

Christmas Pageant

December 24, 2023 · 3 PM

St. Andrew's Dune Church



Calling All Children: Join Our Christmas Pageant!

Children of all ages are invited to participate.

Parents: For more information, please contact Lisa Gillespie.

Lisag0057@aol.com or 516-375-2290

For Pastoral Emergencies, please contact Fr. Patrick at 404-660-3592.

St. John's Episcopal Church

100 South Main Street | P. O. Box 5068

Southampton, New York 11969-5068

(631) 283-0549



The Accursed Fig Tree by James Tissot

Services are available online through
Facebook Live: [Facebook.com/StJohnSouthampton](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnSouthampton)

Sunday Services

8:00 A.M. - Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:00 A.M. - Holy Eucharist, Rite II
11:00 A.M. - Morning Prayer
Holy Eucharist, Rite I first Sundays
of the month

Weekday Services

Monday – Friday

7:30 A.M. – Morning Prayer, Rite I
6:00 P.M. – Evening Prayer, Rite I
Wednesday
10:00 A.M. – Holy Eucharist, Rite I

First Sunday of Advent
December 3, 2023 • 9:00 AM

Processional Hymn 486

Hosanna to the living Lord

1 Ho - san - na to the liv - ing Lord! Ho -
2 Ho - san - na, Lord! thine an - gels cry; Ho -
3 O Sa - vior, with pro - tect - ing care a -
4 But, chief - est, in our cleans - ed breast, E -
5 So in the last and dread - ful day, when

1 san - na to the in - car - nate Word! To Christ, Cre - at - or,
2 san - na, Lord! thy saints re - ply; a - bove, be - neath us,
3 bide in this thy house of prayer, where we as - sem - bled
4 ter - nal! bid thy Spi - rit rest; and make our se - cret
5 earth and heaven shall melt a - way, thy flock, re - deemed from

1 Sa - vior, King, let earth, let heaven, ho - san - na sing!
2 and a - round, both dead and liv - ing swell the sound:
3 in thy Name, in faith, thy part - ing prom - ise claim.
4 soul to be a tem - ple pure and wor - thy thee.
5 sin - ful stain, shall swell the sound of praise a - gain.



HOMELESS OUTREACH

MAUREEN'S HAVEN

Below is our schedule to provide lunch or pre-packaged snacks, drinks and desserts for our friends of Maureen's Haven:

- Saturday 12/9/23: lunches- a meat sandwich, a bottle of water or juice, fruit and snack.
- Saturday 1/13/23: pre-packaged snacks and dessert
- Saturday 3/9/23: pre-packaged beverages, pre-packaged dessert and lunches

We can meet at St. John's to pack everything up and then drop off at Presbyterian Church.

Bridgheampton Child Care and Recreational Center will also be hosting Maureen's Haven once a week for the remainder of the year. Please let Florence Rolston know if you're interested in serving dinner there too.

We thank you for your generosity and willingness to spread God's love to our neighbors in need.

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Book Club Meeting
Thursday, January 11 at 6:30 PM

St. John's Episcopal Church
Southampton

Please message us or contact
Deborah Edwards or Sandra J. Klemuk
for more information.

How should we read the Bible - The Genesis Story: Reading Old Testament Narratives



Join us at the **10:00 "Adult Formation Hour" on Sundays beginning 3 December 2023.**

Reading the Bible is not merely something we "ought" to do, but is required of us as able and faithful Christians. St Paul himself called the Bible "the Sword of the Spirit" in his letter to the Ephesians, and the catechism of the Episcopal Church states, "We call the Bible the Word of God because God inspired its human authors and because God still speaks to us through the Bible."

But HOW should we read the Bible?

In an ongoing series in this academic year, Fr Patrick will be addressing this very question, beginning with the first book of the Bible, Genesis, and by extension the important genre of Old Testament Narratives.

As a vehicle for this first topic we will use a teaching video series conducted by Professor of English Justin A. Jackson and Professor of Politics and History Larry P. Arnn, both of Hillsdale College in Michigan.

Genesis is a book of fundamental importance for the Jewish and Christian faiths and has exerted a profound influence on Western Civilization. In addition to being a great religious text, it is also a literary masterpiece.

These lectures explore some of the work's major narrative themes, including the complex relationship between God and man, the consequences of a rupture in that relationship, and the path towards reconciliation.

We hope to see you there!

Refrain

Ho - san - na, Lord! Ho - san - na in the high - est!

