

Holy Eucharist

November 12, 2023

Zoom link:

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/85887946777?pwd=eig4MEdsMUh6clV6b2dUblFOQ3I2Zz0>

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Meeting ID: 858 8794 6777

Passcode: 782611

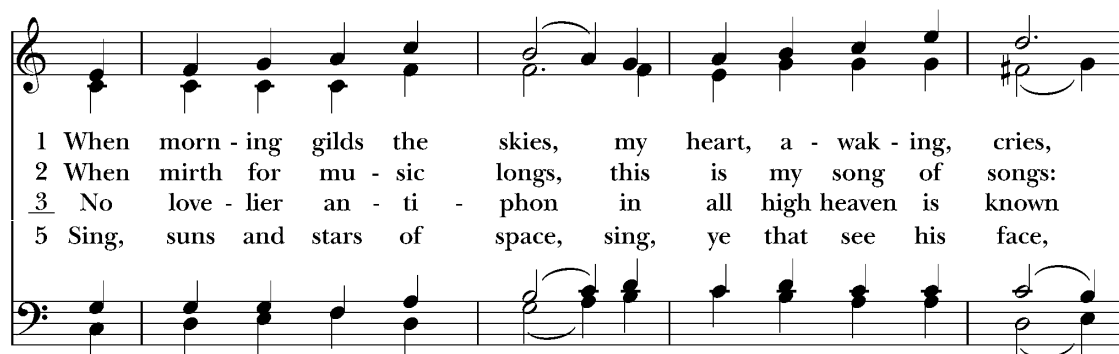
Proper 27A: the 24th Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

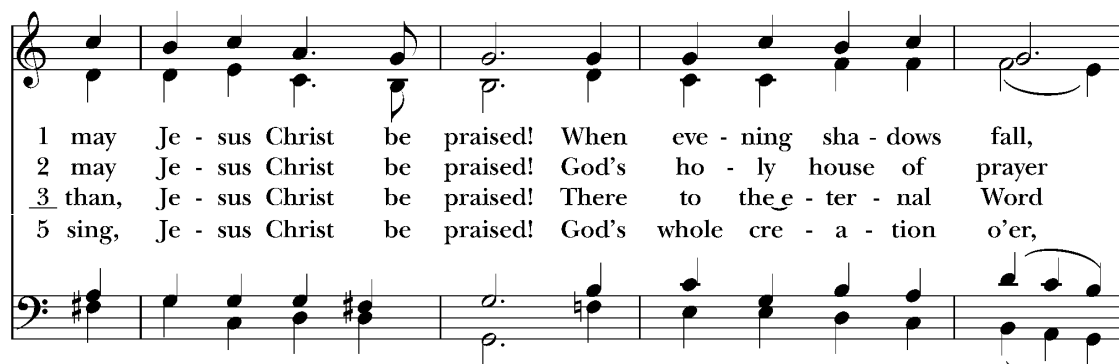
Opening Hymn

When morning gilds the skies

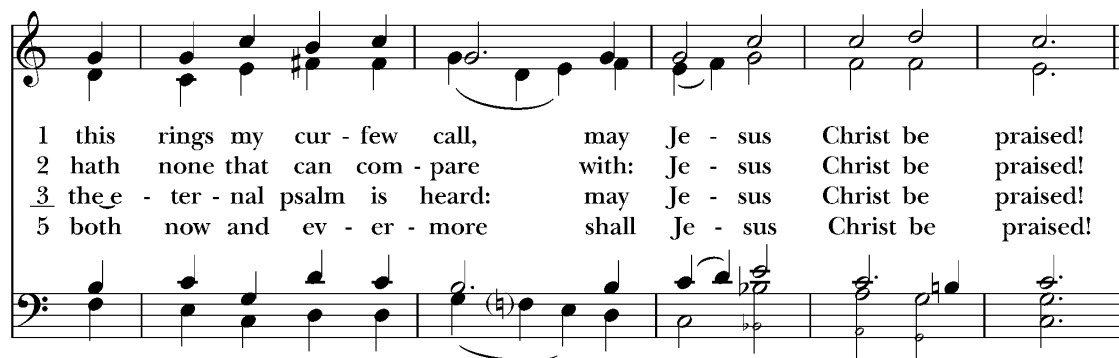
Hymnal 427



1 When morn - ing gilds the skies, my heart, a - wak - ing, cries,
2 When mirth for mu - sic longs, this is my song of songs:
3 No love - lier an - ti - phon in all high heaven is known
5 Sing, suns and stars of space, sing, ye that see his face,



1 may Je - sus Christ be praised! When eve - ning sha - dows fall,
2 may Je - sus Christ be praised! God's ho - ly house of prayer
3 than, Je - sus Christ be praised! There to the e - ter - nal Word
5 sing, Je - sus Christ be praised! God's whole cre - a - tion o'er,



1 this rings my cur - few call, may Je - sus Christ be praised!
2 hath none that can com - pare with: Je - sus Christ be praised!
3 the e - ter - nal psalm is heard: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
5 both now and ev - er - more shall Je - sus Christ be praised!

