Give us hearts to respect the dignity of every human being.

Silence

Leader: Show your servants your works, O Lord...

Assembly: *...and be gracious to us.*

We pray for all creation. You brought forth the mountains. You gave birth to the land and the earth. Give us the desire and will to care for all you have made.

Silence

Leader: Show your servants your works, O Lord...

Assembly: *...and be gracious to us.*

We pray for the areas in which we live. O God, we want to obey what you command. Help us to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Silence

Leader: Show your servants your works, O Lord...

Assembly: *...and be gracious to us.*

We pray for the afflicted and the suffering. And we pray for those who weep and mourn. Nurse them back to health as a mother tenderly nurses her children. (Please add your petitions here, aloud or in silence)

Silence

Leader: Show your servants your works, O Lord...

Assembly: *...and be gracious to us.*

We pray for those who have died. Though we are swept away like a dream in this mortal life, you promise to raise us to life immortal through your Son. May your graciousness, O Lord, be upon us. (Please add your petitions here, aloud or in silence)

Silence

Leader: Show your servants your works, O Lord...

Assembly: *...and be gracious to us.*

Presider: Shed upon your Church, O Lord, the brightness of your light, that we, being illumined by the teaching of your apostle and evangelist, John, may so walk in the light of your truth, that at length we may attain to the fullness of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BLESSING

RECESSIONAL HYMN

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE (OPTIONAL)

CONTACT INFORMATION:

MS. PAT PERRIER, ADMINISTRATOR: OFFICE@STJOHNS-LOCKPORT-IL.ORG

MR. LUKE LARKIN, MUSICIAN

IN CASE OF PASTORAL EMERGENCY, PLEASE CALL: 815-834-1168

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PENTECOST 8/2 – 11/22/2026
YEAR A – Revised Common Lectionary

August 2, 2026

Proper 13

First Lesson - Genesis 32:22-31

Lector: A Reading from the book of Genesis.

The same night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 17:1-7,16

Lector: Let us pray responsively, Psalm 17

1 Hear my plea of innocence, O Lord;
give heed to my cry; * listen to my
prayer, which does not come from
lying lips.

2 Let my vindication come forth
from your presence; * let your
eyes be fixed on justice.

3 Weigh my heart, summon me by
night, * melt me down; you will find
no impurity in me.

4 I give no offense with my
mouth as others do; * I have
heeded the words of your lips.

5 My footsteps hold fast to the ways
of your law; * in your paths my feet
shall not stumble.

6 I call upon you, O God, for you
will answer me; * incline your
ear to me and hear my words.

7 Show me your marvelous loving-
kindness, * O Savior of those who
take refuge at your right hand
from those who rise up against them.

16 But at my vindication I shall
see your face; * when I awake, I
shall be satisfied, beholding
your likeness.

(please pause for a moment of reflection)

Second Lesson - Romans 9:1-5

Lector: A reading from the book of Romans.

I am speaking the truth in Christ-- I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit-- I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord. **Assembly: Thanks be to God.**

(please pause for a moment of reflection)

GRADUAL HYMN *(please stand as able)*

Optional Descant

Praise you, Lord, King of glo - ry!

G Em C D7 G Em C D7 Gsus4 G

Praise to you, Lord Je - sus Christ, King of end - less glo - ry!

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 14:13-21

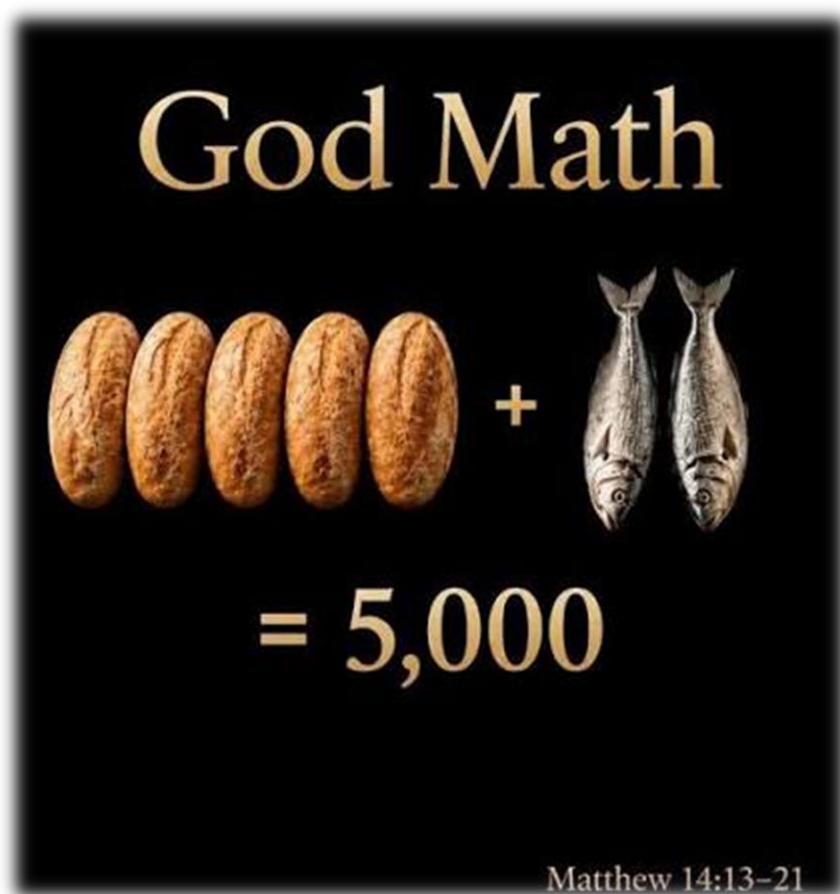
Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Assembly: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here

but five loaves and two fish.” And he said, “Bring them here to me.” Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord. **Assembly: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**



First Lesson – Exodus 34:29-35

Lector: A reading from the book of Exodus.

