ST. DUNSTAN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
September 27, 2026
10 am

Welcome to St Dunstan's! We are glad you are here!

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The congregation is invited to observe silence during the prelude, out of respect for those who are listening, and as an opportunity for prayer, meditation, and healing.
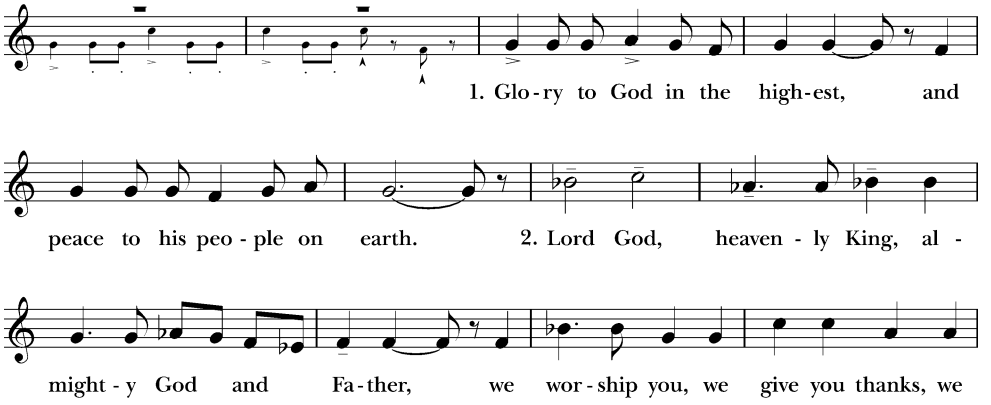
Prelude No. 1. *J.S. Bach*
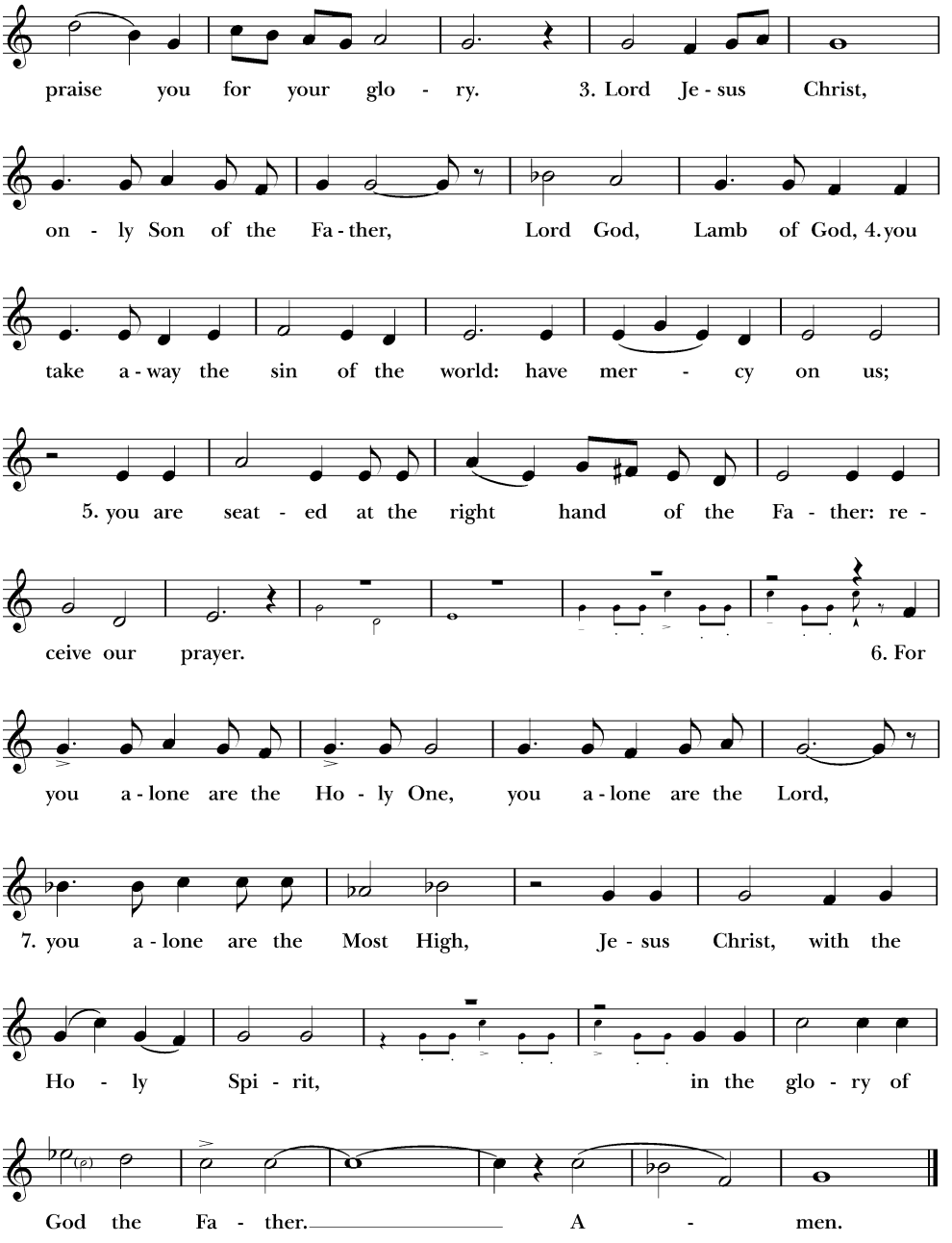
All stand at the ringing of the bell.

