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Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

1928 BCP Holy Communion

Sunday, October 19, 2025 + 10 AM

St. John's Chapel, Del Monte

Welcome to St. John's Chapel!

We are glad that you are worshipping with us this morning and pray that your experience here is a blessing to you. If you are a visitor, please fill out a Connection Card (pew rack) and place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher. Let this bulletin be your guide through the service; it includes everything you need.

We are in Ordinary Time and the liturgical color for this part of the year is green. Green really fits this season because it is all about growth in the Spirit and being nurtured. It is the kind of growth and nurturing that creates abundant fruit. In fact, in St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians, Paul tells us that if we welcome the presence of the Holy Spirit within us, then the Spirit will produce fruit in us. "The fruit of the Spirit," he says, "is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" (Gal. 5:22–23). Through baptism, these virtues, these gifts of the Spirit, are planted in our soul. It is during this season of Ordinary Time that we work on cultivating the gifts of the Spirit.

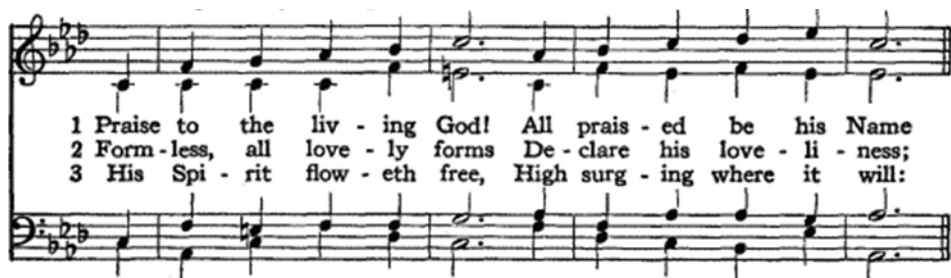
Please stay for coffee in the Parish Hall after the service.

Throughout the service the People read the words in bold and italics.

PRELUDE

Standing as able

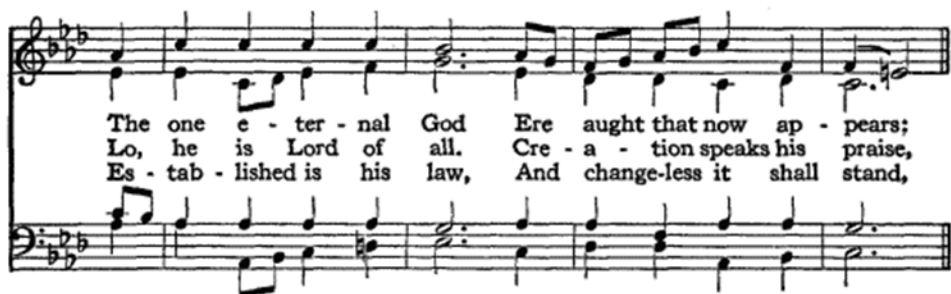
HYMN 286 *Praise to the living God!*



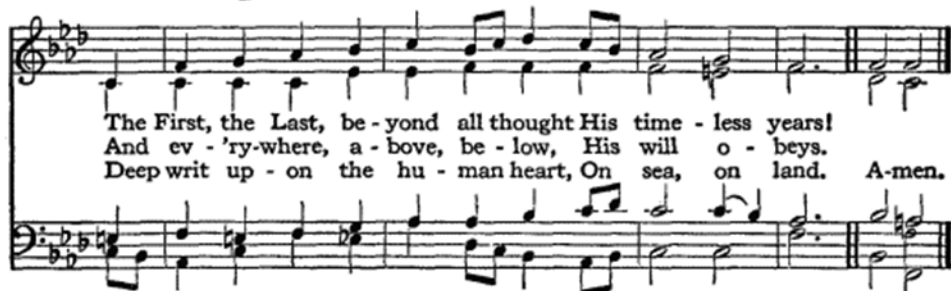
1 Praise to the liv - ing God! All prais - ed be his Name
 2 Form - less, all love - ly forms De - clare his love - li - ness;
 3 His Spi - rit flow - eth free, High surg - ing where it will:



Who was, and is, and is to be, For aye the same.
 Ho - ly, no ho - li - ness of earth Can his ex - press.
 In pro - phet's word he spake of old; He speak - eth still.



