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Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Holy Eucharist Rite Two
Sunday, September 17, 2023
9:30 AM

Please know that this service is being live-streamed through Facebook Live, and those attending in person may be visible during the service.

PRELUDE

Praise My Soul, King of Heaven

Robert Hobby

ENTRANCE HYMN

Praise to the Lord, The Almighty

H 390



All 1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the
 Men 2. Praise to the Lord; o - ver all things he
 Choir 3. Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy
 All 4. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is



King of cre - a - tion; O my soul, praise him, for
 glo - rious - ly reign - eth: borne as on ea - gle - wings,
 way and de - fend thee; sure - ly his good - ness and
 in me a - dore him! All that hath life and breath



he is thy health and sal - va - tion:
 safe - ly his saints he sus - tain - eth.
 mer - cy shall ev - er at - tend thee;
 come now with prais - es be - fore him!



join the great throng, psal - ter - y, or - gan, and
 Hast thou not seen how all thou need - est hath
 pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can
 Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a -



song, sound-ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion.
been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?
do, who with his love doth be - friend thee.
gain; glad - ly for ev - er a - dore him.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People Glory to God for ever and ever.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

The Celebrant may say

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

GLORIA

S 277

The following is sung, all standing




1. Glo - ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth



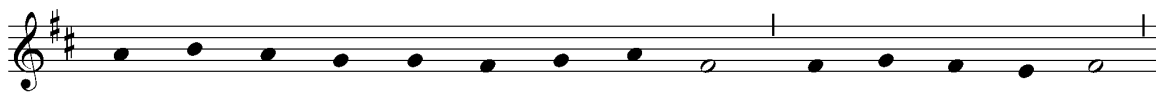
2. Lord God, hea-ven-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you,



we give you thanks, we 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

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

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.*

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Exodus 14:19-31

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of Exodus.

¹⁹The 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. ²⁰It 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.

²¹Then 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. ²²The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴At 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. ²⁵He 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."

²⁶Then 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." ²⁷So 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. ²⁸The 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. ²⁹But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

³⁰Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹Israel 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 103: 8-13

⁸ Alleluia You are full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.

⁹ You will not always accuse us, *
nor will you keep your anger for ever.

¹⁰ You have not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so is your mercy great upon those who fear you.

¹² As far as the east is from the west, *
so far have you removed our sins from us.

¹³ As a parent cares for a child, *
so do you care for those who fear you.

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

The people sit.

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Rome.

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those 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. ⁴Who 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.

⁵Some 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. ⁶Those 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.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If 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. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why 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. ¹¹For it is written,

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

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

²¹Peter 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?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, 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. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But 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.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

Reverend Benedict Varnum

THE 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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

All remain standing.

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

We pray especially for: John, Recia, Jim, Judy, Hayden, Amy, JoEy, Sadie, Joey, Evelyn, Bob, Ellen, Irene, Barbara, Jean, Keith, Marge, Christian, Bruce & his family, Sally, Jami, Susie, Marilyn, Ben, Norma, Mary, Ann, Bill, Laura, Jeanette & her family, Elle, Barb, Charlene, Rebecca, Kelli, Vicki, AJ, Brendan, and Massouda & her family. Are there any others who need our prayers?

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant adds

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Minister and People

God of all mercy,

we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.

We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.

We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.

Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.

The Priest stands and says

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.

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

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays: Hondo Gallegos, and Lillian Mae Churchill

Anniversaries: Leslie & Grant Suhr and JoEy & Jerry Vernon

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 life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High. *Psalm 50:14*