Presider Blessed be + God: Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit.
People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Presider begins the Collect for Purity

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.**

The following is sung, all standing as they are able

Song of Praise

Soften my heart

Chorus Book 51

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in a G major key signature and 8/8 time signature. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "Soft-en my heart, Lord, soft-en my heart; From all in - dif - f'rence set me a - part. To feel Your com - pas - sion, to weep with Your tears; Come soft-en my heart, O Lord, soft-en my heart." The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand.

Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

All sit.

First Reading

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

A Reading from the book of Joshua.

¹Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. ²And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: ‘Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. ^{3a}Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.’

¹⁴“Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

¹⁶Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; ¹⁷for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

¹⁹But Joshua said to the people, “You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. ²⁰If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good.”

²¹And the people said to Joshua, “No, we will serve the LORD!” ²²Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.” ²³He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel.” ²⁴The people said to Joshua, “The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey.” ²⁵So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 78:1-7

to be prayed in unison

¹Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
²I will open my mouth in a parable; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.
³That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.
⁴We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, *
and the wonderful works he has done.
⁵He gave his decrees to Jacob
and established a law for Israel, *
which he commanded them to teach their children;
⁶That the generations to come might know,
and the children yet unborn; *
that they in their turn might tell it to their children;
⁷So that they might put their trust in God, *
and not forget the deeds of God,
but keep his commandments.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

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

¹³We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

All stand as they are able.

Sequence Hymn

Can we by searching find out God?

Hymnal 476

1 Can we by search - ing find out God or for - mu - late his ways?
 2 Al - though his be - ing is too bright for hu - man eyes to scan,
 3 Our boast - ful - ness is turned to shame, our prof - it counts as loss,
 4 There God breaks in up - on our search, makes birth and death his own;

Can num - bers mea - sure what he is or words con - tain his praise?
 his mean - ing lights our sha - dowed world through Christ, the Son of Man.
 when earth - ly val - ues stand be - side the man - ger and the cross.
 he speaks to us in hu - man terms to make his glo - ry known.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 25:1-13

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

[Jesus said,] ¹“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹²But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”



Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

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

All then stand as they are able.

Nicene Creed

Presider Let us affirm the faith of the Church using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father [and the Son],
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

All remain standing as they are able.

Prayers of the People

Presider Brothers and sisters, children of God, let us join the countless throngs who sing God's praises, praying, "We bless, O Lord; your praise is ever in our mouths."

Intercessor God of the pilgrim Church, you love us and call us your children: give your Church a hunger and a thirst for righteousness. Continue to nurture us by the example and fellowship of those saints who have journeyed before us. We bless, O Lord; **Your praise is ever in our mouths.**

Silence is kept

God of all people, you love us and call us your children: In a world of violence and war, you bless the peacemakers. Make us instruments of healing and peace. We bless, O Lord; **Your praise is ever in our mouths.**

Silence is kept

God of creation, you love us and call us your children: you have given this earth to the meek. We praise and thank you for [_____ and] all the blessings you so abundantly give us. May our steps be gentle and leave small footprints on our earth. As it has been handed on to us, may we carefully preserve this creation for future generations. We bless, O Lord; **Your praise is ever in our mouths.**

Silence is kept

Christ Jesus, you are ruler of all things in heaven and earth. Hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all a burning heart for our congregation, and all things necessary for our common life, and the embrace of the ministries with which you have gifted everyone. Bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church. We bless, O Lord; **Your praise is ever in our mouths.**

Silence is kept

God our Savior, we rely on, and give thanks for, your divine wisdom, knowledge and understanding. We know that, because of your Holy Spirit's guidance, we can make the right decisions in line with your will and purpose for this parish. We ask for the Spirit of discernment, that we each may be enabled to make those decisions that will lead us to the serving of your church in this place. We bless, O Lord; **Your praise is ever in our mouths.**

Silence is kept

God of the city, you love us and call us your children: bless the poor with good things. Visit our impoverished neighborhoods with hope, mercy, and relief. Give us generous hearts for the poor in our region. We bless, O Lord; **Your praise is ever in our mouths.**

