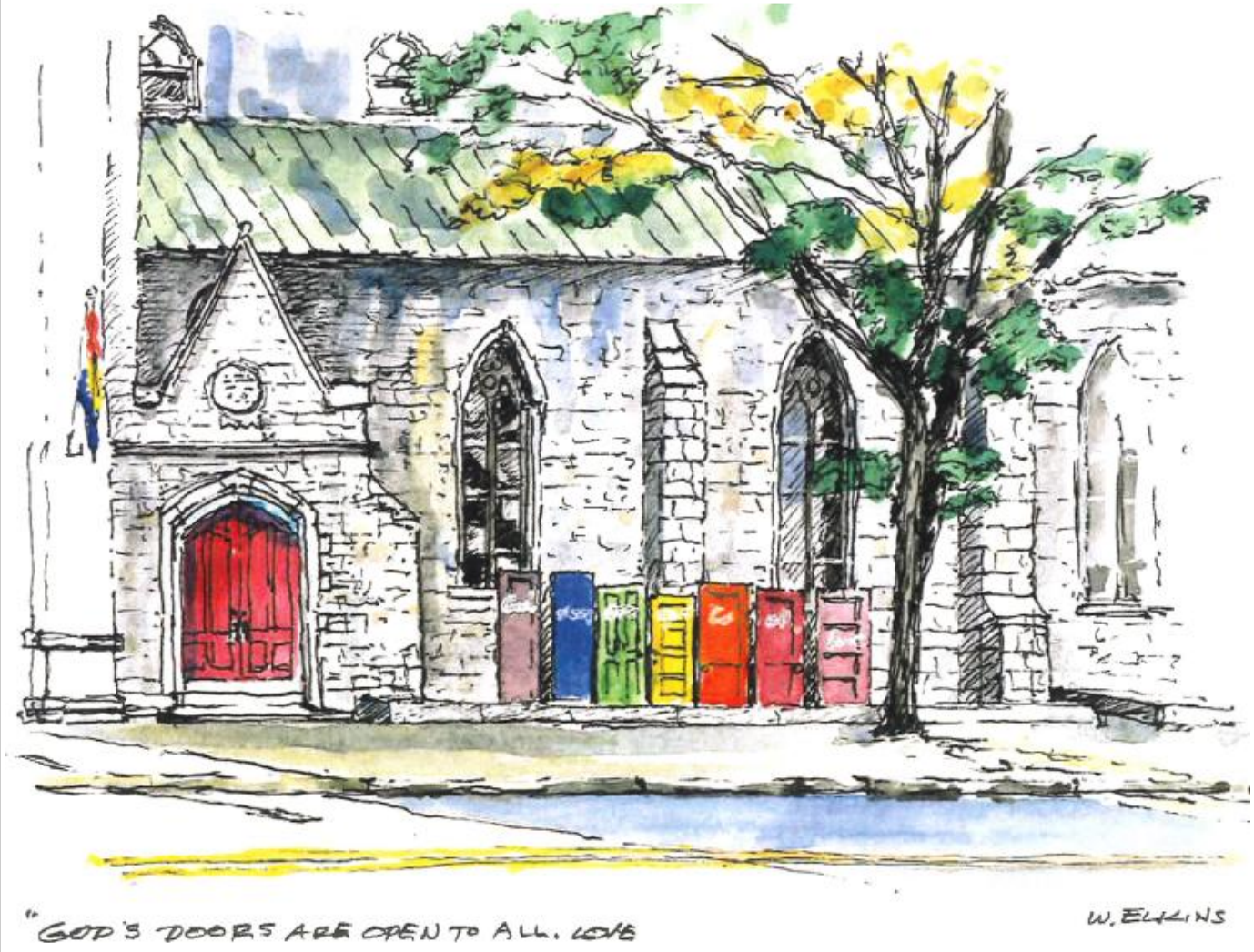
St. Paul's
Syracuse
The Downtown Episcopal Church



NOVEMBER 22, 2026
10:00 AM
CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

ORDER OF SERVICE

Our morning worship begins with the first note of the organ prelude and your silent prayers. Please refrain from conversations during this time.