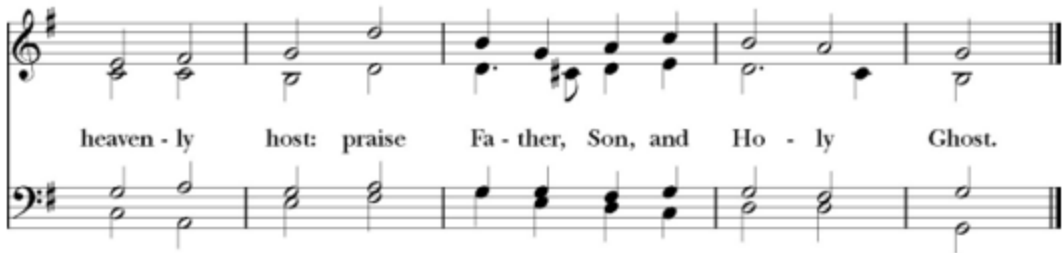
OFFERTORY ANTHEM

O Kind Jesus

Robert Hunter

OFFERTORY RESPONSE *Doxology*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye



The Great Thanksgiving

SURSUM CORDA

The People remain standing.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

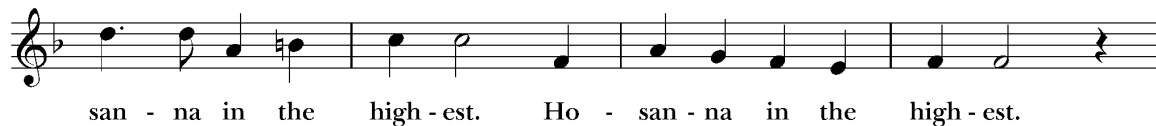
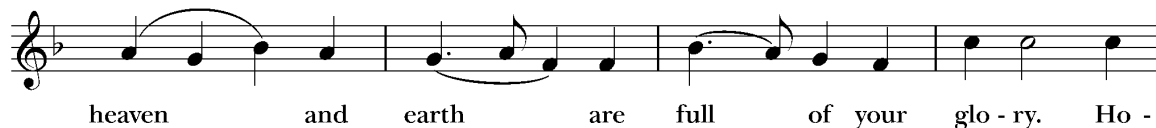
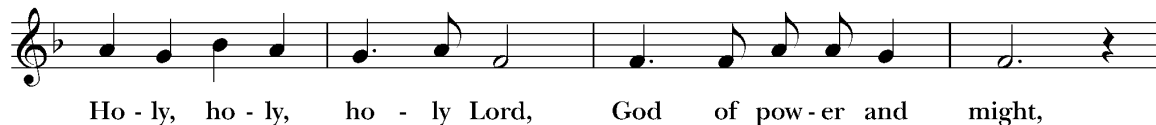
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS

S 125



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The People stand or kneel.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made

flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

EPICLESIS

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly

country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

People and Celebrant

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

FRACTION ANTHEM

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

INVITATION

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

DISTRIBUTION

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

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

COMMUNION HYMN

Come with us, O bless'd Jesus H 336

1 Come with us, O bless - ed Je - sus, with us ev - er -
 *2 Come with us, O might - y Sa - vior, God from God, and
 *3 Come with us, O King of glo - ry, by an - gel - ic

more to be; and though leav - ing now thine
 Light from Light; thou art God, thy glo - ry
 voic - es praised; in our hearts as in thy

al - tar, let us nev - er - more leave thee.
 veil - ing, so that we may bear the sight.
 hea - ven, be en - rap - tured an - thems raised.

Be thou one with us for ev - er, in our life thy
 Now we go to seek and serve thee, through our work as
 Let the might - y cho - rus ev - er sing its glad ex -

love di - vine our own flesh and blood has
 through our prayer; grant us light to see and
 ul - tant songs; let its hymn be heard for

tak - en, and to us thou giv - est thine.
 know thee, in thy peo - ple ev - ery - where.
 ev - er— peace for which cre - a - tion longs.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Loving God,
we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