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 99:5-9

Lector: Let us pray, responsively, Psalm 99

1 The Lord is King; let the people tremble; * he is enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth shake.

2 The Lord is great in Zion; * he is high above all peoples.

3 Let them confess his Name, which is great and awesome; * he is the Holy One.

4 "O mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; * you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob."

5 Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God and fall down before his footstool; * he is the Holy One.

6 Moses and Aaron among his priests, and Samuel among those who call upon his Name, * they called upon the Lord, and he answered them.

7 He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud; * they kept his testimonies and the decree that he gave them.

8 O Lord our God, you answered them indeed; * you were a God who forgave them, yet punished them for their evil deeds.

9 Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God and worship him upon his holy hill; * for the Lord our God is the Holy One.

(please pause for a moment of reflection)

Second Lesson - 2 Peter 1:13-21

Lector: A reading from the second book of Peter.

I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to refresh your memory, since I know that my death will come soon, as indeed our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

The Word of the Lord. **Assembly: Thanks be to God.**

(please pause for a moment of reflection)

GRADUAL HYMN *(please stand as able)*

Optional Descant

Praise you, Lord, King of glo - ry!

G Em C D7 G Em C D7 Gsus4 G

Praise to you, Lord Je - sus Christ, King of end - less glo - ry!

Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
Assembly: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah” —not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

Assembly: Praise to you, Lord Christ.



First Lesson - Genesis 45:1-15

Lector: A reading from the book of Genesis.

Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 133

Lector: Let us pray, responsively, Psalm 133

1 Oh, how good and pleasant it is, *
when brethren live together in unity!

**2 It is like fine oil upon the head
* that runs down upon the
beard,**

3 Upon the beard of Aaron, * and
runs down upon the collar of his
robe.

**4 It is like the dew of Hermon *
that falls upon the hills of Zion.**

5 For there the Lord has ordained
the blessing: * life for evermore.

(please pause for a moment of reflection)

Second Lesson - Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Lector: A reading from the book of Romans.

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

(please pause for a moment of reflection)

GRADUAL HYMN *(please stand as able)*

Optional Descant

Praise you, Lord, King of glory!

G Em C D7 G Em C D7 Gsus4 G

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of end-less glory!

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 15: 10-20, 21-28

Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
Assembly: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind.

And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”

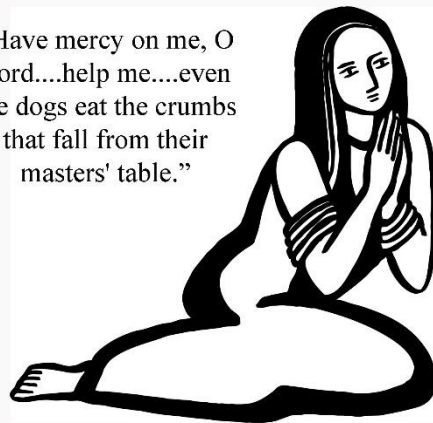
Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

Assembly: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Holding God to His Word

“Have mercy on me, O
Lord....help me....even
the dogs eat the crumbs
that fall from their
masters' table.”



Jesus answered her, “O woman, great is your
faith! Be it done for you as you desire.”

Matthew 15

First Lesson - Exodus 1:8-2:10**Lector: A reading from the book of Exodus.**

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live." But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?" The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live."

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 124

Lector: Let us pray, responsively, Psalm 124

1 If the Lord had not been on our side, * let Israel now say;

2 If the Lord had not been on our side, * when enemies rose up against us;

3 Then would they have swallowed us up alive * in their fierce anger toward us;

4 Then would the waters have overwhelmed us * and the torrent gone over us;

5 Then would the raging waters * have gone right over us.

6 Blessed be the Lord! * he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.

7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; * the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

8 Our help is in the Name of the Lord, * the maker of heaven and earth.

(please pause for a moment of reflection)

Second Lesson - Romans 12:1-8

Lector: A reading from the book of 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.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

(please pause for a moment of reflection)

GRADUAL HYMN (please stand as able)

Optional Descant

Praise you, Lord, King of glo - ry!

Praise to you, Lord Je - sus Christ, King of end - less glo - ry!