PRELUDE: *Vor deinen Thron tret ich hiermit,* BWV 668 Johann Sebastian Bach (1865-1750)
("Before Thy throne I now appear")
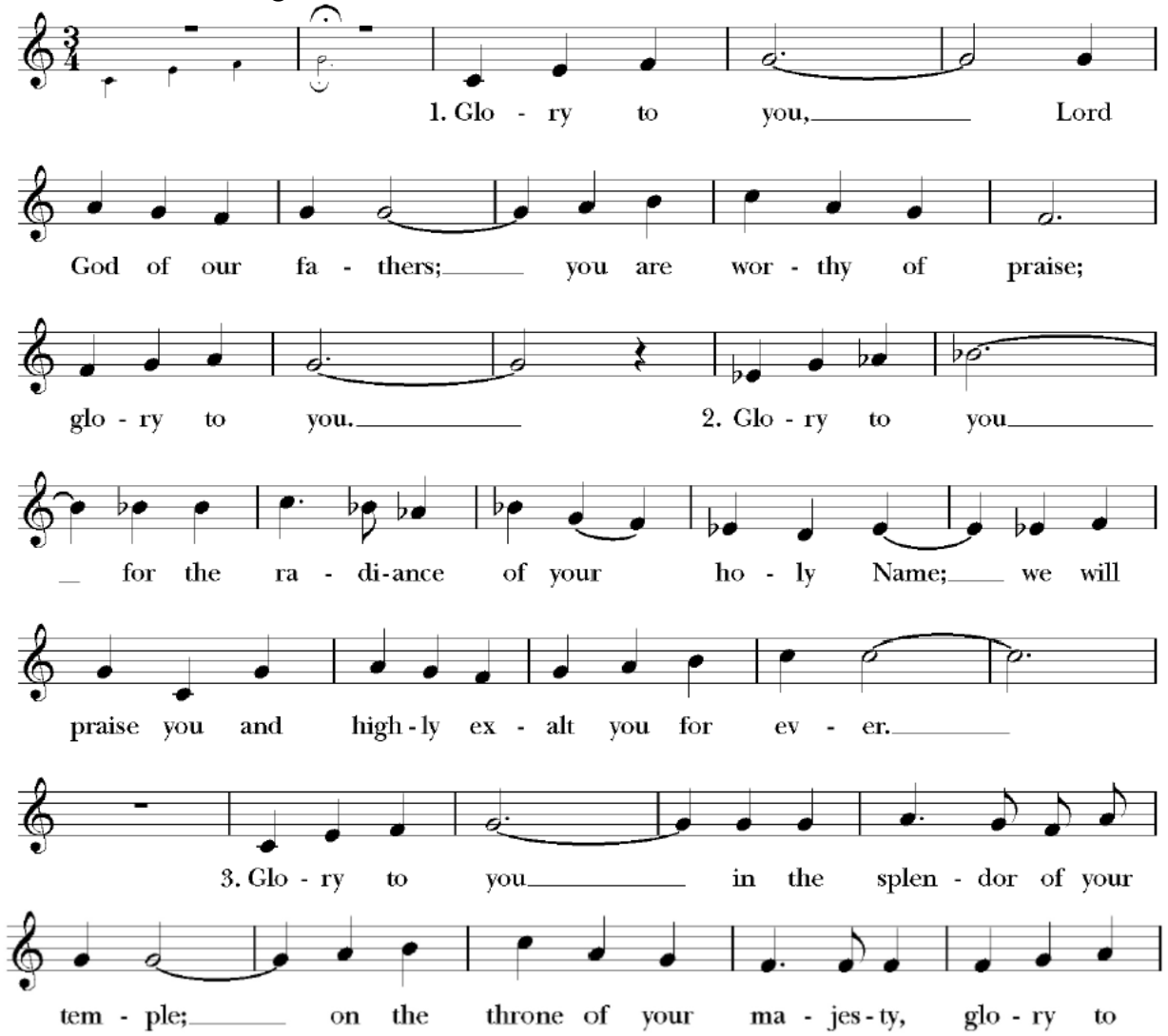
