

**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](mailto: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.

+++



**St. John's Episcopal Church  
Christmas Flowers**

I/We wish to give Christmas flowers to the Glory of God.

Name(s) of Intention: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Dedications will be included in the Christmas bulletins  
\*Please indicate whether the offering is a memorial, thanksgiving, etc.  
Make checks payable to Saint John's Altar Guild

- 100 South Main St. -  
P.O. Box 5068 • Southampton, NY 11969  
(631) 283-0549 • [stjohnsouthampton.org](http://stjohnsouthampton.org)

**St. John's Episcopal Church**

100 South Main Street | P. O. Box 5068  
Southampton, New York 11969-5068  
(631) 283-0549



*The Annunciation* by Henry Ossawa Tanner

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

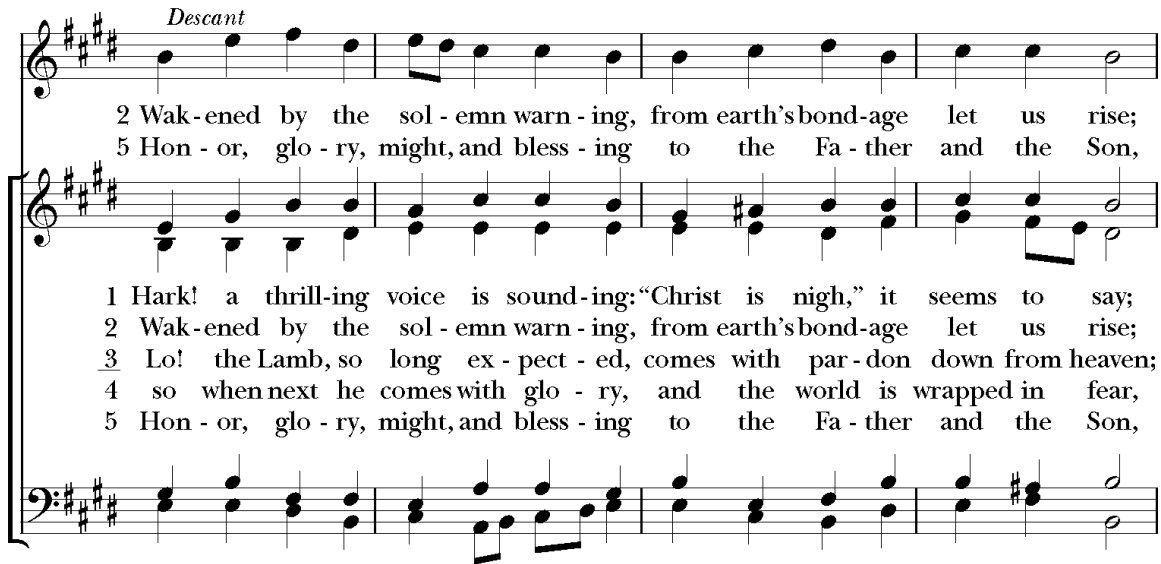
<u>Sunday Services</u>	<u>Weekday Services</u>
8:00 A.M. - Holy Eucharist, Rite I	<b>Monday – Friday</b>
9:00 A.M. - Holy Eucharist, Rite II	7:30 A.M. – Morning Prayer, Rite I
11:00 A.M. - Morning Prayer	6:00 P.M. – Evening Prayer, Rite I
Holy Eucharist, Rite I first Sundays of the month	<b>Wednesday</b>
	10:00 A.M. – Holy Eucharist, Rite I