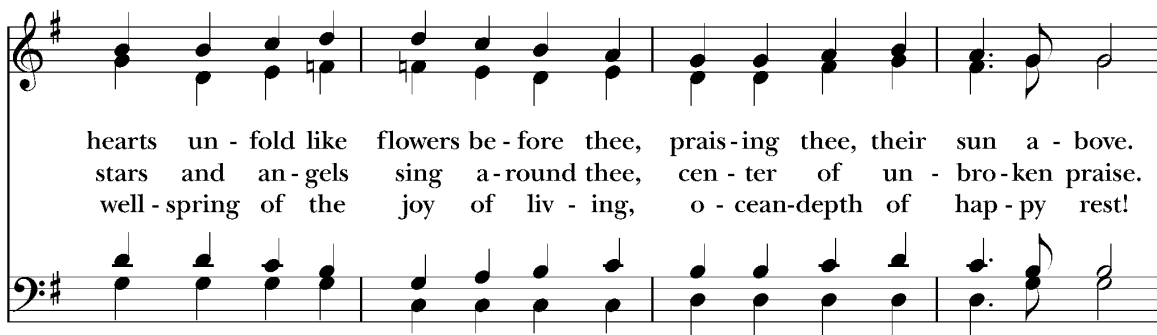
BLESSING

The Priest blesses the people, saying

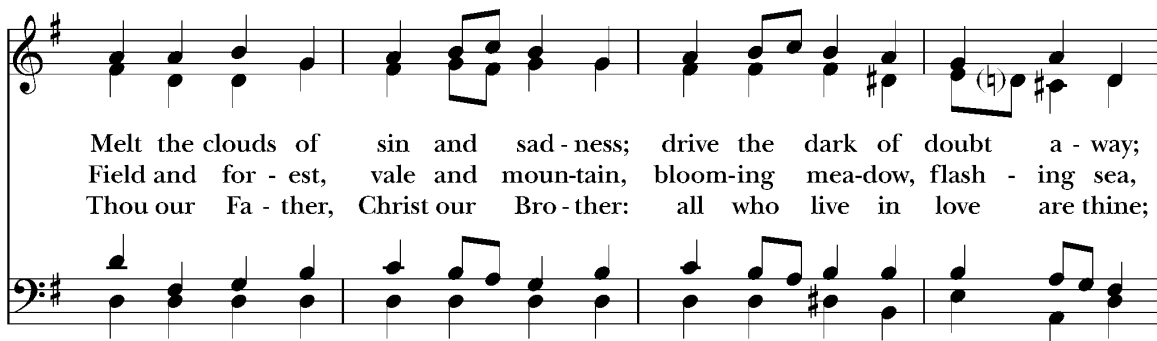
The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

POST-COMMUNION HYMN *Joyful, joyful, we adore thee* H 376

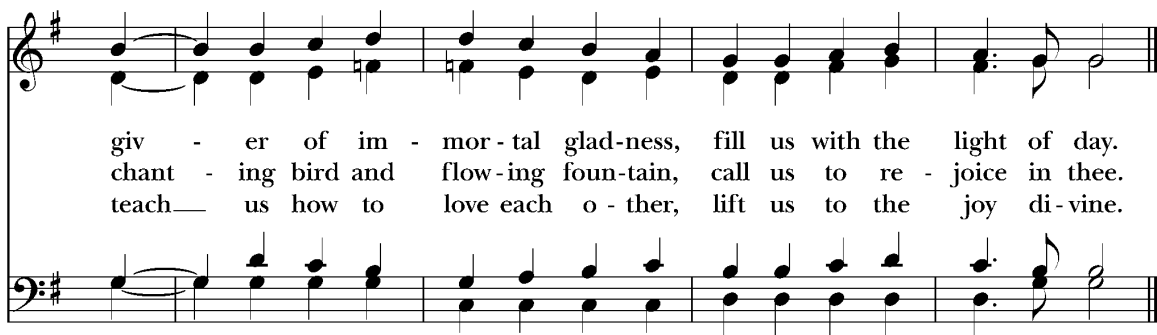
1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
 stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way;
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, bloom - ing mea - dow, flash - ing sea,
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Bro - ther: all who live in love are thine;



giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
 teach - us how to love each o - ther, lift us to the joy di - vine.