The people are invited to stand.
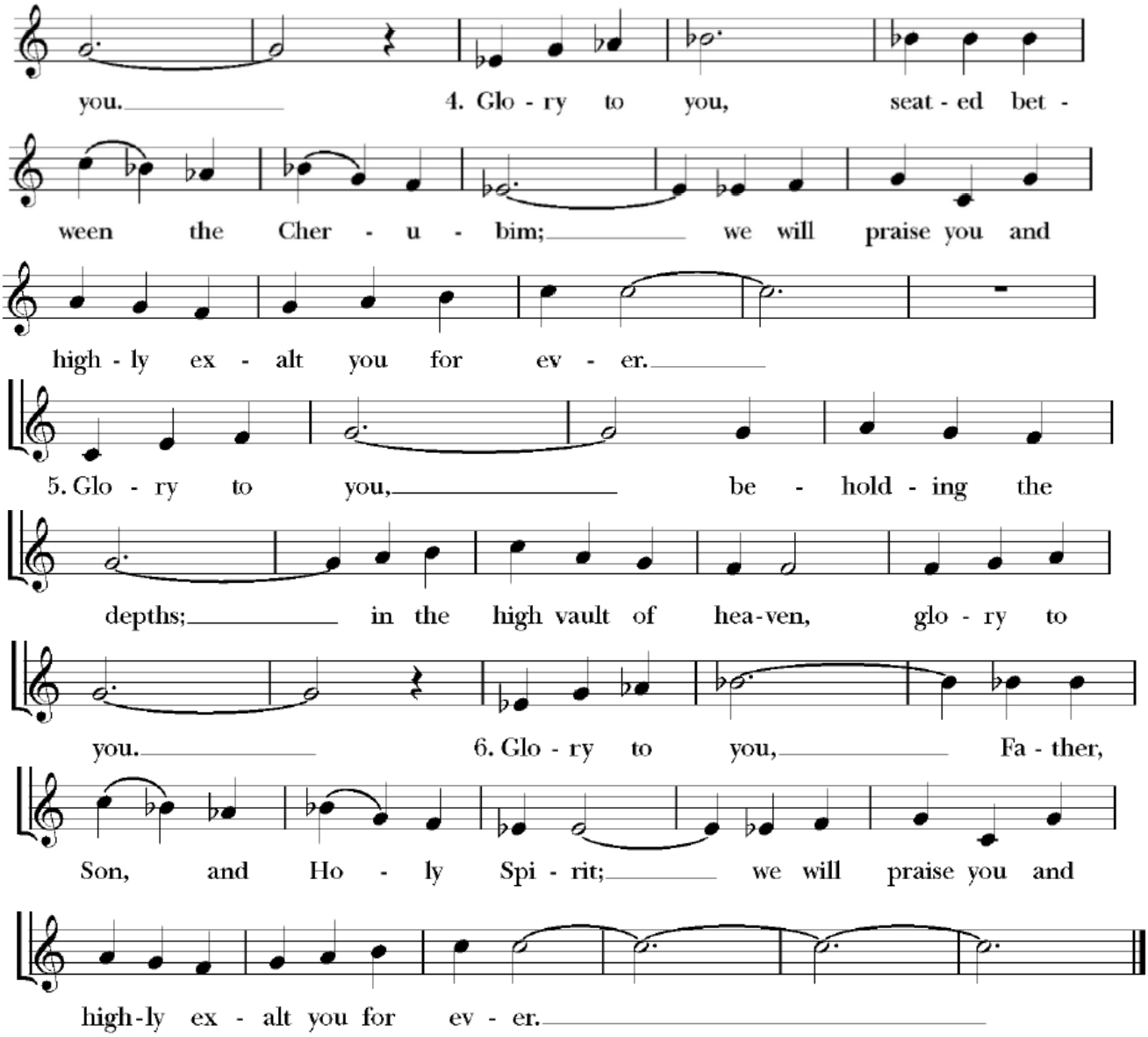
HYMN 379 • "God is Love, let heaven adore him" *Abbot's Leigh*