Processional Hymn 686 Come, thou fount of every blessing *Nettleton*

Priest Blessed be the One who creates all things.
People **The Holy One's love is new every morning.**

Gloria S 278 *William Mathias (b. 1934)*




praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,
on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;
5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For
you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the
Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of
God the Fa - ther. A - men.

The Collect of the Day
The people stand or kneel.

Priest The Creator be with you.
People And also with you.
Priest Let us pray.

God of strange authority, whose questions challenge the powers of this world: teach us to look beyond appearance, to see your kingly rule emptying itself in cross-stretched arms, through Jesus Christ, the only Lord, the humble Servant. **Amen.**

The people are seated.

Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32
The Lord insists that individuals are responsible for their own sins and that the people must now repent, no longer blaming their troubles on the sins of their parents. So much for the proverb that the fathers have eaten sour grapes and the children's teeth are set on edge! So much for those who say the Lord's ways are not just! These words are intended to bring about a sense of individual responsibility and hope at a time when the nation was gripped by despair because of tribulation and exile. The Lord wants the people to turn away from iniquity and live.

The word of the Lord came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from

all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to all God's Creation.
People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25:1-8
A prayer for forgiveness and guidance and an expression of trust in the Lord.

1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.
2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
3 Show me your ways, O Lord, *
and teach me your paths.
4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.
5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.
6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.
7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
8 He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.

Philippians 2:1-13

Paul bids the new disciples to be of one mind in love, knowing how Christ Jesus accepted the condition of a servant and was obedient to the point of death. We now confess him as Lord and are called to an obedient working out of our faith. Central to this passage is a poem which may have been adapted from the hopes for a savior of a people who did not yet know Jesus. He has fulfilled humanity's dream of one who will share fully in the mortal condition. Now the Lord is known personally—Jesus. His followers must work out their salvation while discovering that God is active in them for his loving purpose.

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.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to all God's Creation.
People Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn 439 What wondrous love is this *Wondrous Love*

Matthew 21:23-32

In a response to a question about authority, Jesus tells a parable of two sons who obeyed their father differently, and he indicates that it is the same with those who are apparently obedient and disobedient in this age. Both John the Baptist and Jesus offered their message of repentance and the hope of the kingdom to all. It was the seeming outcasts who most genuinely responded. Then and now it is not a popular idea to suggest that such persons have priority over those who are established in their religion. Action is the test of obedience.

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

People 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."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

A Time with the Children

Children are invited to come forward.