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20

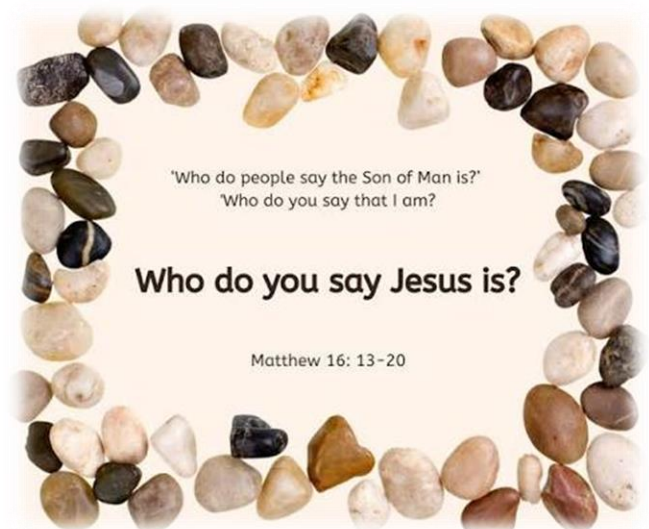
Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

Assembly: **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.

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

Assembly: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**



First Lesson - Exodus 3:1-15

Lector: A reading from the book of Exodus.

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain." But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.

The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

Psalms 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c

Lector: Let us pray responsively, Psalm 105

1 Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name; * make known his deeds among the peoples.

2 Sing to him, sing praises to him, * and speak of all his marvelous works.

3 Glory in his holy Name; * let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

4 Search for the Lord and his strength; * continually seek his face.

5 Remember the marvels he has done, * his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,

6 O offspring of Abraham his servant, * O children of Jacob his chosen.

23 Israel came into Egypt, * and Jacob became a sojourner in the land of Ham.

24 The Lord made his people exceedingly fruitful; * he made

them stronger than their enemies;

25 Whose heart he turned, so that they hated his people, * and dealt unjustly with his servants.

26 He sent Moses his servant, * and Aaron whom he had chosen.

45 Hallelujah!

(please pause for a moment of reflection)

Second Lesson - Romans 12:9-21

Lector: A reading from the book of Romans.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The Word of the Lord. **Assembly: Thanks be to God.**

(please pause for a moment of reflection)

GRADUAL HYMN (please stand as able)

Optional Descant

Praise you, Lord, King of glo - ry!

G Em C D7 G Em C D7 Gsus4 G

Praise to you, Lord Je - sus Christ, King of end - less glo - ry!

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 16:21-28

Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

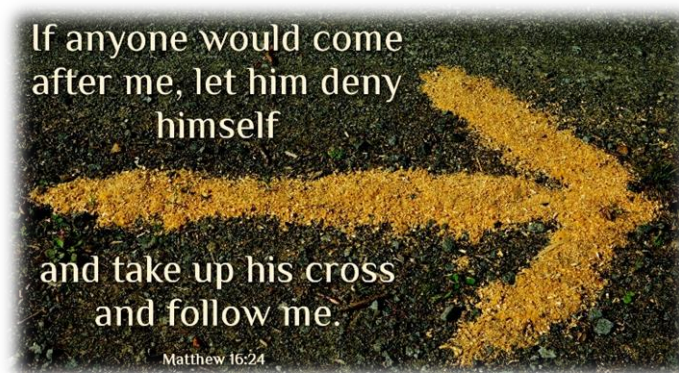
Assembly: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord. **Assembly: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**



First Lesson – Exodus 12:1-14

Lector: A reading from the book of Exodus.

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 149

Lector: Let us pray, responsively, Psalm 149.

1 Hallelujah!

Sing to the Lord a new song; * sing
his praise in the congregation of the
faithful.

**2 Let Israel rejoice in his
Maker; * let the children of Zion
be joyful in their King.**

3 Let them praise his Name in the
dance; * let them sing praise to him
with timbrel and harp.

**4 For the Lord takes pleasure in
his people * and adorns the
poor with victory.**

5 Let the faithful rejoice in triumph;
* let them be joyful on their beds.

**6 Let the praises of God be in
their throat * and a two-edged
sword in their hand;**

7 To wreak vengeance on the nations
* and punishment on the peoples;

**8 To bind their kings in chains *
and their nobles with links of
iron;**

9 To inflict on them the judgment
decreed; * this is glory for all his
faithful people.
Hallelujah!

(please pause for a moment of reflection)

Second Lesson – Romans 13:8-14

Lector: A reading from the book of Romans.

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

(please pause for a moment of reflection)

GRADUAL HYMN *(please stand as able)*

Optional Descant

Praise you, Lord, — King — of glo - ry!

G Em C D7 G Em C D7 Gsus4 G

Praise to you, Lord Je - sus Christ, — King of end - less glo - ry!