DISMISSAL

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia.
Alleluia.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

POSTLUDE

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Paul Manz

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Special Collection for September – Episcopal Relief & Development

Our Special Collection during September benefits Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD). For more than 80 years, ERD has been working together with supporters and Anglican partners around the globe to create measurable and sustainable change in the world. ERD's three signature program areas are: Women, Children, and Climate, however, in the wake of the devastating wildfires in Hawaii and the arrival of Hurricane Idalia in Florida, U.S. disaster recovery efforts are also presently underway.

In August, we raised \$724.00 to benefit the Incarnation Monastery/Benedictine Way. Thank you everyone for your generosity!

Updated Directory

We would love to take a photograph of you/your family for this year's directory.

We will be taking directory photos **EVERY Sunday in September** after both services. Because we are doing this so many weeks in a row, if Kate is not standing near the photo backdrop, please find her to take your photo! There will be information sheets to fill out near the backdrop. Even if you think we have all of your information, please fill it out again so we can double check to ensure the accuracy of our information. Thanks!

Prayers from a Deacon's Heart, by Deacon Rebecca

Deacon Rebecca has been quietly working on a project, and has finally finished it up and self-published a book of prayers! Her book, "Pushing the Jesus Button: Prayers from a Deacon's Heart," is available on Amazon and for Kindle readers. Congratulations to Deacon Rebecca, and the book can be found at the following link: <https://www.amazon.com/Pushing-Jesus-Button-Prayers-Deacons/dp/B0CH2M98XP/>

Good News Garden – Thursdays during the Season of Creation

The Season of Creation, September 1st through October 4th, is celebrated by Christians around the world as a time for renewing, repairing, and restoring our relationship to God, one another, and all creation.

The Episcopal Church joins this international effort for prayer and action, for climate justice and an end to environmental racism, and ecological destruction. The 2023 theme is *Let Justice and Peace Flow*. In celebrating the Season, we are invited to consider anew our ecological, economic, and political ways of living.

Join us on **Thursday, September 21 from 6:30PM until 8:00 PM**, in the parish garden as the Good News Garden Ministry will be sharing ways in how we can renew, repair and restore in our lives, homes, and communities. We welcome all parishioners and guests to come and share their ideas and experiences.

** Please bring a blanket, cushion, or something to sit on during these ministries.

The Good News Garden Ministry is open to all. For more information, please contact Pam Eby at pam_eby@yahoo.com or 402-431-3381.

September at 9:30!

Sunday worship in September will be a combined service at 9:30

This coming September we have a full schedule of events that are worth bringing the whole parish together! This is an experiment for us, but we'd love to kick off THIS program year with a set of celebrations that let everyone meet and greet across services and join in a few parties at St Augustine's. Here's what's coming up:

- **September 24th A Garden Party.** Our parish Quiet Garden is a key part of our beautiful physical space. Garden Steward Jim Keepers has invited the whole parish to celebrate it this year, and we plan to invite the trustees of the Hitchcock Garden trust, which has helped fund projects in our garden since its inauguration in the early 2000's. After church, we'll dedicate some of the newer plantings, celebrate the garden, and enjoy good food together. Help us celebrate the beauty of God's creation and the work of our hands as we invite neighbors to join us!

With each of these events, we'll hold a combined service at 9:30, making our September schedule easy-to-remember, and offering a chance for everyone to begin the year by meeting people across both of our services.

Brown Bag Bible Study

Tuesdays from noon to 1:00

Want to know more about the Bible? Fr Ben will be starting a noontime parish Bible Study on September 12th. We'll have coffee on, so feel free to bring a lunch and gather for teaching, discussion, and fellowship! The September Bible Study will begin with the **Book of Job**. A favorite of Fr Ben's, Job is a holy text that wrestles deeply with what it means to love God, how to live when things aren't going well, and what faith is. It also has some really powerful questions about what scripture itself is, and how we learn from the Bible. We'll spend several weeks on the Book of Job, and this first week will all be about the first chapter of Job – just 22 verses to read, if you want to read it ahead of time!