The Sermon Rev. Laurel Coote

After the sermon a brief silence is kept.

The Nicene Creed *All Stand.*

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures:
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
Who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.
Who has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People *Honoring God in Creation*
The people stand or kneel *Form 2*

During the silence after each bidding, the people offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

Leader Let us pray for the revealing of the reign of God in the world, now and always.

People **In the beginning, God was. Here and now, God is. In the future, God will be.**

Leader Creator of earth, sea, and sky, kindle the fire of your Spirit within us that we may be bold to heal and defend the earth, and pour your blessing upon all who work for the good of the planet. Receive our thanks for the beauty of our local habitat and all who dwell in it, and grant us the wisdom and will to conserve it.

Silence

God, Giver of life,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Source of life, heal and redeem the wounds of your creation, and visit the places and people who suffer from our indifference, neglect, and greed. Receive our gratitude for places of restoration and healing, and continue to bless those places that feed our lives and spirits.

Silence

God, Giver of life

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Lover of all you have made, we thank you for the wondrous diversity of your creatures, and we pray for their well-being. Your works are full of mystery, give us wonder and appreciation for your creatures with whom we find ourselves in conflict.

Silence

God, Giver of life
People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Giver of all good gifts, awaken us daily to our dependence upon your bounty, and make us always thankful for the abundance of your blessings. Heal our communities, especially those where neglect, greed, or violence inflict suffering upon people and other creatures.

Silence

God, Giver of life
People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Comforter of all the earth, sustain the people of this congregation who desire or need your presence and help.

Silence

God, Giver of life
People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Rock and refuge of all your creatures, receive into everlasting mercy all those who have died.

Silence

God, Giver of life
People **Hear our prayer.**

Priest Eternal God, the light of all who know you, come and fill our hearts with your love. Help us speak when many keep silent, help us stand for what is right when many sit in indifference. Increase our faith and charity, until your kingdom comes and heaven and earth rejoice in everlasting glory; through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Confession

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

Silence may be kept.

People God of compassion, have mercy upon us. Heal our relationships with all creation and with one another. Forgive us for our mistreatment and neglect of those who share the earth with us. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent for what we have done to harm them, and for what we have not done to help them. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may care for one another and for your creation, according to your will and in the fullness of your love; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

The Absolution

Priest Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace *All stand*.

Priest In Christ we are becoming a new creation.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

The people exchange the peace with one another.

Announcements *All are seated.*

Prayer for a Birthday or Anniversary

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

During the setting of the table a collection is taken to support the life and ministry at St. Dunstan's. The people's offerings of bread, wine and money or other gifts will be brought to the priest. The people stand while the offerings are presented. Offerings may also be made online at www.stdcv.org