The one e - ter - nal God Ere aught that now ap - pears;
 Lo, he is Lord of all. Cre - a - tion speaks his praise,
 Es - tab - lished is his law, And change-less it shall stand,



The First, the Last, be - yond all thought His time - less years!
 And ev - 'ry-where, a - bove, be - low, His will o - beys.
 Deep writ up - on the hu - man heart, On sea, on land. A-men.

4 Eternal life hath he
 Implanted in the soul;
 His love shall be our strength and stay
 While ages roll.

Praise to the living God!
 All praised be his Name
 Who was, and is, and is to be,
 For aye the same. Amen.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

And the Priest, standing reverently before the Holy Table, shall say the Collect following, the People kneeling

Lord, we pray thee that thy grace may always prevent and follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

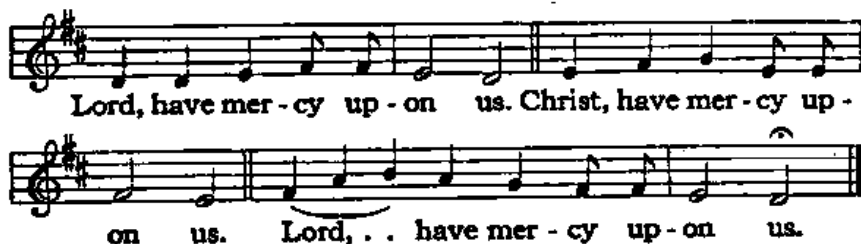
THE SUMMARY OF THE LAW

Then shall the Priest, turning to the People, say

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith.

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

KYRIE



COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Priest says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Priest: Let us pray.

The people kneeling as able

Lord, we beseech thee, grant thy people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil; and with pure hearts and minds to follow thee, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The people sit

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Proverbs 2:1-9

Reader: A reading from the 2nd chapter of the Book of Proverbs, beginning at the 1st verse.

My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;

So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;

Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;

If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;

Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.

For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.

He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.

He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints.

Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path.

Reader: Here endeth the Old Testament Lesson.

Then shall follow a Portion of the Psalms. And at the end of the Psalm, shall be sung or said the Gloria Patri. Stand as able

PSALM 91:1-9 *Qui habitat*

Reader: We will read Psalm 91 responsively by the whole verse.

1 Whoso dwelleth under the defence of the Most High, * shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

2 I will say unto the Lord, Thou art my hope, and my stronghold; * my God, in him will I trust.

3 For he shall deliver thee from the snare of the hunter, * and from the noisome pestilence.

4 He shall defend thee under his wings, and thou shalt be safe under his feathers; * his faithfulness and truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

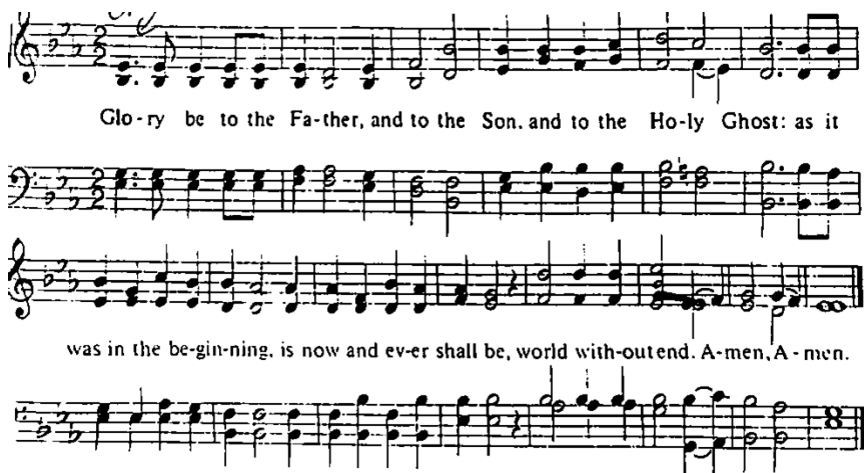
5 Thou shalt not be afraid for any terror by night, * nor for the arrow that flieth by day;

6 For the pestilence that walketh in darkness, * nor for the sickness that destroyeth in the noon-day.

7 A thousand shall fall beside thee, and ten thousand at thy right hand; * but it shall not come nigh thee.

8 Yea, with thine eyes shalt thou behold, * and see the reward of the ungodly.

9 For thou, Lord, art my hope; * thou hast set thine house of defence very high.



The people sit

THE EPISTLE: 1 Corinthians 1:4-8

Reader: A reading of the 1st chapter of the book of First Corinthians, beginning at the 4th verse.