The Holy Gospel

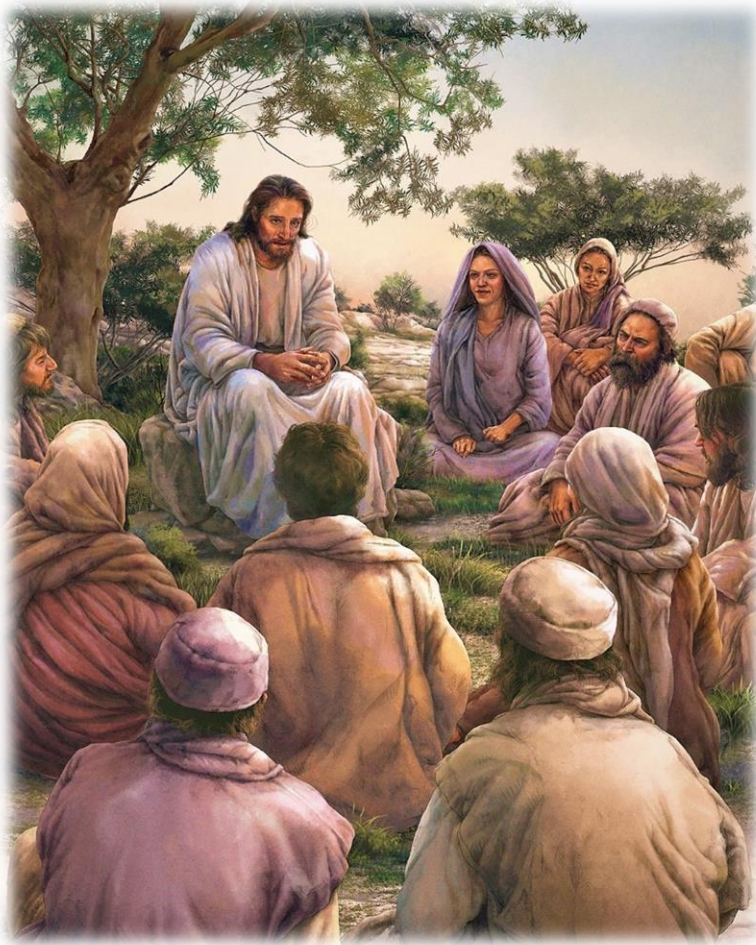
Matthew 18:15-20

Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

Assembly: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord. **Assembly: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**



First Lesson - Exodus 14:19-31**Lector: A reading from the book of Exodus.**

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.**Psalm 114****Lector: Let us pray, responsively, Psalm 114**

1 Hallelujah!
When Israel came out of Egypt, *
the house of Jacob from a people of
strange speech,

**2 Judah became God's
sanctuary * and Israel his
dominion.**

3 The sea beheld it and fled; *
Jordan turned and went back.

4 The mountains skipped like rams, * and the little hills like young sheep.

5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? * O Jordan, that you turned back?

6 You mountains, that you skipped like rams? * you little hills like young sheep?

7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, * at the presence of the God of Jacob,

(please pause for a moment of reflection)

Second Lesson - Romans 14:1-12

Lector: A reading from the book of Romans.

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

(please pause for a moment of reflection)

GRADUAL HYMN (please stand as able)

Optional Descant

Praise you, Lord, King of glory!

G Em C D7 G Em C D7 Gsus4 G

Praise to you, Lord Je - sus Christ, King of end - less glo - ry!

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

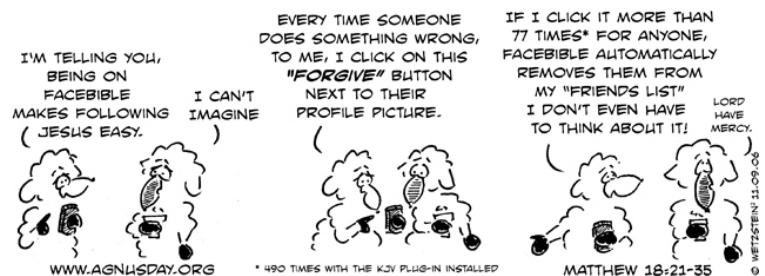
Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.
Assembly: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

Assembly: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**



First Lesson - Exodus 16:2-15

Lector: A reading from the book of Exodus.

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

Then the Lord said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?” And Moses said, “When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord.”

Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.’” And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, “I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’”

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.”

The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b

Lector: Let us pray, responsively, Psalm 105

1 Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name; * make known his deeds among the peoples.

2 Sing to him, sing praises to him, * and speak of all his marvelous works.

3 Glory in his holy Name; *
let the hearts of those who seek
the Lord rejoice.

**4 Search for the Lord and his
strength; * continually seek his
face.**

5 Remember the marvels he has
done, * his wonders and the
judgments of his mouth,

**6 O offspring of Abraham his
servant, * O children of Jacob
his chosen.**

37 He led out his people with silver
and gold; * in all their tribes there
was not one that stumbled.

**38 Egypt was glad of their
going, * because they were
afraid of them.**

39 He spread out a cloud for a
covering * and a fire to give light in
the night season.

(please pause for a moment of reflection)

Second Lesson - Philippians 1:21-30

Lector: A reading from the book of Philippians.

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well-- since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The Word of the Lord.

**40 They asked, and quails
appeared, * and he satisfied
them with bread from heaven.**

41 He opened the rock, and water
flowed, * so the river ran in the dry
places.

**42 For God remembered his
holy word * and Abraham his
servant.**

43 So he led forth his people with
gladness, * his chosen with shouts of
joy.

**44 He gave his people the lands
of the nations, * and they took
the fruit of others' toil,**

45 That they might keep his statutes
* and observe his laws.
Hallelujah!

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

(please pause for a moment of reflection)

GRADUAL HYMN *(please stand as able)*

Optional Descant

Praise you, Lord, King of glo - ry!

Praise to you, Lord Je - sus Christ, King of end - less glo - ry!