Offertory Sentence

Priest Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.
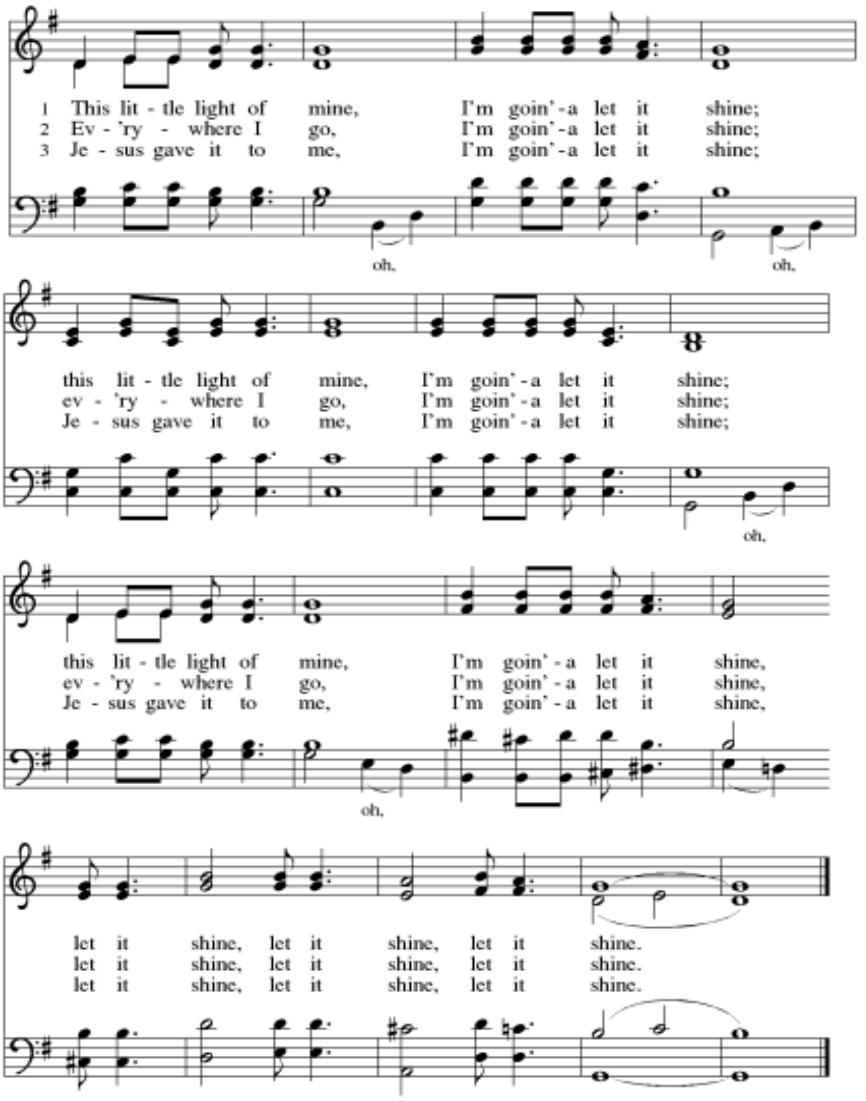
Offertory Anthem I will play before the Lord *Words and Music by Bob Dufford*

I will play before the Lord,
I will sing to Him my melody,
Stand among His people here,
Telling of all His ways

Let us sing before the Lord;
Let us sing to Him our melody,
Stand within His temple here,
Telling of all His ways.

Sing, people of God, bless his holy name.
Offering him our joyful hearts,
Joining in endless praise.
Alleluia, alleluia
Alleluia, alleluia
Joining in endless praise.

Offertory Hymn This Little Light of Mine
The children are invited to gather at the altar on verse three for the Eucharist.

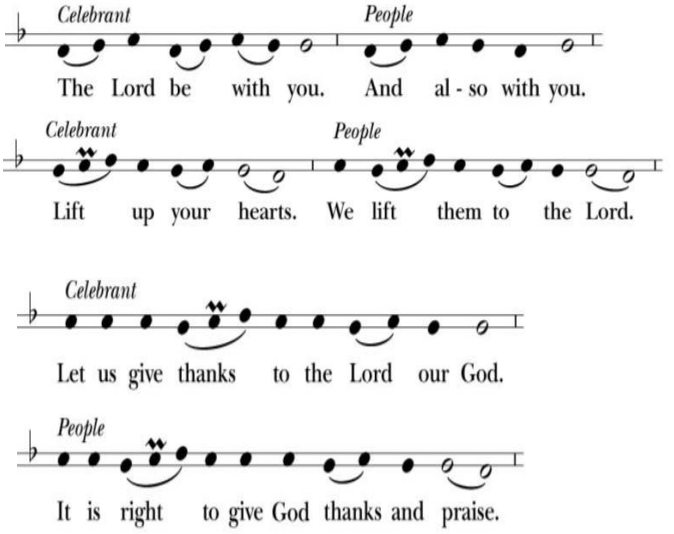


Text: African American spiritual
Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer, b. 1935
Arr. © Horace Clarence Boyer, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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This Little Light of Mine (ELW 677)); Arr. © Harold Clarence Boyer, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission under OneLicense.net A-726405 streaming license.