Silence is kept

God of the mournful and suffering, you love us and call us your children: comfort and heal those in need. Hear [_____ and] all the sad and sick in their afflictions, and save them from their troubles. We bless, O Lord; **Your praise is ever in our mouths.**

Silence is kept

God of the Church at rest, you love us and call us your children: we praise you for the faith and witness of all the saints [remembering_____]. May their prayers and presence continue to strengthen us. It is with their triumphant voices that we join our own prayers and praises. Alleluia! We bless, O Lord; **Your praise is ever in our mouths.**

Presider O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

The Presider says to the people

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:8, 9*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

All remain standing, or kneel, as they are able.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

A 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.**

All then stand as they are able.

Peace

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Ministers and the People may offer God's peace to one another in the name of the Lord.

The People then are seated.

Announcements

Holy Communion

Presider Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the Presider.

The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar

Offertory Hymn

Doxology

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

The people remain standing as they are able

Great Thanksgiving

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Presider proceeds

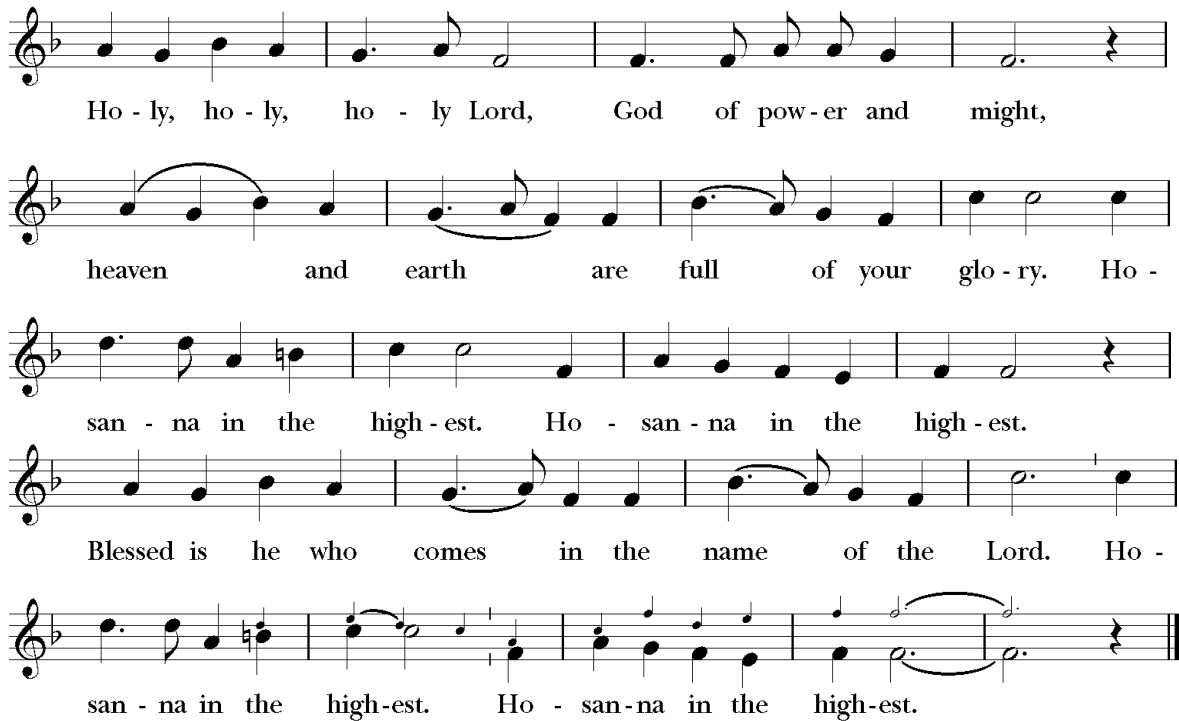
God of time and eternity, you set out the glory of your heavens and show us reflections of that glory in the tiniest details of the atoms of life.

When we find a thousand ways to pervert and turn away from your grace, you transform our rejection into your providence.

You dwelt among your people in the cloud and pillar of fire, in the tabernacle and the temple; and finally you dwelt among us in your Son Jesus.

In his death you defeat death, and in his resurrection you offer us life with you forever, where we shall dwell with you, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending praise.

Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed 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 continue to stand, or kneel as they are able.

The Presider continues

God of deliverance, in the cross of Jesus, we see what it costs you to dwell among us, and in this broken bread and poured wine, we see your costly love among us today.