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

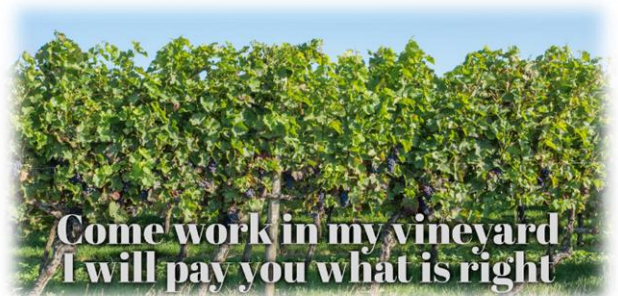
Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

Assembly: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

Assembly: Praise to you, Lord Christ.



First Lesson - Exodus 17:1-7

Lector: A reading from the book of Exodus.

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me."

The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

Psalms 78:1-4, 12-16

Lector: Let us pray, responsively, Psalm 78

1 Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my
mouth.

**2 I will open my mouth in a
parable; * I will declare the
mysteries of ancient times.**

3 That which we have heard and
known, and what our forefathers
have told us, * we will not hide from
their children.

**4 We will recount to
generations to come the
praiseworthy deeds and the
power of the Lord, * and the
wonderful works he has done.**

12 He worked marvels in the sight of
their forefathers, * in the land of
Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

**13 He split open the sea and let
them pass through; * he made
the waters stand up like walls.**

14 He led them with a cloud by day, *
and all the night through with a glow
of fire.

**15 He split the hard rocks in the
wilderness * and gave them
drink as from the great deep.**

16 He brought streams out of the
cliff, * and the waters gushed out like
rivers.

(please pause for a moment of reflection)

Second Lesson - Philippians 2:1-13

Lector: A reading from the book of Philippians.

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death--even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

(please pause for a moment of reflection)

GRADUAL HYMN *(please stand as able)*

Optional Descant

Praise you, Lord, King of glory!

G Em C D7 G Em C D7 Gsus4 G

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of end-less glory!

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of end-less glory!

Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.
Assembly: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord. **Assembly: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**



Oct. 4, 2026

Proper 22

First Lesson - Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Lector: A reading from the book of Exodus.

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die." Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin."

The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 19

Lector: Let us pray, responsively, Psalm 19

1 The heavens declare the glory of God, * and the firmament shows his handiwork.

2 One day tells its tale to another, * and one night imparts knowledge to another.

3 Although they have no words or language, * and their voices are not heard,

4 Their sound has gone out into all lands, * and their message to the ends of the world.

5 In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; * it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; * nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

7 The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; * the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.

8 The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; * the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.

9 The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever; * the

judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

10 More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, * sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

11 By them also is your servant enlightened, * and in keeping them there is great reward.

12 Who can tell how often he offends? * cleanse me from my secret faults.

13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; * then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, * O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

(please pause for a moment of reflection)

Second Lesson - Philippians 3:4b-14

Lector: A reading from the book of Philippians.

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in

order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

(please pause for a moment of reflection)

GRADUAL HYMN *(please stand as able)*

Optional Descant

Praise you, Lord, King of glory!

G Em C D7 G Em C D7 Gsus4 G

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of end-less glory!

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:33-46

Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

Assembly: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:

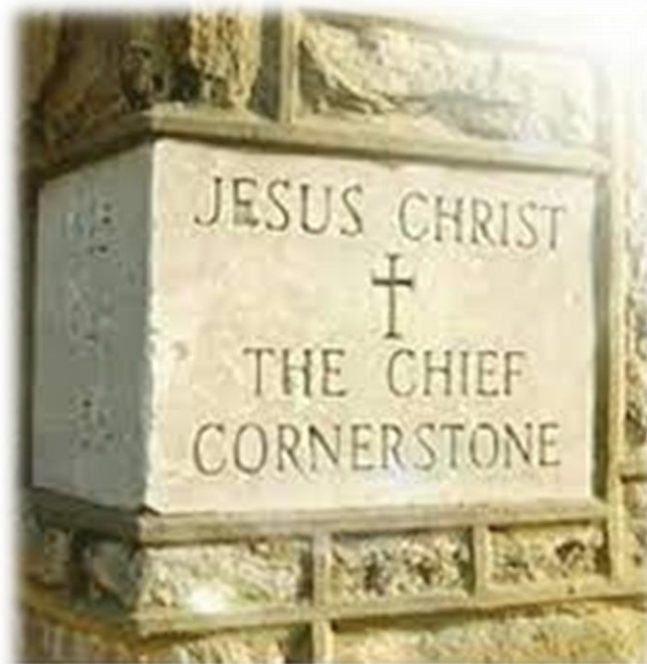
'The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord's doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes'?

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

Assembly: Praise to you, Lord Christ.



First Lesson - Exodus 32:1-14**Lector: A reading from the book of Exodus.**

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to the Lord." They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

The Lord said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" The Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation."

But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, "O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23**Lector: Let us pray, responsively, Psalm 106**

1 Hallelujah!
Give thanks to the Lord, for he is
good, * for his mercy endures for
ever.

**2 Who can declare the mighty
acts of the Lord * or show forth
all his praise?**

3 Happy are those who act with justice * and always do what is right!

4 Remember me, O Lord, with the favor you have for your people, * and visit me with your saving help;

5 That I may see the prosperity of your elect and be glad with the gladness of your people, * that I may glory with your inheritance.