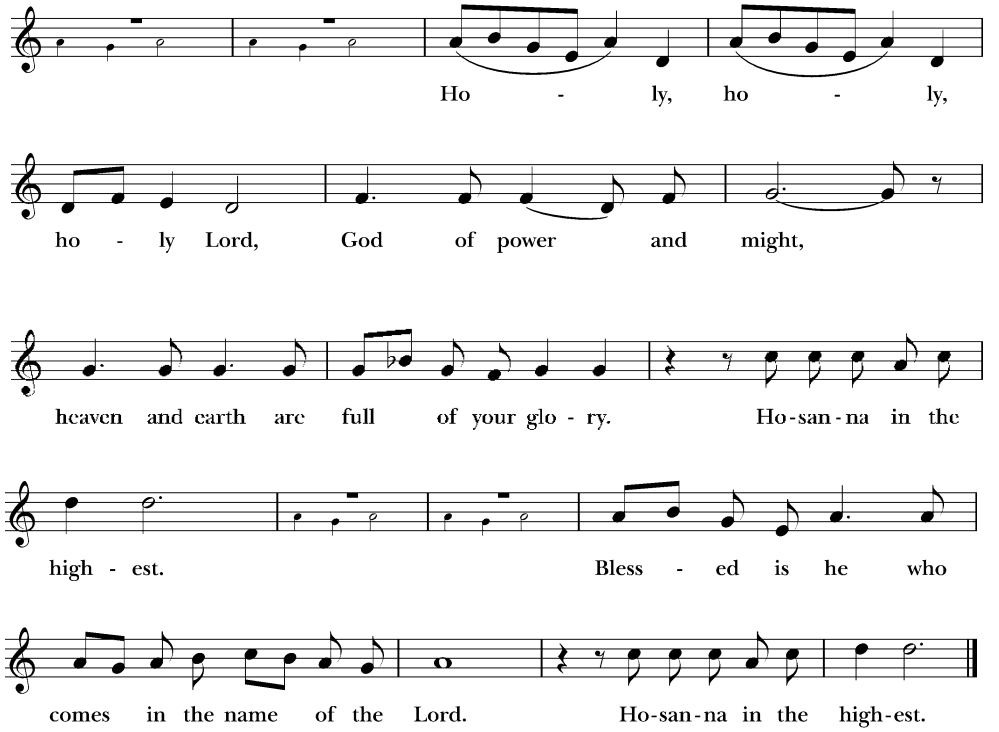
The Great Thanksgiving *EOW Eucharistic Prayer 3*



Priest All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; you brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; and so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout for joy:

Sanctus S 128 Holy, holy, holy Lord *William Mathias (1934-1992)*



The people stand or kneel.

Priest Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you call a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

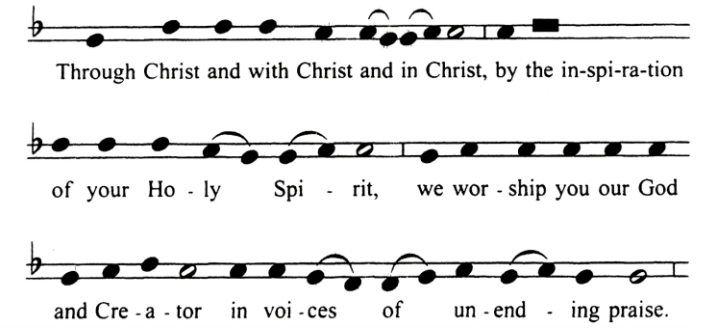
After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

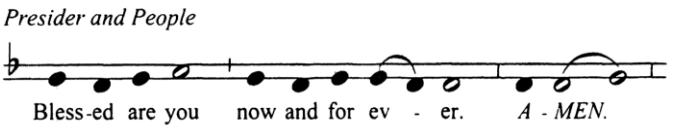
People **Dying, you destroyed our death.**
Rising, you restored our life.
Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice, and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Priest