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Celebrant † Blessed be the one, holy, and living God:
People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

CANTICAL S-236 • A Song of Praise *Benedictus es Domine* John Rutter (b.1945)





COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well–beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen**.

Please be seated.

LESSON • Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24

Lector A reading from the Prophet Ezekiel.

Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out

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

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

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

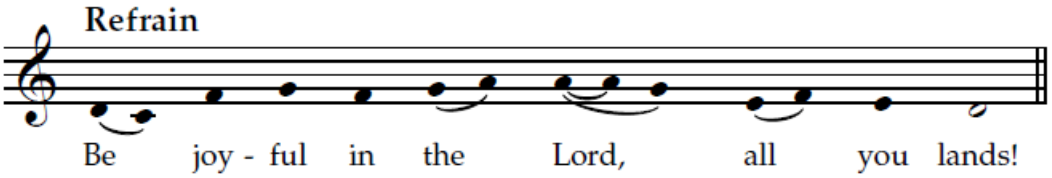
Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE RESPONSE

Psalm 100 *Jubilate Deo*

The Refrain is first sung by the Choir and repeated by All, and then as indicated.



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

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

Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise; give thanks to him and call upon his Name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his faithfulness endures from age to age. ***Refrain***

EPISTLE • Ephesians 1:15–23

Lector A reading from Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

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

not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The people are invited to stand.

GRADUAL HYMN 593 • "Lord, make us servants of your peace" *Dickinson College*

Please remain standing.

HOLY GOSPEL • Matthew 25:31–46

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

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Celebrant Jesus said, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Celebrant The Gospel of our Lord Jesus.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON Rev. Philip Major

A brief silence follows the sermon.

The people are invited to stand.

NICENE CREED

The word "creed" comes from the Latin credo, translated here as "we believe." Credo is not simply belief in accurate propositions, but more deeply a sense of relationship or trust–an alternate translation might be "we give our heart," "we trust," "we rely upon." Developed in the fourth century as a means of unifying a divided church, the Nicene Creed has been used by Christians in worship for almost two thousand years, and connects us to our ancient ancestors in the Communion of Saints. The Creed is used in worship not because it comprises a list of doctrinal statements one must affirm in order to be considered a Christian, but rather as a song of praise and confidence in the Holy Trinity: God in three persons who creates, redeems and sanctifies a holy people.

All **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.

Please remain standing.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord, on this day we recognize you as King of kings and Lord of lords. You do not rule by military might, but by compassion, love, truth, and justice for the marginalized. Your commandments are clear, yet we often fail to follow your instructions.
Silence is kept.
As the flock is watched by the shepherd: **Hear our prayer.**

If I were a stranger, who would welcome me?
As nations focus inward help us remember the dignity and respect that political, economic, and war refugees deserve.
Silence is kept.
As the flock is watched by the shepherd: **Hear our prayer.**

If I were naked, who would give me clothing?
Help our leaders see the needs of their peoples and give them the will to meet those needs despite the cost.
Silence is kept.
As the flock is watched by the shepherd: **Hear our prayer.**

If I were in prison, who would visit me?
Help us end conflicts intended to subjugate others and dominate vulnerable populations. We pray especially for just resolutions to the wars in the Middle East, Africa, and Ukraine.
Silence is kept.
As the flock is watched by the shepherd: **Hear our prayer.**

If I were hungry, who would give me food?

Help us be good stewards of the Earth so that its resources can be marshaled to ensure the health of people around the globe.
Silence is kept.
As the flock is watched by the shepherd: **Hear our prayer.**

If I were sick, who would take care of me?
Help us to relieve suffering in those we know and those we will never meet.
We pray especially for *n*, and those we name silently or aloud.
Silence is kept.
As the flock is watched by the shepherd: **Hear our prayer.**

If I were thirsty, who would give me something to drink?
You promise us solace in the cup of salvation. Help us comfort those who are grieving from loss.
We pray for those who have died, especially *n*, and those we name silently or aloud.
Silence is kept.
As the flock is watched by the shepherd: **Hear our prayer.**

The Celebrant adds a concluding prayer.

CONFESSION

The people are invited to sit / kneel.

Officiant Let us confess our sins to God.

All **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.**

ABSOLUTION

Officiant † Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

All **Amen.**

The people are invited to stand.

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

LITURGY OF THE TABLE

The bread and wine for communion and the offering plates are brought forward at the beginning of the offertory.

OFFERTORY

*At the Offertory, we return thanks for God's blessings in our lives and invite you to place your contribution in the offering plate in the main aisle or give by texting **73256** entering **stpaulsyr** (all lower case) and the amount you want to give.*

Celebrant All things come of Thee, O Lord.