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Collect of 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.**

Kyrie

In unison

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

The Collect

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

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Isaiah 64:1-9

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence--

as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil--

to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

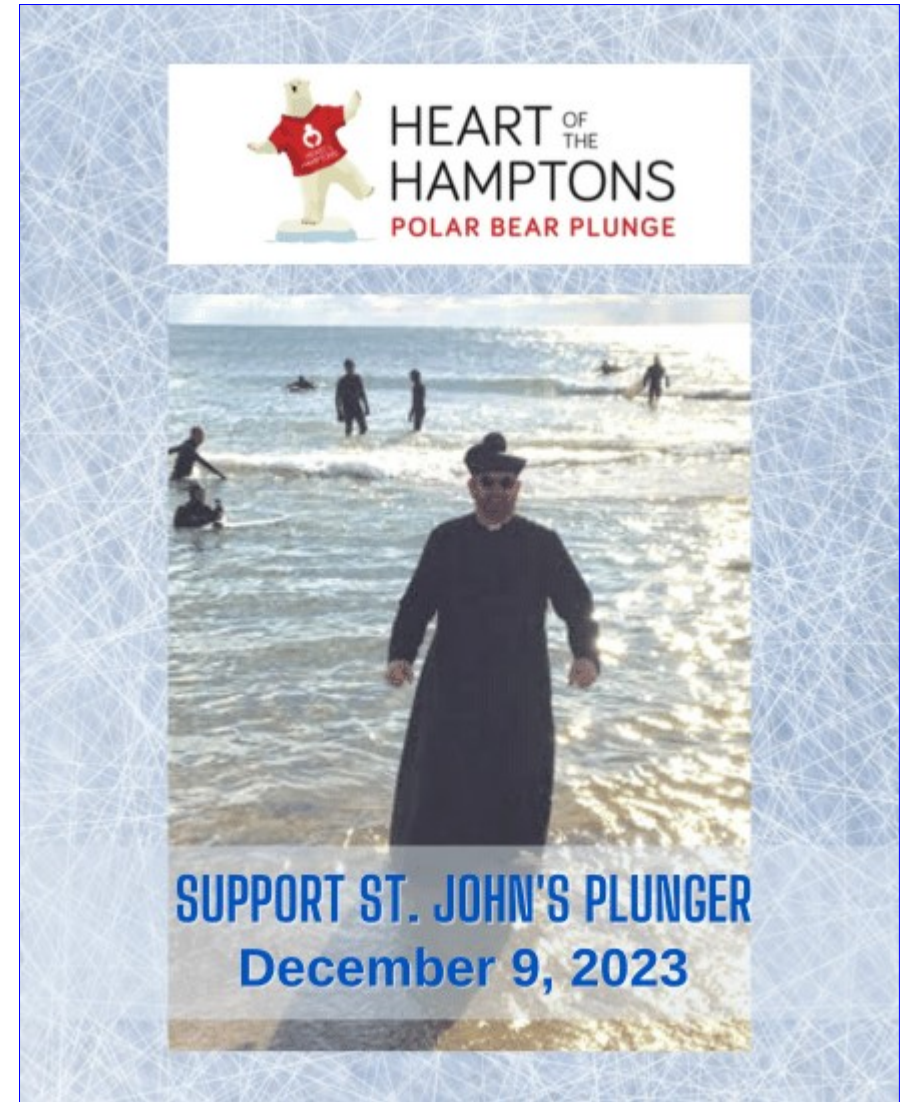
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,

no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.

You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.



This year's Heart of the Hamptons Polar Bear Plunge will be held on Saturday, December 9th. Come out and cheer on Fr. Patrick.

If you'd like to support Fr. Patrick and Heart of the Hamptons with a donation, you can find the link to the donation page on our email newsletter and website.

“Quote of the Week”



“The Father brought all things out of nothing into being and created them, both what is invisible and what is visible. Yea, even man, who is a compound of the visible and the invisible. And it is by thought that He creates, and thought is the basis of the work, the Word filling it and the Spirit perfecting it.”

Saint John of Damascus
Arab Christian monk, priest, hymnographer, and apologist
d. 4 December 749

Announcements

Help us to maintain our prayer intercession list.

The personal and collective intercessions we make asking our Lord to intercede in our lives and on behalf of others are a central aspect of our private and common worship. At St. John's we have always made an aural reading of our prayer list a part of our regular services. However, there comes with this an important responsibility to maintain it as current and accurate. To accomplish this we are asking our community to take that personal responsibility to heart in the following way:

We ask everyone to please let us know when someone should be added, removed, or otherwise amended on our prayer list. This is accomplished best by either dropping a note in the collection plate or by emailing or calling the parish secretary at (631) 283-0549 or secretary@stjohnsouthampton.org.

To avoid a name being orphaned on the prayer list names will be removed after 60 days of being added, unless the parish secretary is contacted to extend that time for another 60 days. Of course, there is no limit to the number of persons we will faithfully include on our prayer list, nor a limit to the duration we will intercede on their behalf. This policy is to take special care in maintaining the names we bring before the Throne of Grace in prayer each time we gather together.