I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ; That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge; Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: so that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

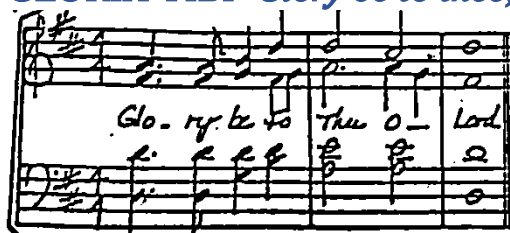
Reader: Here endeth the Epistle.

THE GOSPEL: St. Luke 18:1-8

All standing as able

Priest The Holy Gospel is written in the 18th chapter of St. Luke, beginning at the 1st verse.

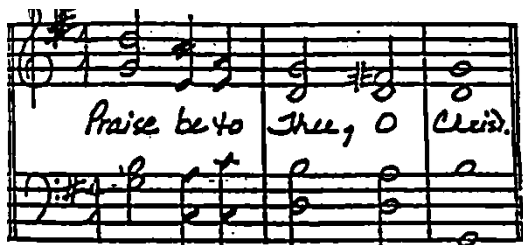
GLORIA TIBI *Glory be to thee, O Lord*



And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: and there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, though I fear not God, nor regard man; yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. And the Lord said, hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

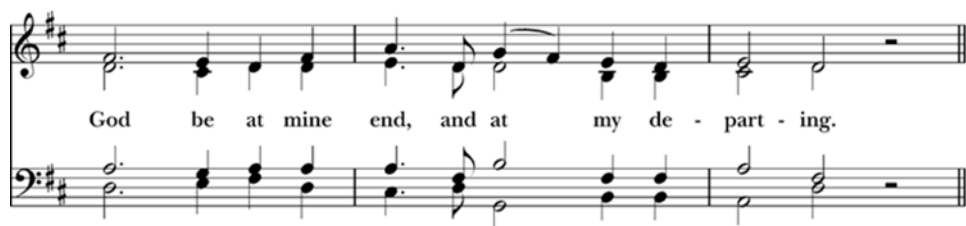
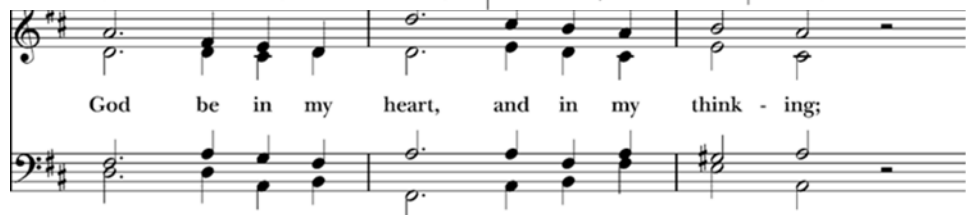
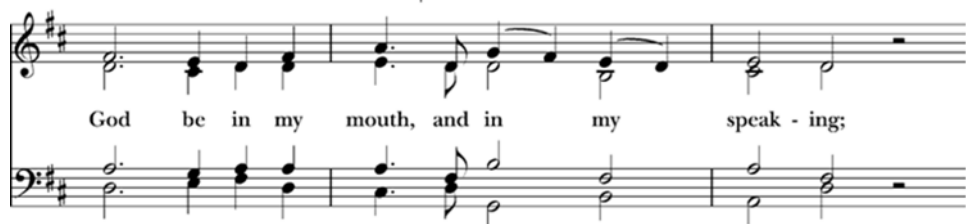
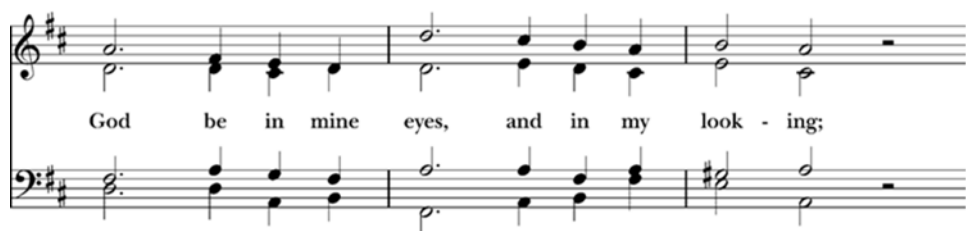
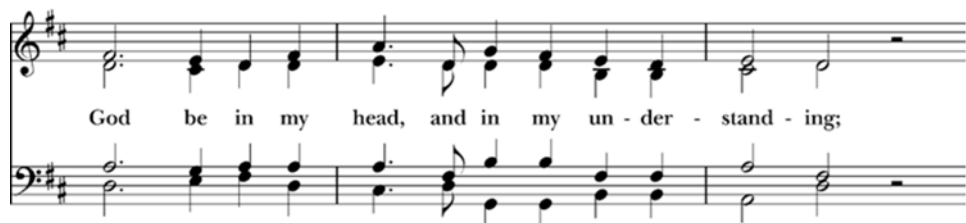
Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