People **And of thine own have we given thee.**
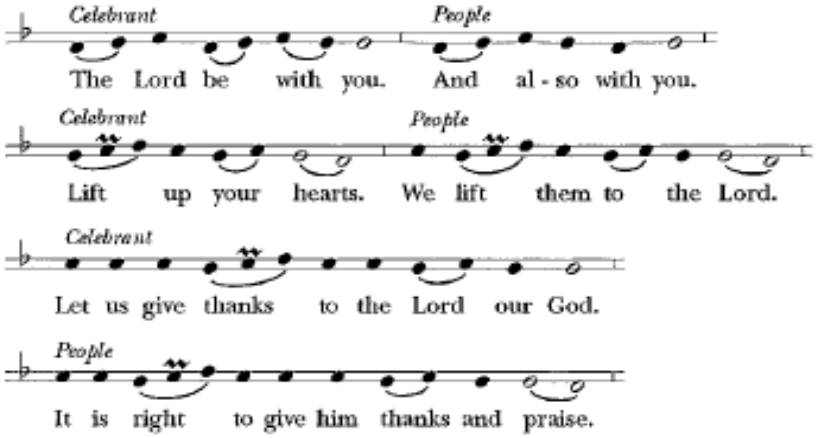
The People are invited to sit.

AN ANTHEM: William H. Harris (1883-1973)

The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season. Though openest thine hand, and fillest all things living with plenteousness. The Lord is righteous all his ways: and holy in all his works. The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him faithfully. He will fullfill the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry and will help them. The Lord preserveth all them that love him.

The people are invited to stand.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, The Eucharistic Prayer is from the Church of South India



Celebrant Truly it is right and good to glorify you at all times and in all places, by offering you our thanksgiving O Lord. You spoke and the light shattered darkness, order arose from confusion. You breathed into the dust of the earth and we were formed in your image.

Through your Holy Spirit you brood over the chaos we create, mothering us and shaping a new creation. You enlighten everyone coming into the world. You inspire prophetic voices to speak the right word at the right time. You liberate, equip and commission your people for the continuance of your mission to make everything new.

In Christ Jesus you came to us while we wandered. He met us as a refugee, a threatened child. He called us by name to leave what is comfortable to be his disciples and friends. By his death he destroyed the power of death. By his resurrection he opened the way of eternal life.

Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we proclaim your glory:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

Hymnal S-129 Robert Powell (1932-2025)

Celebrant Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night in which he was betrayed, took the bread and when he had given thanks to you, broke 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.

In the same way after supper, he took the cup and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them saying: Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.

All **Lord, we commemorate your death on the cross, we celebrate your resurrection, and we await your coming.**

Celebrant † Eternal God, let your Holy Spirit move in power over us and over these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ, and that we may become one in him.

May his coming in glory find us ever watchful in prayer, strong in love, and faithful in the breaking of the bread. Then, at last, all peoples will be free, all divisions healed, and with your whole creation, we will sing your praise, through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

Celebrant As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All **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 breaking of the bread may be seen as the culminating activity of our worship. It is the ritual action symbolizing the activity whereby God emptied Godself of divine power for purpose of reconciling Godself with us. We have no words to accurately describe this divine activity, thus a period of 10–15 seconds of silence is kept following the breaking of the bread and before the singing of the Fraction Anthem.

FRACTION ANTHEM

Hymnal S-155 Gerald Near (b.1942)

You are invited to consume the consecrated bread immediately after you receive it. If you choose to receive the wine, drink directly from the cup. The sacrament of communion is complete if the bread or wine is received; it is not necessary to receive both. Prayers for healing are offered at the Peace Altar.

The People are invited to sit.

AN ANTHEM: "Draw us in the Spirit's tether" Harold W. Friedell (1905-1958)

COMMUNION HYMN 347 • "Go forth for God, go to the world in peace" *Litton*

The People are invited to stand.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Officiant Let us pray.

All **God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

BLESSING

HYMN 460 (1–4) • "Alleluia! sing to Jesus!" *Hyfrydol*

DISMISSAL

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE • "Trumpet Tune" Alfred Fedak (b.1953)

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Prayers of the People were written by St. Paul's prayer leaders.

Please Keep These People in Your Prayers:
Hillary B., Destany W., and Jeanne A.

We remember those who have died in recent days.

The decorations on the altar today are given to the glory of God, and in memory of Cathy Wolff's Mother, Sarah B. Wolff, who was born this day.