Third Sunday of Advent • Gaudete Sunday  
December 17, 2023 • 9:00 AM

Processional Hymn 59

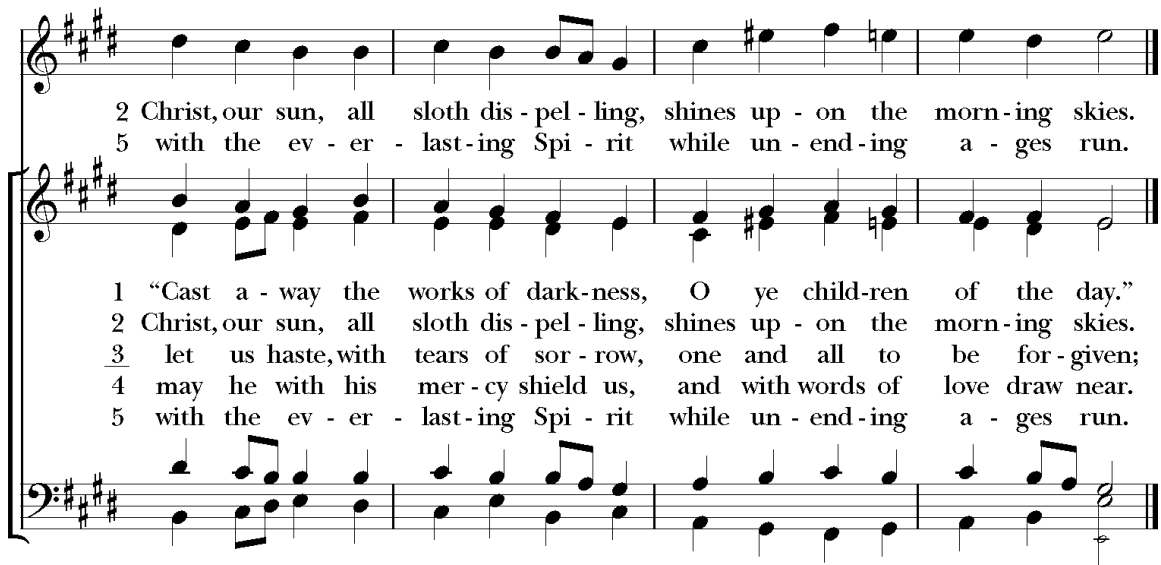
*Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding*

*Descant*



2 Wak-ened by the sol- emn warn- ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;  
5 Hon- or, glo- ry, might, and bless- ing to the Fa- ther and the Son,

1 Hark! a thrill- ing voice is sound- ing: "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;  
2 Wak-ened by the sol- emn warn- ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;  
3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex- pect- ed, comes with par- don down from heaven;  
4 so when next he comes with glo- ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,  
5 Hon- or, glo- ry, might, and bless- ing to the Fa- ther and the Son,



2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis- pel- ling, shines up- on the morn- ing skies.  
5 with the ev- er- last- ing Spi- rit while un- end- ing a- ges run.

1 "Cast a- way the works of dark- ness, O ye child- ren of the day."  
2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis- pel- ling, shines up- on the morn- ing skies.  
3 let us haste, with tears of sor- row, one and all to be for- given;  
4 may he with his mer- cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.  
5 with the ev- er- last- ing Spi- rit while un- end- ing a- ges run.

# 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!**

# 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](mailto:Lisag0057@aol.com) or 516-375-2290

+++

**WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER:** In order to keep our church family abreast of our latest updates and church reminders, we send out a weekly e-newsletter. If you would like to be included on our email list, contact [secretary@stjohnsouthampton.org](mailto:secretary@stjohnsouthampton.org).

**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK:** Stay connected with the church and your friends by following us on our Facebook page: StJohnSouthampton. You can also worship online LIVE on Sundays.

**ONLINE GIVING:** Links are available on St John's Homepage at [stjohnsouthampton.org](http://stjohnsouthampton.org). You may also make an online gift by texting the keyword StJohnSouthampton to 73256 on your cell phone.

## 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.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**



## The Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading

*Isaiah 61:14, 8-11*

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
because the Lord has anointed me;

he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,

to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;

to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;

to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,

the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;

they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.

For I the Lord love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;

I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;

## Announcements

St. John's Episcopal Church & St. Andrew's Dune Church

## Christmas Season Schedule



### Christmas Eve

*St. John's Episcopal Church*

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist - Rite I

9:00 AM Holy Eucharist - Rite II

11:00 AM Lessons and Carols

*St. Andrew's Dune Church*

3:00PM Children's Service and Pageant

*St. John's Episcopal Church*

7:00PM Holy Eucharist - Rite II with Christmas Carols

### Christmas Day

10:00AM Holy Eucharist - Rite I

St. John's • 100 South Main Street, Southampton • [StJohnSouthampton.org](http://StJohnSouthampton.org)  
St. Andrew's • 12 Gin Lane, Southampton • [StAndrewsDuneChurch.com](http://StAndrewsDuneChurch.com)

## The Dismissal

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

+++



## Verse of the Week

**“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”**

I Thessalonians 5:16

## “Quote of the Week”



**“Christianity does and will challenge almost every conviction you have. That is its business. So don’t blame me—You have been warned!”**

Dorothy L. Sayers  
English novelist and Christian apologist  
d. 17 December 1957

all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;

for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,

as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,

so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

The word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

## Canticle 15

## *The Song of Mary Magnificat*

### *Luke 1:46-55*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

## Second Reading

*1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

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

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The Word of the Lord

*People* Thanks be to God

## Gospel Hymn 438

*Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord*



1 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord!  
2 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his Name!  
3 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his might!  
4 Tell out, my soul, the glo-ries of his word!