People



The Lord's Prayer

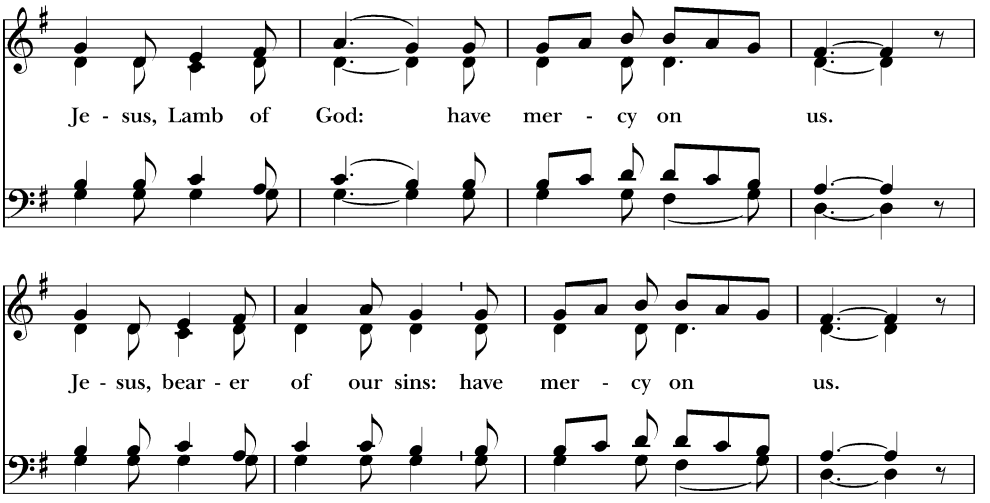
Priest And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

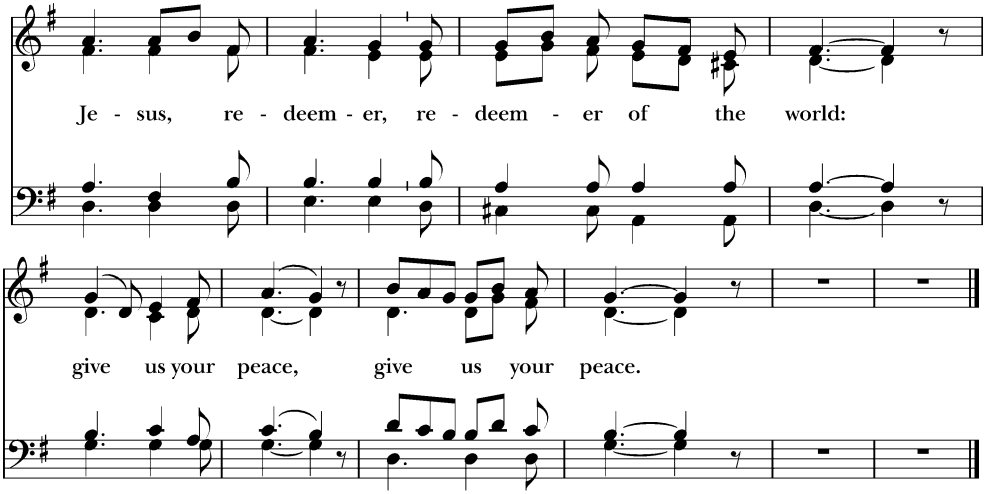
People Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Priest breaks the consecrated bread.

Fraction Anthem S 164 *Deutsche Messe; Franz Peter Schubert; arr. Richard Proulx*





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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All who come in faith seeking a deeper knowledge and love of Jesus Christ are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Come forward to receive the bread in your open palm.

If you choose to receive the cup, gently guide the chalice to your lips by touching the base.

At this time, we are not able to allow dipping the wafer into the chalice.

Those who prefer to receive a blessing, or who choose not to receive the cup, may indicate this by crossing their arms over their chest.

If you have a wheat sensitivity, you may ask the priest for a gluten-free wafer. You may have communion brought to your seat by notifying an usher.

Prayers for yourself or another are available during Communion by a member of the Daughters of the King in the back of the church near the Sacristy door.