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Our thanks today for the…
Altar Guild: Ellen Hass, Sue Stinson
Lay Readers: Catherine Gerard & Laurie Sanderson
Ushers: Sue Stinson, Doug Mouncey
Flowers: Sandy Wiley, Harriet Averill
Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Jim Doyle, Ruth Brown

ANNOUNCEMENTS
* St. Paul's has been here, in the center of Syracuse, for 200 years. There has never been a more important time for us to be sharing the love of God than right now. Your pledge for 2027 will help us continue our ministries and partnerships for another year! If you did not receive a pledge card and stewardship materials in the mail, please ask one of the ushers for more information about making a pledge.
* Sunday, November 29th is the first Sunday of Advent! Join us for Sunday morning worship at 10 a.m., and for an Advent Lessons & Carols service at 4 p.m.
* Andrew Lunetta, Executive Director of *A Tiny Home for Good*, has been named as a CNN Hero of the Year. You can support *A Tiny Home for Good* by voting for Andrew in the CNN poll.
* Add a portion of the Gospel to your Thanksgiving celebration; join us Wednesday, November 25th at 5:30 for our Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service. Please feel free to park in the parking lot after 5 p.m., and enter the building through the parking lot entrance.

Understanding Episcopal Liturgy
#48 Why is the last Sunday in the church year called 'Christ the King Sunday'?

When I first joined the Episcopal Church (in 1995) I was puzzled when we came to the last Sunday in the church year (the Sunday before the first Sunday of Advent). These Episcopalians were calling the last Sunday of the year 'Christ the King' Sunday. I had never heard of this before!

Christ the King Sunday is observed officially in the Lutheran and Roman Catholic Churches, and a little bit less officially in the Episcopal and Reformed Churches (such as in the Presbyterian, UCC denominations.) The observance began in Roman Catholic Churches in 1925, partly in response to the rise of totalitarian political movements in Europe at the time.

Though this is a relatively new Feast Day in the church calendar, Christ the King Sunday is based on primary themes of scripture and theology including:
* Christian allegiance to Christ and to God above any human authorities.
* the servant leadership of Christ being the example for Christians to follow.
* God's concern for people who suffer due to the corruption and failure of human leaders.

If you have a question about something in our liturgy, I will be happy to answer it. Please ask in person, or send an email to me at revmajor@stpaulsyr.org. Fr. Philip +





Officers

2026

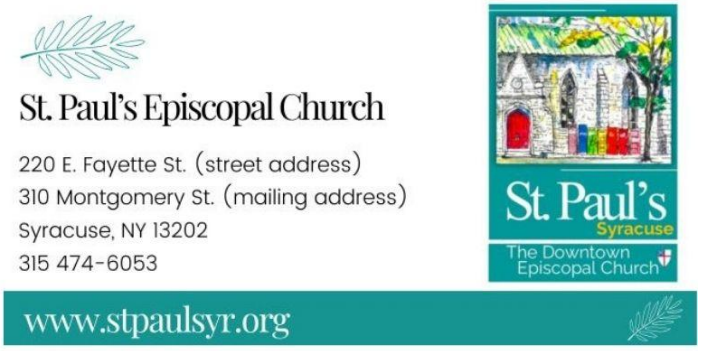
Senior Warden: Ieva Doyle
Junior Warden: Joe Russo
Treasurer: Doug Mouncey
Assistant Treasurer: Sandi Yingling
Clerk of the Vestry: Anita Wagner

Vestry & Team Leaders

2026: Jeanne Chu, Tim Cassavaw, DJ Igelsrud
2027: Willson Cummer, Isiah Lavender, Tim Simmons
2028: Joseph von Souder, Amy Mangram, Catherine Gerard
Finance Committee Chairperson: Joe Moorman
Children's Ministry Leader: Jeanne Avery
Worship Ministry Team Convener: Laurie Sanderson
Formation Ministry Team Convener: Jeanne Avery
Mission & Service Team Convener: Betsy Elkins
Community Fellowship Min. Convener: Liz Handler
Buildings & Grounds Chair: Bill Pitcher
Office Volunteers: Liz Handler, Kira Dirghalli, Betsy Elkins, Sandi Yingling

Staff

Bishop of Central NY: The Right Reverend Dr. DeDe Duncan Probe
The Ministers of St. Paul's: The entire congregation!
Rector of St. Paul's: The Reverend Philip Major
Organist & Choirmaster: James L. Potts
Operations Manager: Judy McAdoo-Pelton
Parish Assistant (Volunteer): Doug Mouncey
Custodian: Nicole Steele
Technology Specialist: Mark King
Security: Derek Lane



Church office hours Mondays, Tuesdays, & Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.