Un - num - bered bless - ings give my spi - rit voice;  
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
Powers and do - min - ions lay their glo - ry by.  
Firm is his prom - ise, and his mer - cy sure.



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.

## 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 66

*Come, thou long-expected Jesus*



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;  
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,  
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;



from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.  
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the  
world, grant us thy peace.

### 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;

ten - der to me the prom - ise of his word;  
his mer - cy sure, from age to age the same;  
Proud hearts and stub - born wills are put to flight,  
Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of the Lord  
in God my Sa - vior shall my heart re - jice.  
his ho - ly Name— the Lord, the Might - y One.  
the hun - gry fed, the hum - ble lift - ed high.  
to chil - dren's chil - dren and for ev - er - more!

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint John.

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

### The Gospel

*John 1:6-8,19-28*

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’” as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

*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.

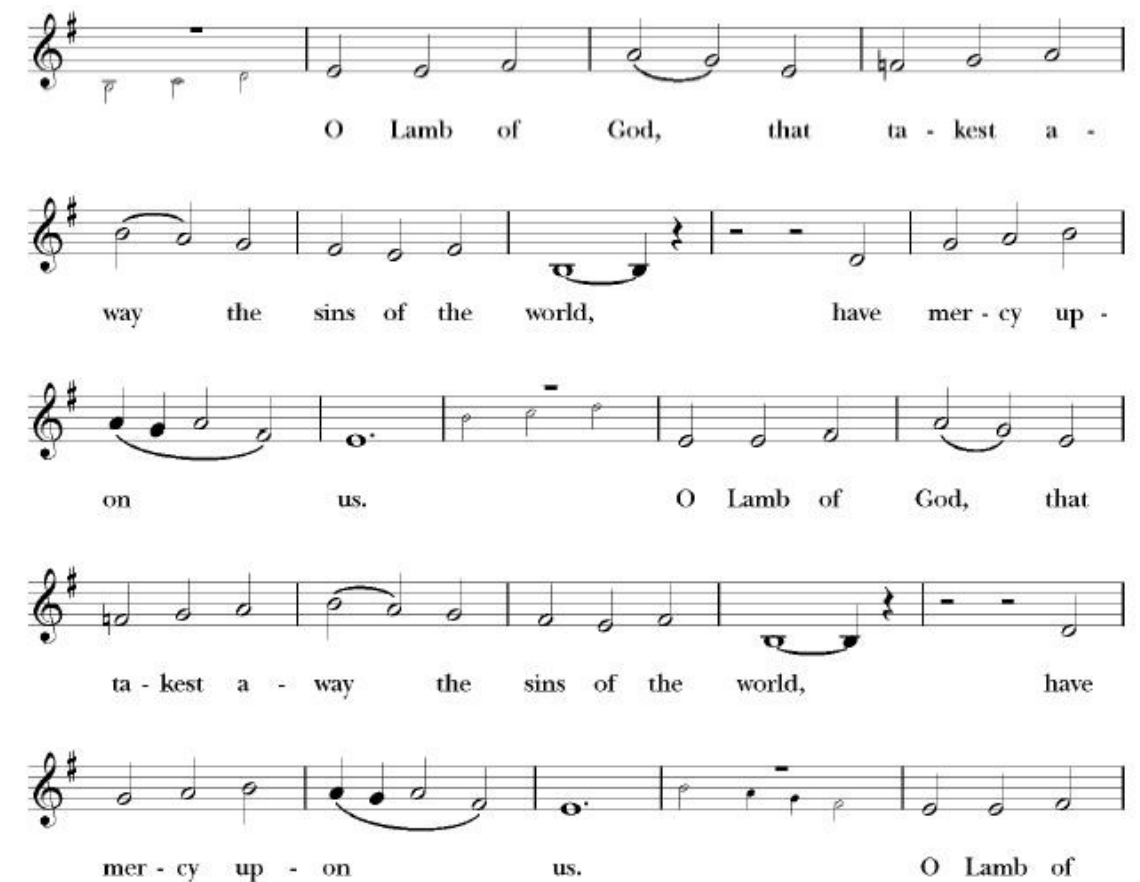
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory  
for ever and ever. Amen.

### The Breaking of the Bread

*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



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." 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.**

## **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.**

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,