LAUS TIBI *Praise be to thee, O Christ*



HYMN *God be in my head*

Hymnal 1982



The people sit

SERMON

Prayer Pursuit

Fr. Rick Miles

All stand as able

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible:

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God; Begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of very God; Begotten, not made; Being of one substance with the Father; By whom all things were made: Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, And was made man: And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried: And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures: And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father: And he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord, and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spake by the Prophets: And I believe one Catholic and Apostolic Church: I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins: And I look for the Resurrection of the dead: And the Life of the world to come. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS *Please be seated*

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthday Prayer

Watch over your **child/children**, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their heart may your peace which passes all understanding abide all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Anniversary Prayer

God of peace, your love is generous and reaches out to hold us all in your embrace. We pray now for the **couple(s)** before us, committed to each other in love. Fill their hearts with tenderness. Stay with them as they travel through good times, through trouble, or through change. Bless their home, their partings, and their meetings. Make them worthy of each other's best and tender with each other's dreams. May they always trust in your love. Amen.

Prayer for Safe Travel

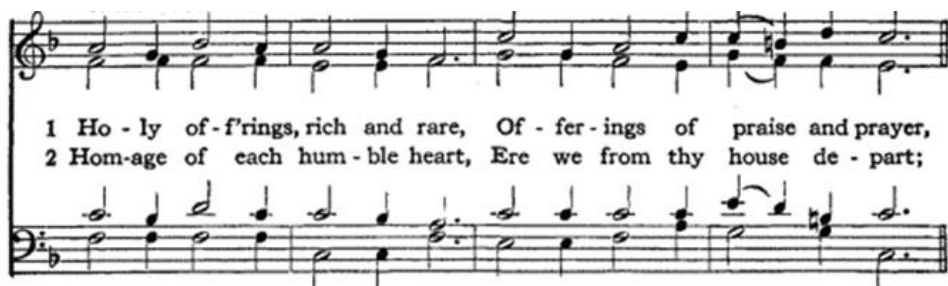
Living God, the creator of all there is and whose presence we find wherever we go: preserve those who travel; surround them with your loving care; guard them from all that may harm them: and bring them in safety and joy to their journey's end. Amen.

OFFERTORY

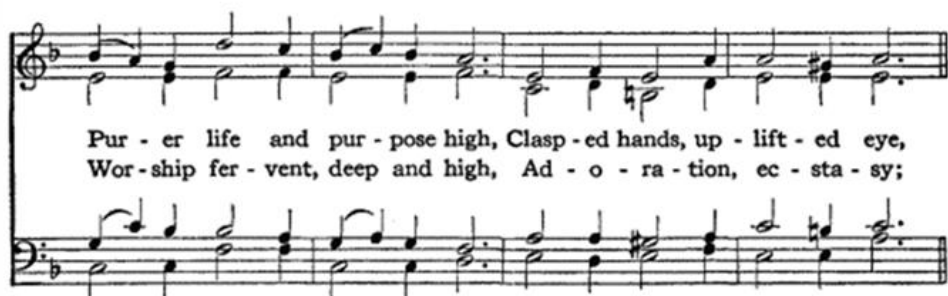
Priest Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labour to the Lord.