6 We have sinned as our forebears did; * we have done wrong and dealt wickedly.

19 Israel made a bull-calf at Horeb * and worshiped a molten image;

20 And so they exchanged their Glory * for the image of an ox that feeds on grass.

(please pause for a moment of reflection)

21 They forgot God their Savior, * who had done great things in Egypt,

22 Wonderful deeds in the land of Ham, * and fearful things at the Red Sea.

23 So he would have destroyed them, had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, * to turn away his wrath from consuming them.

Second Lesson - Philippians 4:1-9

Lector: A reading from the book of Philippians.

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

(please pause for a moment of reflection)

GRADUAL HYMN (please stand as able)

Optional Descant

Praise you, Lord, King of glory!

G Em C D7 G Em C D7 Gsus4 G

Praise to you, Lord Je - sus Christ, King of end - less glo - ry!

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 22:1-14

Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

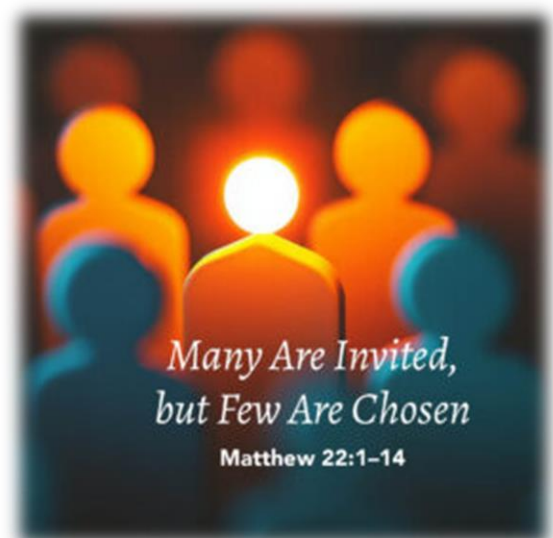
Assembly: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Once more Jesus spoke to the people in parables, saying: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

Assembly: Praise to you, Lord Christ.



First Lesson - Exodus 33:12-23

Lector: A reading from the book of Exodus.

Moses said to the Lord, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people'; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people." He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth."

The Lord said to Moses, "I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name." Moses said, "Show me your glory, I pray." And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, 'The Lord'; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But," he said, "you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live." And the Lord continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen."

The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 99

Lector: Let us pray, responsively, Psalm 99

1 The Lord is King; let the people tremble; * he is enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth shake.

2 The Lord is great in Zion; * he is high above all peoples.

3 Let them confess his Name, which is great and awesome; * he is the Holy One.

4 "O mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; * you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob."

5 Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God and fall down before his footstool; * he is the Holy One.

6 Moses and Aaron among his priests, and Samuel among those who call upon his Name, * they called upon the Lord, and he answered them.

7 He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud; * they kept his testimonies and the decree that he gave them.

**8 O Lord our God, you
answered them indeed; * you
were a God who forgave them,
yet punished them for their evil
deeds.**

9 Proclaim the greatness of
the Lord our God and worship him
upon his holy hill; * for the Lord our
God is the Holy One.

(please pause for a moment of reflection)

Second Lesson - 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Lector: A reading from the first book of Thessalonians.

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead-- Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

The Word of the Lord. **Assembly: Thanks be to God.**

(please pause for a moment of reflection)

GRADUAL HYMN (please stand as able)

Optional Descant

Praise you, Lord, King of glo - ry!

G Em C D7 G Em C D7 Gsus4 G

Praise to you, Lord Je - sus Christ, King of end - less glo - ry!

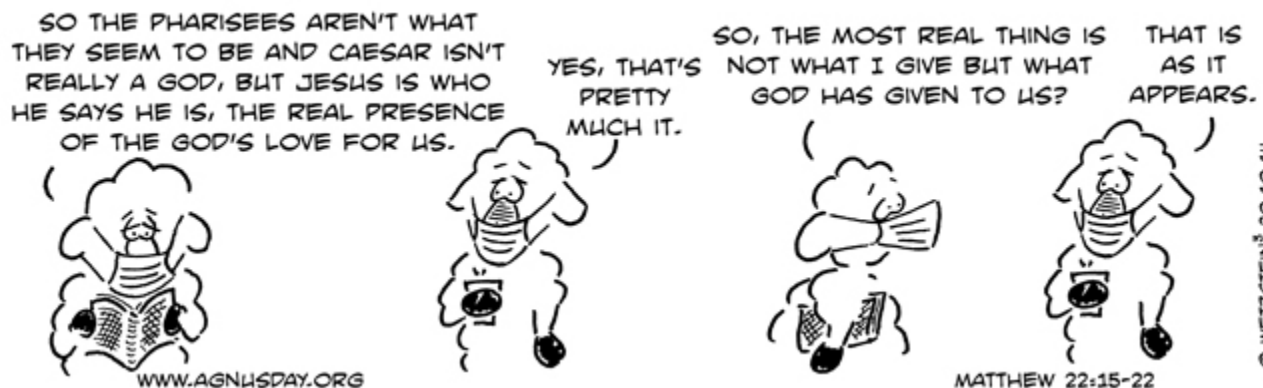
The Holy Gospel

Matthew 22:15-22

Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.
Assembly: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord. **Assembly: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**



First Lesson - Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Lector: A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the Lord showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar. The Lord said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants’; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.” Then Moses, the servant of the Lord, died there in the land of Moab, at the Lord’s command. He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigor had not abated. The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended.

Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the Lord had commanded Moses.

Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face. He was unequalled for all the signs and wonders that the Lord sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

Psalms 90:1-6, 13-17

Lector: Let us pray, responsively, Psalm 90

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.**

13 Return, O Lord; how long will you
tarry? * be gracious to your servants.

14 Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning; * so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

prosper the work of our hands;
prosper our handiwork.

15 Make us glad by the measure of the days that you afflicted us * and the years in which we suffered adversity.

16 Show your servants your works * and your splendor to their children.

17 May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us; *

(please pause for a moment of reflection)

Second Lesson - 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Lector: A reading from the first book of 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.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

(please pause for a moment of reflection)

GRADUAL HYMN (please stand as able)

Optional Descant

Praise you, Lord, King of glo - ry!

G Em C D7 G Em C D7 Gsus4 G

Praise to you, Lord Je - sus Christ, King of end - less glo - ry!

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 22:34-46

Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

Assembly: **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.

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

Assembly: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

JESUS REPLIED: "LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND." THIS IS THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT. FIRST AND SECOND IS LIKE IT: "LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." MATTHEW 22:37-39

First Lesson - Revelation 7:9-17

Lector: A reading from the book of Revelation.

After this I, John, looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

"For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.
They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;
for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 34:1-10,22

Lector: Let us pray, responsively, Psalm 34

1 I will bless the Lord at all times; *
his praise shall ever be in my mouth.

2 I will glory in the Lord; * let
the humble hear and rejoice.

3 Proclaim with me the greatness of
the Lord; * let us exalt his Name
together.

4 I sought the Lord, and he
answered me * and delivered
me out of all my terror.

5 Look upon him and be radiant, *
and let not your faces be ashamed.

**6 I called in my affliction and
the Lord heard me * and saved
me from all my troubles.**

7 The angel of the Lord encompasses
those who fear him, * and he will
deliver them.

**8 Taste and see that the Lord is
good; * happy are they who
trust in him!**

9 Fear the Lord, you that are his
saints, * for those who fear him lack
nothing.

**10 The young lions lack and
suffer hunger, * but those who**

**seek the Lord lack nothing that
is good.**

22 The Lord ransoms the life of his
servants, * and none will be
punished who trust in him.

(please pause for a moment of reflection)

Second Lesson - 1 John 3:1-3

Lector: A reading from the first book of John.

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

The Word of the Lord. **Assembly: Thanks be to God.**

(please pause for a moment of reflection)

GRADUAL HYMN *(please stand as able)*

Optional Descant

Praise you, Lord, King of glory!

G Em C D7 G Em C D7 Gsus4 G

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of end-less glory!

Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.
Assembly: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord. **Assembly: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

PEACEMAKERS
WILL BE CALLED CHILDREN OF GOD
PERSECUTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS
THEIR IS KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
IN SPIRIT THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
MEEK WILL INHERIT THE EARTH
HUNGER
BLESSED ARE...
DOOR MOURN FOR THEY WILL BE COMFORTED
& THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS
MERCIFUL WILL BE SHOWN MERCY PURE HEART THEY WILL SEE GOD FILLED

First Lesson - Judges 4:1-7

Lector: A reading from the book of Judges.

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, after Ehud died. So the Lord sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years.

At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, "The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you, 'Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.'"

The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 123

Lector: Let us pray, responsively, Psalm 123

1 To you I lift up my eyes, *
to you enthroned in the heavens.

**2 As the eyes of servants look to
the hand of their masters, * and
the eyes of a maid to the hand of
her mistress,**

3 So our eyes look to the Lord our
God, * until he show us his mercy.

**4 Have mercy upon us, O Lord,
have mercy, * for we have had
more than enough of contempt,**

5 Too much of the scorn of the
indolent rich, * and of the derision of
the proud.

(please pause for a moment of reflection)

Second Lesson - 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Lector: A reading from the first book of 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. **Assembly: Thanks be to God.**

(please pause for a moment of reflection)

GRADUAL HYMN *(please stand as able)*

Optional Descant

Praise you, Lord, King of glory!

G Em C D7 G Em C D7 Gsus4 G

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of end-less glory!

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 25:14-30

Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

Assembly: 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.