Communion Hymn LEVAS 152 Let Us Break Bread Together *Negro Spiritual*

All Stand

The Prayer After Communion

Priest Let us pray.

People Faithful God, in the wonder of your wisdom and love you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels, and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life. We thank you for feeding us with this bread. May it strengthen us so that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may embody your desire and be renewed for your service through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

All Stand.

Closing Hymn 344 Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing *Sicilian Mariners*

The Dismissal

Priest Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit!

People Thanks be to God!

Postlude Mendelssohn Songs without Words, Op. 19. No. 1 *Felix Mendelssohn*

All are welcome at coffee hour.

~

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for Kate Amuchasequi by Steve Andrews.

St. Dunstan's acknowledges that the land on which we gather, and which we steward, is the historic territory of the Rumsen and Esselen peoples, who cared for this land throughout the generations. We give thanks for their strength and resilience in protecting this land, and aspire to uphold our responsibilities according to their example.

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Thank you to our Servers today
September 27, 2026

Celebrant and Preacher
The Rev. Laurel Coote

Crucifer
Joe Heston

Torch Bearers
Colette Frieg
Marion White

Chalice Bearer
Joe Heston
Beth Heston

Lectors
Duncan Clarke, Carol Langland,
Jackie Wendland, Betty Kasson

Guest Organist
Margaret Counihan

Singers
St. Dunstan's Choir

Ushers
Norman and June Parris

Greeter
Star Reierson

Name Tags
Georgia Byrne

Altar Guild
Kathy Lueders
Beth Heston

Live-stream
Abraham Ramirez

Next Week's Servers
October 4, 2026, 10 am

Celebrant and Preacher
The Rev. Laurel Coote

Crucifer
Joe Heston

Torch Bearers
Colette Frieg
Theo Lagier

Chalice Bearer
Joe Heston
Rodger Langland

Lectors
Hersch Loomis, Ann Clarke,
Carol Langland

Organist and Choir Master
Dr. Fred Burgomaster

Singers
St. Dunstan's Choir

Ushers
Bill and Cathy Solms

Greeter
Jack Enbom

Name Tags
Beth Heston

Altar Guild
Cathy Solms

Live-stream
Abraham Ramirez



Welcome this week's guest organist Margaret Counihan.
Thank you Margaret, for helping lead us as we worship in song this week!

Coffee Hour Hosts



Thank you to Georgia Byrne for hosting coffee hour today!

If you are able to host coffee hour on a Sunday please sign up on the breezeway table.

TODAY

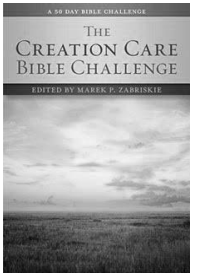
Parent/Family Meeting

with Reverend Laurel

Sunday, September 27, 2026
Immediately following the 10am service.
Childcare will be provided.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Creation Care Bible Study



The Creation Care Bible Challenge, a collection featuring 50 daily readings & reflections selected from the entire Bible. These selections will help remind us of how God intends us to live and treat one another and all of His creation. Bible passages a well as the reflections of spiritual leaders and writers from throughout the world will help us explore ways we can be more faithful, loving stewards of the earth and all of its riches.

Formation groups will meet at 9:00 a.m. Sundays, 11:00 a.m. Wednesdays.

Community Blessing of the Animals
Saturday, October 3, 2026, 11 a.m.



St. Dunstan's will host a community blessing of the animals with hotdogs, face painting, bounce house, photo booth and surprises and treats for pets.

Sign up to attend or volunteer on the breezeway table.