HYMN 480 (v. 1 & 2) *Holy offerings, rich and rare*

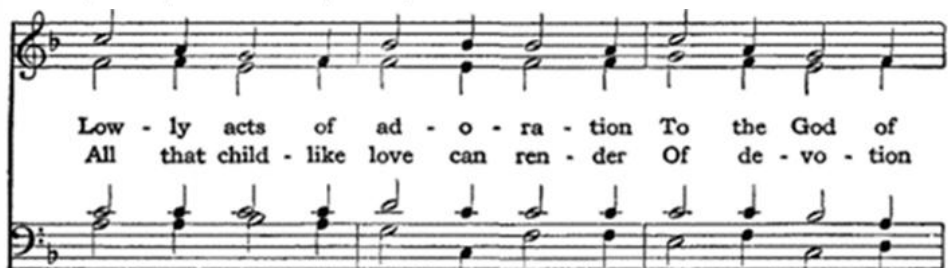
Sung while seated



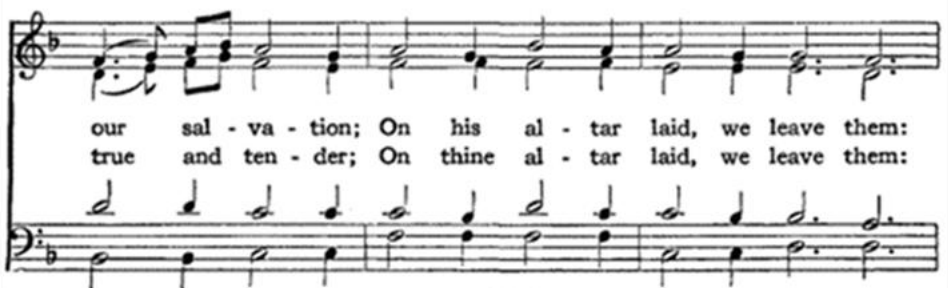
1 Ho - ly of - f'ings, rich and rare, Of - fer - ings of praise and prayer,
2 Hom-age of each hum - ble heart, Ere we from thy house de - part;



Pur - er life and pur - pose high, Clasp - ed hands, up - lift - ed eye,
Wor - ship fer - vent, deep and high, Ad - o - ra - tion, ec - sta - sy;



Low - ly acts of ad - o - ra - tion To the God of
All that child - like love can ren - der Of de - vo - tion



our sal - va - tion; On his al - tar laid, we leave them:
true and ten - der; On thine al - tar laid, we leave them:

Christ, pre - sent them! God, re - ceive them!
 Christ, pre - sent them! God, re - ceive them! A - men.

DOXOLOGY HYMN 139 *Standing as able*

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

AMERICA HYMN 141, v. 4

4 Our fathers' God, to thee,
 Author of liberty,
 To thee we sing;
 Long may our land be bright
 With freedom's holy light;
 Protect us by thy might,
 Great God, our King. Amen.

Standing as able

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and
 the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all

that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou are exalted as head above all.

Priest All things come of thee, O Lord,
People *And of thine own have we given thee.*

PRAYER FOR THE WHOLE STATE OF CHRIST'S CHURCH

People kneel and then shall the Priest, facing the altar, say

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church.

Almighty and everliving God, who by thy holy Apostle hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men; We humbly beseech thee most mercifully to accept our alms and oblations, and to receive these our prayers, which we offer unto thy Divine Majesty; beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord: And grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love. We beseech thee also, so to direct and dispose the hearts of all Christian Rulers, that they may truly and impartially administer justice, to the punishment of wickedness and vice, and to the maintenance of thy true religion, and virtue. Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all Bishops and other Ministers, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and

rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments. And to all thy People give thy heavenly grace; and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear, and receive thy holy Word; truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life. And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succour all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

We pray especially for: Whitney, David and Jane, Sonny and Diana, Frank and A.J., Jill, Brighten, Randy, John S., Luke, Mackenzie's family and friends, Beverly, Gloria, Gail, Dan and Caitlin and Cassidy, Lila, Bill B., Geoffrey and Amy, Art and Debbie, Danny, Logan, Nancy, Mousy and family, Christine and family, Connie, Jeremey, Carl, Zane, Bethany and family, Pete T., Bill S., Joanne, Mara Stephanie, Fr. Vincent Raj, Rocco, Claudette, Christina, Rori and Shane, Art C., Dean and Monica, James, Ron, Eva, Jane B., Peter, and all those whom we name in our hearts.