Send down + your Holy Spirit, that your people may be sanctified by your grace, and these gifts of + bread and wine may be for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ;

who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying, Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

After supper he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "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. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me"

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

God of everlasting fidelity, you have promised us that, in marriage, we may glimpse the relationship of your Son and your church. Renew the love and ministry of those who are married, that they may witness to your bond with us, until the day comes when the new Jerusalem descends as a bride prepared for her husband, and all creation meets its fulfillment in the marriage of heaven and earth, where every tear is dried and all the oppressed are vindicated, all prisons are opened, and the fear of death is no more, and we see you face to face and dwell in your presence, ever one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **AMEN.**

The Presider then continues

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

The Presider says

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

The Gifts of God for the People of God.
Holy food for holy people.

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

When all have received, the Presider then says

Let us pray.

Presider and People

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Blessing

A priest blesses the people, saying

We go out, not to take Jesus to people, but to meet Jesus where he already is.

And may the eternal blessing of God Almighty, + the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be with you, and remain with you this day and always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Give me oil in my lamp

Voices Found 61

1 Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burn-ing. Give me
2 Make me a fish - er of men, keep me seek - ing. Make me a
3 Give me joy in my heart, keep me sing - ing. Give me
4 Give me love in my heart, keep me serv - ing. Give me

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano part consists of a right-hand melody and a left-hand bass line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line, with four different verses provided. The score ends with a final cadence in the piano part.

oil in my lamp, I pray. Give me
 fish - er of men, I pray. Make me a
 joy in my heart, I pray. Give me
 love in my heart, I pray. Give me

oil in my lamp, keep me burn - ing, keep me
 fish - er of men, keep me seek - ing, keep me
 joy in my heart, keep me sing - ing, keep me
 love in my heart, keep me serv - ing, keep me

burn - ing 'til the break of day.
 seek - ing 'til the break of day.
 sing - ing 'til the break of day.
 serv - ing 'til the break of day.

Sing ho - san - na, sing ho - san - na,

1. E A E | 2. E

sing ho - san - na to the King of Kings! King!

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with a treble clef, a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#), and a common time signature. The lyrics are 'Sing ho - san - na, sing ho - san - na,'. The piano accompaniment has a treble and bass clef. The second system also has a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has a treble clef and the same key signature. It includes a first ending bracket with notes 'E A E' and a second ending bracket with note 'E'. The lyrics are 'sing ho - san - na to the King of Kings! King!'. The piano accompaniment continues with the same key signature and includes a 'B7' chord marking above the first measure.

Dismissal

Minister And now, my brothers and sisters, I bid you go out as did St Barnabas, the Encourager. Go out with joy and in peace, to love and serve our Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

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This week in prayer

Please remember these persons and congregations in your prayers this week:

- Our Bishops** Bonnie, Michael, Justin, Moises (TEC); Elizabeth, Donald and Craig (ELCA)
and for all priests, deacons, Ministry Teams, and those in formation
- Anglican Cycle of Prayer:**
 November 12 The Church of North India (United)
- Diocese of Michigan Cycle of Prayer:**
 November 12 Church of the Redeemer, Southfield; St Stephen's, Wyandotte; Holy Trinity, Santo Domingo, DR
- St Barnabas Cycle of Prayer:** Kathy O, Bill O, Melanie, Larry
and our continuing prayers for: Bob, Carlos, Jim M, Mardi, Robert, Selenah

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Faith in Action continues to provide leadership in collecting donations of food to support households in need in the Chelsea and Dexter areas. **The need is great** for our support and help. You may bring your donations to FIA, or to [Nancy](#) who will see that they get there. **If you bring food directly to FIA**, please let Nancy know, so she can continue to keep our records of donation. If you write a check, please make it to *Faith In Action*. The **next Food Drive** is NEXT WEEK **November 19**. Please contribute as generously as you can.

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Upcoming Commemorations

- Nov.12 Charles Simeon, Priest, 1836
- 14 The Consecration of Samuel Seabury, 1784
- 15 Francis Asbury, 1816, and George Whitefield, 1770, Evangelists
- 16 Margaret of Scotland, Queen, 1093
- 17 Hugh of Lincoln, Bishop, 1200; and,
Robert Grosseteste, 1253, Bishop of Lincoln
- 18 Hilda of Whitby, Abbess, 680

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November 12, 2023 Proper 27A

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

The people of Israel return to holy ground to renew the holy covenant in this, the final chapter of the Book of Joshua. Joshua has led the twelve tribes into the land of Canaan as promised by God, and this renewal of the covenant is the culmination of that period in the life of the people.