We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;

for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

Qui regis Israel

**1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.**

**2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

**3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

**4 O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?**

**5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.**

**6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

A Reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

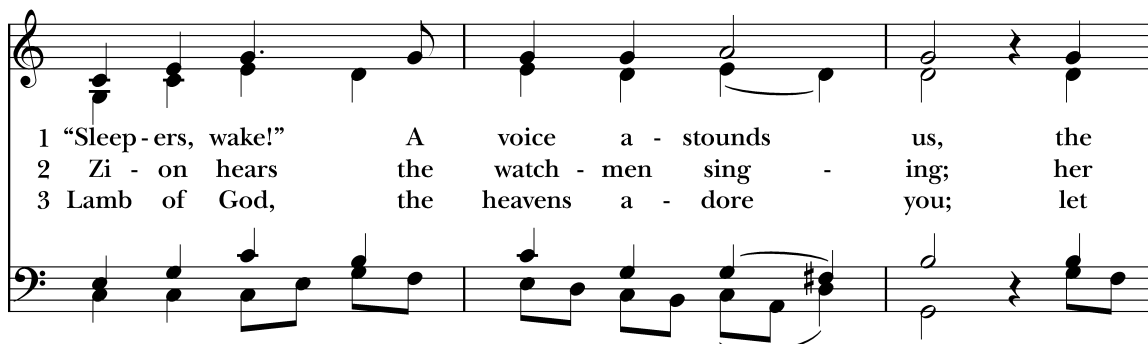
I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you -- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God**

Gospel Hymn 61

"Sleepers, wake!" A voice astounds us



1 "Sleep - ers, wake!" A voice a - stounds us, the
2 Zi - on hears the watch - men sing - ing; her
3 Lamb of God, the heavens a - dore you; let



Dedications

The candles at the Altar this month were given in the
Glory of God and in loving memory of John L. Griffin
by Carol L. Griffin.

The flowers at the Altar this week were given in the
Glory of God and in loving memory of The Grimm and
Rogers Families by Ann Grimm.



Verse of the Week

**“O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence--**

**as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil--**

**to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!”**

Isaiah 64: 1-3

1 He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free;
 2 to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to light,
 3 be - fore him on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald, go;
 4 to him shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows a - scend;
 5 the tide of time shall nev - er his cov - e - nant re - move;

1 to take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.
 2 whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, were pre - cious in his sight.
 3 and right - eous - ness in foun - tains from hill to val - ley flow.
 4 his king - dom still in - creas - ing, a king - dom with - out end.
 5 his Name shall stand for ev - er, his change - less Name of Love.

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us bless the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

shout of ram - part - guards sur - rounds us: "A -
 heart with joy - ful hope is spring - ing, she
 saints and an - gels sing be - fore you, as

wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!" Mid - night's peace their
 wakes and hur - ries through the night. Forth he comes, her
 harps and cym - bals swell the sound. Twelve great pearls, the

cry has bro - ken, their ur - gent sum - mons clear - ly spo -
 Bride-groom glo - rious in strength of grace, in truth vic - to -
 ci - ty's por - tals: through them we stream to join the im - mor -

ken: "The time has come, O maid - ens wise!
 rious: her star is risen, her light grows bright.
 tals as we with joy your throne sur - round.

Rise up, and give us light; the Bride - groom is in
 Now come, most wor - thy Lord, God's Son, In - car - nate
 No eye has known the sight, no ear heard such de -

sight. Al - le - lu - ia! Your lamps pre - pare and
 Word, Al - le - lu - ia! We fol - low all and
 light: Al - le - lu - ia! There - fore we sing to

has - ten there, that you the wed - ding feast may share."
 heed your call to come in - to the ban - quet hall.
 greet our King; for ev - er let our prais - es ring.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Mark.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Postcommunion Prayer

Officiant 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.

Closing Hymn 616

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

1 Hail to the Lord's A - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!
 2 He comes with suc - cor speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,
 3 He shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth,
 4 Kings shall bow down be - fore him, and gold and in - cense bring;
 5 O'er ev - ery foe vic - to - rious, he on his throne shall rest;

1 Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, his reign on earth be - gun!
 2 to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;
 3 and love, joy, hope, like flow - ers, spring in his path to birth:
 4 all na - tions shall a - dore him, his praise all peo - ple sing;
 5 from age to age more glo - rious, all bless - ing and all - blest:

The Invitation to Communion (BCP 364)

The Priest invites the people to Communion

Priest

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

Postcommunion Hymn 330

Therefore we, before him bending

5 There-fore we, be - fore him bend - ing,
6 Glo - ry let us give and bless - ing

this great Sac - ra - ment re - vere;
to the Fa - ther and the Son,

types and sha - dows have their end - ing,
hon - or, thanks, and praise ad - dress - ing,

for the new - er rite is here;
while e - ter - nal a - ges run;

faith, our out - ward sense be - friend - ing,
ev - er too his love con - fess - ing

makes our in - ward vi - sion clear.
who from both with both is One.

The Gospel

Mark 13:24-37

Jesus said, “In those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,

and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Officiant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev’d W. Patrick Edwards

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,
 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

The Leader and People pray responsively

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Alleluia, Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.
People Therefore let us keep the feast, Alleluia.

Agnus Dei S158

O Lamb of God

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

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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.

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

for ever and ever. Amen.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons, especially Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; and Lawrence our diocesan bishop;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world, especially

Joseph, our President; Kathy, our Governor; and Bill, our Mayor;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions.

Confession of Sin

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

The Absolution

Celebrant

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

Officiant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

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

The Liturgy of the Table

Offertory

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Lift up your hearts.

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

Officiant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs
in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to
judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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:

Celebrant and People



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.

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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."