And for those in military service: Houessou Jonas, The Brown family, Alex Murray, The Birkelbach family, Walid Abou Chaar, Fouad El Hayek, Elizabeth Keller, Christine Puglia, The Riley family, The Logan Behr family, The Bingham family, The Elliot family, The Hollingsworth family, Zack and Ebony LeMaster, The O'Donnell family, and The Schaeffer family.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, remembering all those who continue in our hearts; beseeching thee grant them continual growth in thy love and service, and to give us grace so to follow their good examples, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. Grant this, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

Then shall the Priest, facing the people, say

Ye who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways; Draw near with faith, and take this holy Sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

Then shall this General Confession be made, by the Priest (facing the altar) and all those who are minded to receive the Holy Communion, all humbly kneeling as able

CONFESSION

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men; We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we, from time to time, most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy Divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily

sorry for these our misdoings; The remembrance of them is grievous unto us; The burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; And grant that we may ever hereafter Serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honour and glory of thy Name; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

Then shall the Priest (the Bishop if present) stand up, and turning to the People, say

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him; Have mercy upon you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Then shall the Priest say

Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith unto all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. *St. Matthew 11: 28.*

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *St. John 3:16.*

Hear also what Saint Paul saith.

This is a true saying, and worthy of all to be received, That Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. *1 Timothy 1:15.*

Hear also what Saint John saith.

If anyone sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the Propitiation for our sins. *St. John 2:1-2.*

Communion at St. John's

All people, including children, seeking a deeper understanding of God through Christ, are invited to receive Holy Communion.

Kneeling or standing at the altar rail, simply hold out both hands to receive the bread. The chalice (cup) will come to you next. If drinking from the chalice, help guide the chalice to your lips when it is offered. Alternatively, you may hold the bread and dip (intinct) it in the wine, being careful not to let the wine touch your fingers. You may also cross your arms in front of your chest to receive a blessing by the priest, instead of receiving the bread and/or the wine. Gluten Free wafers are available – just ask the priest for one at the rail.

HOLY COMMUNION

After which the Priest shall proceed, saying
THE SURSUM CORDA (*people standing as able*)

Priest. The Lord be with you.

Answer. *And with thy spirit.*

Priest. Lift up your hearts.

Answer. *We lift them up unto the Lord.*

Priest. Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

Answer. *It is meet and right so to do.*

*Then shall the Priest turn to the Holy Table, and say
(people standing as able)*

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that
we should at all times, and in all places, give
thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty,
Everlasting God.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all
the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy
glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and
saying,

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are
full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The people kneeling as able. When the Priest, standing before the Holy Table, hath so ordered the Bread and Wine, that he may with the more readiness and decency break the Bread before the People, and take the Cup into his hands, he shall say the Prayer of Consecration, as followeth

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption; who made

there (by his one oblation of himself once offered) a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again:

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took Bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you; Do this in remembrance of me.

Likewise, after supper, he took the Cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins; Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.

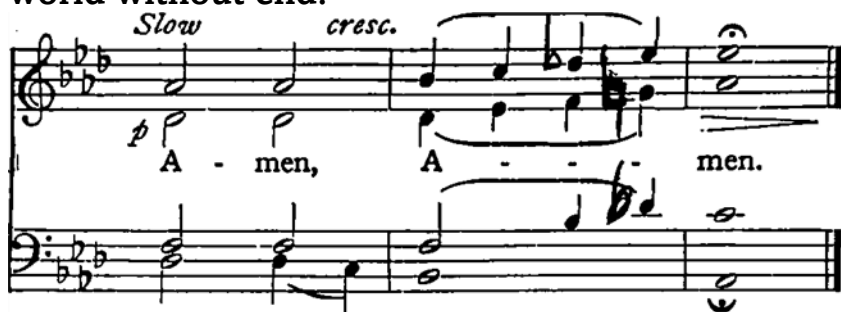
THE OBLATION

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy Divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

THE INVOCATION

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood. And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness, mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion. And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee, that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him. And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice; yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service; not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all

honour and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty,
world without end.