Elaine Randall Book Club – September 26

The Elaine Randall Book Club selection for **September** is: *The Secret Keeper* by Kate Morton. Book bags are available in the parish hall. You are welcome to join us for our discussion on **Tuesday, September 26, at 11:30 AM** at the church. Zoom connection is also available. For questions, please contact Sandra Squires at sksquires@cox.net.

Out of Darkness Walk

This annual walk on **Saturday, September 30** beginning at **11:00 AM** is an opportunity to gather and bear witness to those we love and have lost to suicide and mental health conditions. Fr Ben and his family will be gathering with anyone who would like to join for this event and walk together as a church. From their website: “The Out of the Darkness Community Walk unites our communities and provides an opportunity to acknowledge the ways in which suicide and mental health conditions have affected our lives and the lives of those we love and care about.” For those attending, we will gather at the Northwest Corner of Stinson Park to begin the walk together – the event begins with some talks and encouragement, so there’s plenty of time to find each other!

You can register for the walk on the afsp.org website by searching for an “Omaha” event. You can also directly register for a St Augustine’s team using the link below. Please note that registration has a number of steps, and will prompt you to donate to their fundraising around suicide prevention. You are welcome to give as you like, but we are simply inviting people to come attend the walk together in support and solidarity. If you have difficulty registering, please contact Fr Ben for help at rector@sainta.net.

<https://supporting.afsp.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=register.start&eventID=9424&teamID=325620>

Wednesday Dinners

Take a night off from cooking and join us for **St. Augustine Church Family Dinner Nights Wednesdays at 6:00 PM starting October**

4! Typically on Wednesday evenings, a group of Canterbury Village Helpers makes dinner for our Youth Group. We would like to extend the invite for Wednesday dinner to the entire parish!

Parish Life will be organizing a group of kitchen helpers and meal planners to create the main dish(some of you may have seen the new Blackstone purchased to help cook these meals). If you'd like to help them plan/cook for these fun fellowship events, please contact Kate (ministries@sainta.net), and she will get you connected.

If you are joining us for dinner, plan to bring a side or dessert if you're able, it is not required. We will be looking into a sign up genius to ensure that we have enough sides for each evening, as well as to give us a general head count for our main dish. We will have a monthly schedule of meals coming soon to help you plan your side as well. If you would like to offer a good will donation to help with the main part of the meals, we will have a basket at each dinner, or you can place it in the basket on any Sunday. Please be sure to note what your donation is for so Jay will be sure it is used for Church Family Dinner!

Pet Blessing and Celebration of Creation – Wednesday, October 4th! 6:00 pm, with new Wednesday Parish Dinner Night

This year, we will offer a chance to have our pets blessed on Wednesday evening, October 4th. October 4th is the actual date of the celebration of St Francis's feast day, and by coincidence, it lands on the first Wednesday of our new all-parish dinner weekly dinners that will be starting in October! Please feel free to join us in some holy chaos as we gather for dinner (and pet treats) and bless our animal friends. This year, our own Pam Eby will put

on her Zoo Educator hat and bring out some materials (and possibly an animal friend or two!) to help draw us into awe and wonder at our job as stewards of God's creation. This is great for the young and the young at heart as we get a chance to learn about different creatures and environments across the world and right here in Nebraska. Please join us, and feel free to bring friends! RSVP's to Kate are helpful just to get a sense of numbers, but we'll plan for plenty of food and friends!

Friday Fun Night

Please mark your calendars to join us for a new evening of fun and fellowship. Friday Fun Night will take place on the 2nd Friday of each month, beginning **Friday, October 13** with a night of spooky fun for all ages! November 10th, our fun night will include the Chili Cook Off, and December 8th will be holiday themed and include a White Elephant gift exchange. These nights will be from 6-8:30, the church will provide snacks & non-alcoholic drinks. Since we will be starting around dinnertime, please feel free to bring a meal, and your drink of choice. If you would like to help plan the "fun" part of the Friday's, please contact Kate (ministries@sainta.net)

St. A's Directory Business Card Advertising Opportunity

Would you prefer hiring someone from the parish or a stranger to work in your home, business or landscape? Hopefully, the answer to this question is a resounding yes! Having a business card sized advertisement in the back of the church directory accomplishes two goals: it allows our parishioners the opportunity to select an individual they feel confident in hiring and limits the time spent searching for a capable individual. The ads would also help defray the cost of the directory.