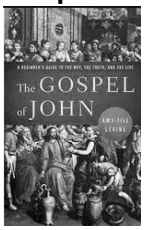
October 4, 2026

11:30am – 1pm
Rev. Laurel's Sabbatical Journey
- Telling the Story -

St. Dunstan's Vestry

Mike Cervi, Senior Warden
Susan Pitts, Jr. Warden
Sheila Hiebert
Carol Langland
Perry Rosen
Jackie Wendland
Davis White
Michelle Wilsdon

New Adult Formation Groups to Take Up The Gospel of John



Our adult formation groups will dive into a new study beginning Sunday, October 4th, guided by "The Gospel of John" by Amy-Jill Levine. Dr. Levine, a world-renowned New Testament scholar, both suggests how John's audience might have heard the text & challenges readers to consider how modern audiences might hear it. Her text moves through the Gospel in its entirety. First we explore the prologue, including John's creation story & primary themes to follow. Then we'll read & unpack major scenes & themes including the wedding at Cana, the Samaritan woman at the well, the healing of the man at the pool & the man born blind, foot washing, & the Lamb of God.

The author states in her subtitle that the book is "a guide to the way, the truth & the life. It is hoped that through reading & hearing how others respond to text, our faith will be deepened**.** There is always room for more at the table in all of our groups. So, if you haven't participated in Bible study before, do consider joining us. The books have been ordered & will be available Sundays on the breezeway table & in the office.

Group meeting times:

2 groups Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m.

- one in the Guild Hall
- one in the Montessori School

Women's group Wednesday morning at 11:00

Prayer Requests



Our Daughters of the King chapter welcomes your prayer requests. Prayer requests may be sent to stdcvdok@gmail.com. The Daughters pray for members of our parish as well as many others daily.

Dedicate Altar Flowers



This is a lovely and meaningful way to give Glory to God in celebration of a birthday, or in thanksgiving, or in memory of a loved one. The cost of the flowers is $30, but some give more. Checks should be made out to St. Dunstan's with "Altar Flowers" in the memo.

Sign up on the Welcome Table.

Giving Statements

Are available to pick up following the Sunday services for the next two weeks. Remaining statements will be mailed the week of October 5th.
Your statement will reflect ALL giving from January 1st through September 15, 2026.

Thank you for your generosity. Your support ensures our parish remains a vibrant place of faith and community!

Grant Application
St. Dunstan's Foundation

Over twenty-six years ago, a group of St. Dunstan's parishioners created the St. Dunstan's Foundation, a 501c organization. Their vision was that this would encourage legacy giving and grow our endowment funds in order to ensure the long-term financial health of St. Dunstan's Church.

Annual distributions from our endowments may support the Church in a variety of ways. Additionally, in keeping with our commitment to serving others, the Foundation also supports community projects aligned with our sacred calling to help our neighbors in need.

The grant cycle for the St. Dunstan's Foundation will open on September 1 and end on October 31, Organizations can find the grant application forms at our church website as well as a list of last year's grant recipients.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions about our mission.

Georgia Byrne, President
Jackie Wendland, Vice President
Susan Pitts, Secretary

THIS WEEK AT ST DUNSTAN'S

PARISH OFFICE IS OPEN TUESDAY - THURSDAY 9AM –1PM

Sunday, September 27
8:00am Holy Eucharist
9:00am Choir Rehearsal
10:00am Holy Eucharist (live-streamed)
11:30am Coffee Hour
11:30am Parent/Family Meeting

Monday, September 28
Office Closed

Tuesday, September 29
7:30pm AA

Wednesday, September 30
10:00am Holy Eucharist
11:00am Adult Faith Formation: Creation Care Bible Challenge
11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry

Thursday, October 1
12:00pm Quilters Meeting

Friday, October 2

Saturday, October 3
9:00am Choir Rehearsal
11:30am Community Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 4
8:00am Holy Eucharist
9:00am Choir Rehearsal
9:00am Adult Faith Formation: Gospel of John
10:00am Holy Eucharist (live-streamed)
11:30am Coffee Hour

View the entire parish calendar stdcv.org/calendar

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

September 27—Margo Vermilyer
October 1—Jessica Pavloff
October 3—Peter Coote
October 3—Barbara Simmons
October 5—Sawyer Borlik
October 16—Ollie White
October 19—Elizabeth Pasquinelli
October 19—Chuck Vout
October 22—Joshua Pavloff
October 26—Rio Merrifield

Sermon Notes