And now, as our Saviour Christ hath taught us, we
are bold to say,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Priest and people

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

*Then shall the Priest, kneeling down at the Lord's Table,
say [with the people], in the name of all those who shall
receive the Communion, this Prayer following*

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

Priest and people

***We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O
merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but
in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table.
But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always***

to have mercy: Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

AGNUS DEI

S 158

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -
way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -
on us. O Lamb of God, that
ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have
mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of
God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the
world, grant us thy peace.

COMMUNION

The priest turns to the people and says

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Then shall the Priest First receive the Holy Communion in both kinds himself, and proceed to deliver the same to the Bishops, Priests, and Deacons, in like manner, (if any be present,) and, after that, to the People also in order, into their hands, all devoutly kneeling as able at the altar rail.

Then shall the Priest say, the people kneeling as able,

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee, for that thou dost vouchsafe to feed us who have duly received these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favour and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, which is the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs through hope of thy everlasting kingdom, by the merits of his most precious death and passion. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

*Then shall be sung or said the Gloria in excelsis, all
standing as able*

GLORIA 739

Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men.
We praise thee, we glorify thee, we give
we bless thee, we wor-ship thee, thanks to thee for thy great glo - ry,

O Lord God, heav'n - ly King, God the Father Al - migh - ty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je - sus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther,

that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy up - on . . us.

Thou that takest away the sins of the world, re - ceive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Fa - ther, have mercy up - on . . us.

For thou on - ly art ho - ly; thou on - ly art the Lord;

thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Fa - ther. A-men.

THE BLESSING

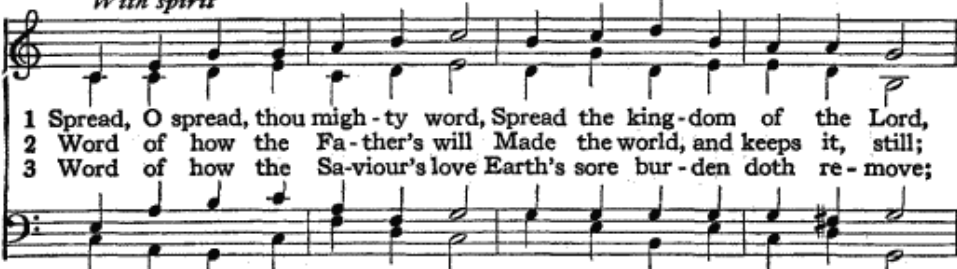
Then, the People kneeling, the Priest (the Bishop if present) shall let them depart with this Blessing

The Peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: And the Blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

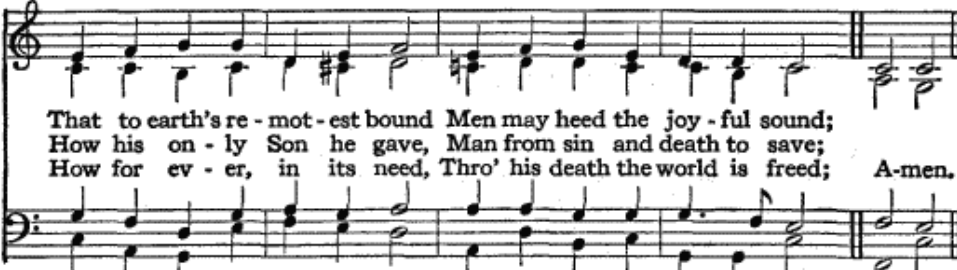
Standing as able

HYMN 253 *Spread, O spread, thy mighty word*

With spirit



1 Spread, O spread, thou migh - ty word, Spread the king - dom of the Lord,
2 Word of how the Fa - ther's will Made the world, and keeps it, still;
3 Word of how the Sa - viour's love Earth's sore bur - den doth re - move;



That to earth's re - mot - est bound Men may heed the joy - ful sound;
How his on - ly Son he gave, Man from sin and death to save;
How for ev - er, in its need, Thro' his death the world is freed; A-men.