No major graphics work is required. You can drop off a business card or, if you don't have one, write out a brief statement about the service(s) you offer and how to contact you.

Stewardship Season

Each year, our parish celebrates Stewardship over the first four Sundays in October. Stewardship is the Christian practice of offering from our blessings to support our church home and its ministries, and our tradition is to reflect on Time, Talent, and Treasure that we can make a pledge of for the coming year. We'll be sending a letter out toward the end of September to talk a bit more about it, with pledge cards enclosed, and the letter and cards will also be available to pick up at church.

Our schedule for 2023 will be as follows:

October 1: Treasure Sunday, Finance Meeting after both services

October 8: Talent Sunday and Ministry Fair after both services

October 15: Time Sunday (Finance Committee members will set up a table at coffee hour for questions.

October 22: Ingathering of Pledge Cards and special Coffee Hour

We'll have the **Ministry Fair Sunday October 8 after both services**. Stop by each table to see where your talents could be put to good use! This year we'll have a fun way to interact with each Ministry, and prizes for our winners. We look forward to sharing the wonderful opportunities for service, education and fellowship available here at St. A! (If you would like space for your ministry at the Fair, please contact Kate, our director of ministries at ministries@sainta.net)

We'll have a parish Finance Meeting after each service on **Sunday, October 1** to review our financial position, needs, and goals for 2024, everyone is encouraged to attend. Our Celebration Sunday on **October 22** will include special coffee hour treats provided by our Finance Committee.

Music Ministry by Sue Wortman

Keep your ears open! This coming fall at our 10:30 service, Sue Wortman will be selecting hymns from both Episcopal Church resources and other writing. Sue brings decades of experience in music leadership to her work, and as she enters a second year in her role as our choir director, she's going to be giving us a chance to hear both familiar and new pieces as part of our worship of God on Sunday mornings. If you have favorites, or are curious about some of hers, please feel free to reach out to Sue on Sunday mornings or through the week. Meanwhile, please do look forward to a lot of joy in our singing over these coming Fall months!

Canterbury Village Needs Your Help!

It takes a village to raise a child, and each of us can help them grow in Christ. Here's a great big thank you to those who participated last year and helped us achieve more than we ever thought possible!

Here are a few roles within the Canterbury Village we are hoping you will fill:

- Provide donations as needed
- Assist with Special Events
- Help with our Church Family Dinner before Youth Group on Wednesday evenings (1-3 times per year)
- Join the planning team for Vacation Bible School
- Please also prayerfully consider volunteering to teach or assist Nursery, Sunday School or Youth Group this upcoming school year.

To either confirm your previous role, or volunteer for a new role in Canterbury Village, please fill out the volunteer form <https://forms.gle/w19jxiG12Wmi9X5PA> We would love to have you join this amazing team of people!

Contact Kate (ministries@sainta.net) with any questions.

Personnel Committee

As we enter a new program year, the Vestry (our parish board) has decided to reinstate a Personnel Committee at St Augustine's. We had a group like this before our major construction project, designed to help review staff needs, set and track goals, and support staff work and communication as needed. The major responsibility is to meet with our staff (including Fr Ben) once per quarter to set and review goals and needs. If you have experience in this area, we'd love to have you help out! Our initial expectation is that this will be a committee of about 3 people, with the ability to cycle on or off each year, to a maximum of 3 years. If you're interested or curious about this, please contact Fr Ben (rector@sainta.net) or Pam Wright (wrightpamelaj@gmail.com), our Senior Warden (board chair).

Looking for Nursery Assistants!