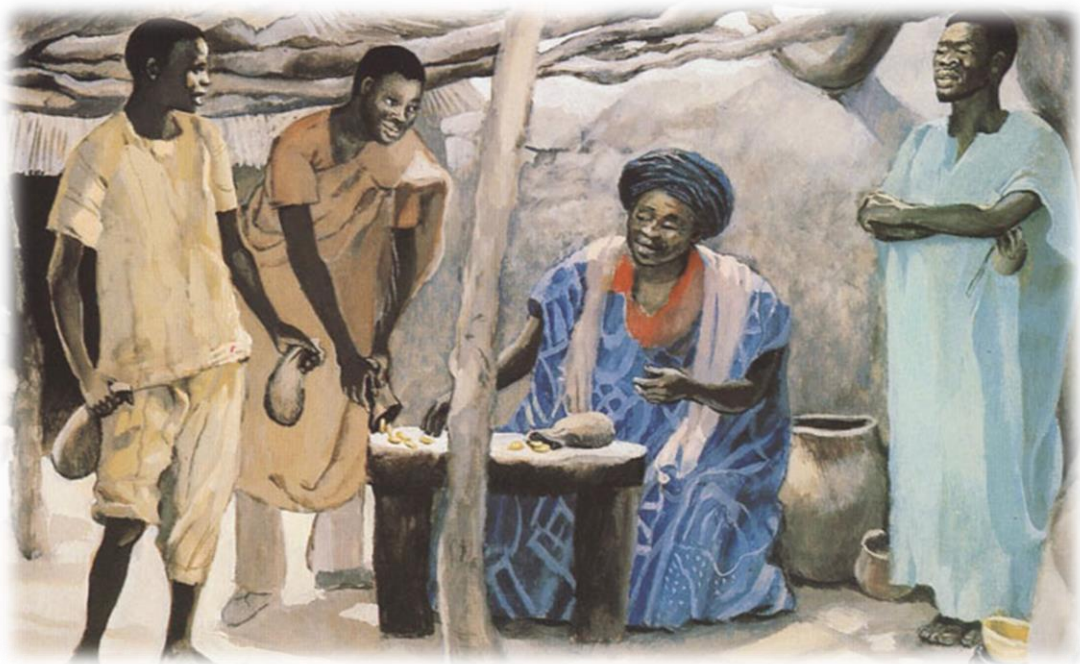
The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

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.'"

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord. **Assembly: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**



First Lesson - Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Lector: A reading from the book of Ezekiel.

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 100

Lector: Let us pray, responsively, Psalm 100

1 Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands;
* serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a
song.

**2 Know this: The Lord himself
is God; * he himself has made
us, and we are his; we are his
people and the sheep of his
pasture.**

3 Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise; *

give thanks to him and call upon his
Name.

**4 For the Lord is good; his
mercy is everlasting; * and his
faithfulness endures from age
to age.**

(please pause for a moment of reflection)

Second Lesson - Ephesians 1:15-23

Lector: A reading from the book of Ephesians.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

(please pause for a moment of reflection)

GRADUAL HYMN *(please stand as able)*

Optional Descant

Praise you, Lord, King of glory!

G Em C D7 G Em C D7 Gsus4 G

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of end-less glory!

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 25:31-46

Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

Assembly: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared

for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord. **Assembly: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**



The Lord Jesus said:
"For I was hungry and you gave me
food, I was thirsty and you gave me
drink, a stranger and you
welcomed me."
'Amen, I say to you, whatever
you did for one of these least
brothers of mine, you did for me.'

(Matthew, 25:31-46)

About St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church



WELCOME TO THE OLDEST CHURCH IN LOCKPORT, ILLINOIS! We're glad you're here. At over 190 years old, we are very proud of our service to the community. This is an open and affirming place – come as you are: *Beloved Children of God*.

The first religious ceremony to be held in the Lockport region was on December 27, 1834 by the founding members of St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church, along with early local pioneers. That date is the Feast of St. John the Evangelist. The church was admitted to the diocese on June 7, 1841. The first oak-framed church

structure was built in 1844 on land granted by the Illinois & Michigan Canal Commissioners.

That building was later sold in 1870. The cornerstone for the congregation's new and permanent structure was laid on September 20, 1870. Designed by local architect P.N. Hartwell and built by Julius Scheibe, the building was built using locally quarried dolomite limestone. After a devastating fire in 1909, the church was re-dedicated in 1910. The simple, handsome church has been described as one of the Midwest's finest examples of English Gothic architecture.



The church and grounds have been featured in several television and movie productions, including the hit HBO series "Somebody, Somewhere."

Aside from our "fame" as a production location, we are honored to be of service in the Lockport area through our various outreach programs, including a Micro-pantry, Little Free Library, our outdoor labyrinth, ministry with local schools, an ongoing "Celebration Garden" project for meditation and prayer, and partnerships with various other community organizations such as LHAMA (Lockport Homer Area Ministerial Association), Lockport Resource Center, and Homer Glen PFLAG. We have helped several local scouts earn their Eagle Scout badges. We are sponsors of the Mary Magdalene chapter of The Order of the Daughters of the King, and host support groups such as HA and others.

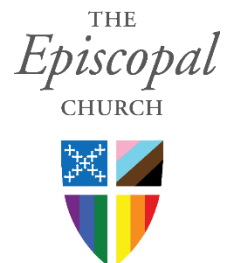
For information on church and/or hall rental (weddings, baptisms, funerals, parties, or corporate retreats) or for pastoral needs, please contact the office.

Contact Information:

Ms. Pat Perrier, *Administrator*

815-834-1168

office@stjohns-lockport-il.org



IN CASE OF PASTORAL EMERGENCY, CALL (815) 834-1168