- 4 Mighty word God's Spirit gave,
Man for heav'nly life to save;
Word through whose all-holy might
Man can will and do the right;
- 5 Word of life, most pure and strong,
Word for which the nations long,
Spread abroad, until from night
All the world awakes to light. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Priest Let us go into the world rejoicing in the
 power of the Spirit.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

POSTLUDE

+ + + + +

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today's Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by
Jane and Arthur Brost in memory of their parents.

Serving Today

Acolyte: Geoffrey Holland

Lay Reader: Margee Bennett

Usher: Chibby Ogbuka

Upcoming

- **Sunday, October 26, Morning Prayer at 10 AM**
- **Saturday, November 1, Diocesan Convention**
- **All Saints' Sunday, November 2, Holy Communion at 10 AM**

Pastoral Emergency? Please call the church office (831) 375-4463, or to get in touch with Fr. Rick call (336) 613-2829.

The bulletins are completely underwritten by a private donation.

Staff

Priest-in-Charge: The Very Rev. Dr. Richard Miles

Organist: Mary Clare Martin

Parish Administrator: Cynthia Brown

Bookkeeper: Brieanne Goldberg

Sexton: Jose Martinez

Vestry & Officers of the Parish

Senior Warden: Geoffrey Holland

Junior Warden: Art Brost

Treasurer: Monica Nathan

Clerk: Elizabeth Barratt

Jean Givetz

Amy Holland

Chibby Ogbuka

Luke Stock Moran

Ministry Directors

Director of Readers: Monica Nathan

Director of Ushers: Chibby Ogbuka

Director of Acolytes: Art Brost

Altar Guild: Alice Bowhay, Jean Givetz, Gail

Strandberg, Marti Myszak, and Margee Bennett

Weddings: Margee Bennett and Cynthia Brown

Historians/Archivists: Richard & Elizabeth Barratt

The Nicene Creed, Week 3 of 8

To commemorate the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea (May-August 325), the Rt. Rev. Matthew Gunter, bishop of Wisconsin, has written a series of reflections on the Nicene Creed and its relevance for contemporary Episcopalians. Over the coming weeks, we'll share his teachings, written mostly in a question-and-answer format.

Wasn't the message of Jesus about what to do and how to be rather than what to believe. Why does the Creed focus on the latter?

The short answer to this question is that the life and teachings of Jesus were not in dispute. The early church already took the teaching and example of Jesus seriously. They were contained in the scriptures, which were already read in worship every week. The church put love and compassion at the heart of its life and teaching. It organized social services for the poor, hungry, and needy. It founded hospitals. Its teaching reflected the example of Jesus in critiquing wealth and

violence. It advocated for hospitality to the stranger and foreigner. The dignity of traditionally marginalized groups like women, children, and the poor was honored in a way unprecedented in the ancient world (though, admittedly, the church did not embrace total equality of women and men). The church surely did not practice all of this perfectly, always, and everywhere. But none of the above was particularly controversial. It was the emphatic teaching of the theologians most often identified with the defense of the Nicene faith, e.g., Athanasius of Alexandria, Macrina the Younger, Basil of Caesarea, Gregory of Nazianzus, Gregory of Nyssa, John Chrysostom, Ambrose of Milan, and others. And these teachers understood that the practice of the church is grounded in its belief.

Not everything that was decided by the Council of Nicaea is in the Creed. The Council also addressed issues of church organization and discipline, including penalties for clergy guilty of sensual sin (Canon 2) or greed and usury (Canon 17). Canon 12, reflecting the church's commitment to peace, established penance for those who "having cast aside their military girdles, but afterwards returned, like dogs, to their own vomit." Canon 17 did address a disputed question: to what extent were mercy and forgiveness possible for those who had denied their faith during a recent persecution? Imitating Jesus, the canon declared such people should be "dealt with mercifully."

But those canons did not address the controversy that had led to the calling of the Council of Nicaea. The

debate roiling the church was not about Jesus' moral teachings, but rather who Jesus was and how he was related to God, whom he called Father. And, with that, questions about the basic understanding of God. The answer to that question had implications for the salvation of humanity and the restoration of creation. The answer to that question also has implications for why the teaching and example of Jesus should matter more than any other human teacher.

Stay tuned for next week's installment!

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