Do you enjoy pretending to eat wooden food, singing songs and creating with play dough? If so, you have a perfect skill set to assist in the nursery during the 10:30 AM Service! A nursery assistant is a person who has been a member at St. A's for more than 6 months, and is able to take our safeguarding training either online or in person. Most volunteers help out once per month. You arrive at 10:15 AM to entertain the children who are too young to participate in our preschool Sunday School. When the older kids head back to church at the passing of the peace, you stay to help our nursery staff until the end of the service. To volunteer, please contact Kate.

Annual Council 2023

Each year, the Episcopal Diocese of Nebraska gathers for an Annual Council of all parishes, where we worship together, hear reports about ministries and invitations to participate in projects ahead, and vote for elected offices, any resolutions, and the upcoming year's diocesan budget. This year, the 156th Annual Council will be held **October 26-29** in North Platte, Nebraska. Our parish has elected 3 delegates (Erin Rhian, Ali Threlkeld, and Dave Wright), and we also have the opportunity to have an alternate attend, if someone is interested in being part of our delegation and being present for these celebrations and steps in our church's governance. If you would like to learn more about serving as a delegate (the costs of attending are covered by St A's), please contact Fr Ben at rector@sainta.net

Vestry Notes – August

In August, our Vestry (the Parish Board) met for its regular meeting. This was also the second quarterly meeting at which we invited each committee chair to be present and update the vestry and each other about their work and plans for the coming months.

Major topics included:

- The next steps in our negotiations with Paul Davis to repair the incorrect sacristy cabinet installation
- New activities for the Fall, including
 - A Tuesday noon “Brown Bag” Bible Study starting September 12th
 - Wednesday all-parish dinners at 6:00, beginning October 4th
 - “Fun Fridays” on the 2nd Friday of the month, beginning October (Friday the 13th!)
 - Sunday School schedule returning to 10:15-the announcements of 10:30 service, with children joining us in church for a whole service on the last Sunday of each month, and prayer and worship practice at Sunday School during the other weeks
- Committee Report Highlights
 - Altar Guild - Continued work on Sacristy, preparing for new members
 - Outreach – Several new ministry leaders, Goals for more visible Outreach displays
 - Garden – preparations for the party on September 24th, celebration of volunteer work and grant funding
 - Finance – review of planning for our October stewardship campaign
 - Parish Life – discussion of Fall events, including a new chance to go and place wreaths honoring service members, late-Fall this year

The Vestry also approved our monthly minutes and financial reports.

The next Vestry meeting will be held on **September 17**, after a presentation from COPE that morning. Vestry meetings are generally open to anyone in the parish who would like to attend. If you have a topic that the vestry needs to consider, please contact Fr Ben (rector@sainta.net) or a vestry member!

Save The Date

Sunday, September 17

**Combined Service @ 9:30AM
COPE Sunday**

Tuesday, September 19

Brown Bag Bible Study @ Noon

Thursday, September 21

Good News Garden Group

Sunday, September 24

**Combined Service @ 9:30AM
Garden Celebration**

Tuesday, September 19

Brown Bag Bible Study @ Noon

Saturday, September 30

Out of Darkness Walk

Ministers of the Day	This Week 9/17/2023 @ 9:30	Next Week 9/24/2023 @ 9:30
Musicians 8:30am:	Dirk Lindner Canterbury Choir	Carole Seitz Canterbury Choir
Celebrant:	Rev. Ben Varnum	Rev. Ben Varnum
Deacon:	Rebecca Smith	Rebecca Smith
Liturgical Shepherd:	Erin Rhian	Jim Lewis
Acolytes 9:30am:	Truman Stubbendieck Cash Stubbendieck Luke Fassero	Truman Stubbendieck Cash Stubbendieck Luke Fassero
9:30 am Greeter:	Patty Kimme	Patty Kimme
9:30 am Lector:	Jean Lahti	OPEN
Altar Guild 9:30 am:	Donna Sattem	Kathy Pospichal
A/V Tech 9:30 am	John Fraser Shane Rhian	Erin Rhian Jay Hammond