The people rehearse the story of God’s saving acts toward them: deliverance from slavery in Egypt, protection on the journey, and arrival in the land promised by God. God is consistently loyal and steadfast; the people often struggle with a similar response.

At this renewal of the covenant, Joshua presents the people with a decision to make: whom will you serve—the Lord who brought you up out of the land of Egypt or other gods? This is not a choice to be made lightly or with verbal assent only. This choice requires the movement of the heart: “Incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.”

We daily have to answer the question: whom will you serve? The other gods in the lands where we reside work to distract our attention and acquire our service. We daily must say with Joshua, “As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

- What are the other gods that reside in the land where you live? (“isms” are usually a good place to begin.)
- How do you daily choose to serve the Lord with mind and heart?

Psalm 78:1-7

The speaker in this psalm is a teaching voice from among the people: “Hear my teaching, O my people...” And what is it that the teacher wishes to communicate? The teacher intends to share the story and instruction of God so that it may pass from generation to generation.

As the psalmist notes, God requires this teaching from generation to generation. It is how the community shows a commitment to the covenant given by God. When later generations rely on the commandments as a way to order personal and communal life, God and the covenant are honored.

In the reading from the Book of Joshua, we heard of the need to “Incline your hearts to the Lord.” This psalm begins with the imperative to “Incline your ears to the words of [the teacher’s] mouth.” As people of faith, we incline our hearts to God and also listen and learn within our communities for the teachings that point us to God. We learn the stories of God and of ourselves in community—in the traditions of sacred word and symbol passed from generation to generation.

- Who were your first “teachers” within the faith community?
- How can we best equip future generations in the teachings and traditions of our faith?

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Paul offers these words to the Thessalonians as words of encouragement. People have died, and Jesus has not yet returned as expected. What does it all mean?

Paul reminds the community that what it all means hinges on belief in Jesus. In his life, death, and resurrection, Jesus destroyed death. Period. No question mark. As Paul paints the picture of Jesus’ second coming, he assures the Thessalonians that all—both those who have died in Christ and those still alive—will be with the Lord.

The questions come when, after accepting belief in Jesus, there is a delay before Jesus’ triumphant return. The questions come as loved ones die and grieving and suffering continue. Those questions voiced by the Thessalonians continue today. What does it all mean?

Just like the Thessalonians, we too can be encouraged because of our belief in Jesus and Jesus’ destruction of death. Just like the Thessalonians (and Paul), we do not know when Jesus will return. We do know, however, that there is Jesus, and that Jesus is resurrection. We are not a people without hope.

- Have you ever had questions or concerns like those of the Thessalonians?
- How do we focus on the hope of Jesus in this time while we wait for Jesus’ return?

Matthew 25:1-13

“The kingdom of heaven will be like this.” We know this construction; we know that we are about to hear one of Jesus’ parables. In this week following All Saints’ Sunday where we contemplated the whole company of heaven, we should expect a parable attentive to the second coming.

This theme will command our attention in the season of Advent. As the liturgical year draws to a close, we meditate on the second coming of Christ. We sensed this focus in the reading from 1 Thessalonians, and it is continued in the parable Jesus shares: “Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

The ten bridesmaids wait anxiously—even if falling asleep—for the arrival of the bridegroom. The wise prepare with extra oil for their lamps and the foolish do not. Heralds of the Advent message seem to reverberate: “Prepare the way of the Lord” (Isaiah 40:3).

With what we know of parables, however, we know better than to try and encapsulate the full meaning of the parable in one, quick reflection (if ever). The parables demand a bit more of us.

We can allow our imaginations to be captivated by the coming bridegroom and the need to prepare while also being open to questions that prompt our further exploration of the parable. *I wonder where the foolish bridesmaids were to go and buy oil at the midnight hour...*

- What further questions (as the “wondering” offered above) do you have when you consider this parable?
- How do you get ready to get ready? In what ways can we prepare for the season of Advent?

This Bible study, written by Elizabeth Farr

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Eucharistic prayer from Wells, Samuel and Abigail Kocher *Eucharistic prayers*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2016, pp.318-319

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Our Mission:

We seek to grow as diverse disciples of Jesus Christ,
 and to serve Jesus by serving others in the world,
 guided by the values of Ancient Rites, Open Minds, and Affirming Hearts.



St Barnabas Episcopal Church

20500 W Old US-12
 Chelsea MI 48118
 stbarnabaschelsea.org