

Celebrating Belonging to God and One Another;

The final weeks of the Season after Pentecost

We belong to God
and one another, in Christ Jesus



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

Holy Eucharist

Voluntary

Opening Hymn *(please see insert for Hymn #)*

Welcome

Opening Acclamation

Blessed be our one, holy, and living God.

Glory to God for ever and ever.

Presider may say the following:

Jesus said,

"The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel:

The Lord your God is the only Lord.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart,

with all your soul,

with all your mind,

and with all your strength.

The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself.

There is no commandment greater than these."

Mark 12:29-31

A Collect of the Season

(Presider may choose the following, or collect of the day; in the insert)

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Universal and unchanging God, we are one, unalterably one, with all the human race. So deepen our unity in Christ, and strengthen our love for all your people, that we may rejoice in our diversity. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Savior who is alive with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. **Amen.**

Lessons

You may be seated for the lessons, found in the weekly insert.

The Sermon

Affirmation of Faith:

The Apostles' Creed

Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again
to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Holy One, guard and direct your Church everywhere
in the way of unity, service, and praise;
guide our diocese as we elect our next bishop;
strengthen and support bishops Douglas, and Sean;
Nina our Rector, and all who minister in your Church.
Gracious God:
Hear the prayers of your people.

Give to all nations an awareness of the unity of the human family;
help us to hear and honor each other's voices
so that we might establish true peace,
grounded in justice and mercy.

Reconciling God:

Hear the prayers of your people.

Help us to use your creation for your greater praise,
that all may share the good things you provide.

Redeemer God:

Hear the prayers of your people.

Encourage us to bring joy to others,
as we are nurtured by the gifts of our lives.

(For those on our prayer list, please add your thanksgivings.)

Extravagant God:

Hear the prayers of your people.

Set free all who are bound by fear and despair,
and comfort those who are ill.

Sustain all who bring comfort, care and healing.

We ask your blessing particularly for those entrusted to our prayers:

(For those on our prayer list, please add your intercessions.)

Compassionate God:

Hear the prayers of your people.

Grant eternal rest to those who have died,
and consolation to those who mourn.

(For those on our prayer list, please add your intercessions.)

Merciful God:

Hear the prayers of your people.

Presider chooses one of the following:

Praise to you, abundant God, for when we ask, you give;
when we seek, you show the way. When we knock, you answer.
Praise to you for your unfailing grace. Make us now your faithful
people. **Amen.**

God of mercy, you have given us grace to pray with one heart and one voice; and have promised to hear our prayers whenever two or three gather in your name; fulfil now, we pray, the prayers and longings of your people as may be best for us and for your kingdom. Grant us in this world to know your truth, and in the world to come to see your glory. **Amen.**

The Confession

Let us seek forgiveness for all we have failed to be and do as members of Christ's body.

silence

Most merciful God,
**we have sinned against you
and against our neighbor
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

The Absolution

May the God of power and love
forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by the Spirit,
and raise you to new life in Christ our Savior.
Amen.

The Peace *(Presider may use these words of introduction)*

Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts; to this peace we are called as members of one body. *Colossians 3:14*

The peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

Choral Anthem

Offertory baskets are located at the entrances to the sanctuary for pledge offerings and donations.

The Great Thanksgiving

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to our God.

Let us give thanks to the Holy One.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Blessed be your name throughout the earth, Loving God, for you have created wonders and, from the beginning, have drawn every living thing into communion with you. In the bounty of your creation you fashioned land and sea, sun and stars, plants and animals, that we might know the constancy of your love for us. In covenant life you drew a people to yourself, to give and receive love in your name. In the fullness of time you drew near to us in your Son, to bind us to you in the promise of everlasting life. In every age you surround us with a great company of saints that we might be bound to one another in this world that you so love. And so, with the company of earth and heaven we praise your name and join the unending hymn.

Sanctus (*If spoken*)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

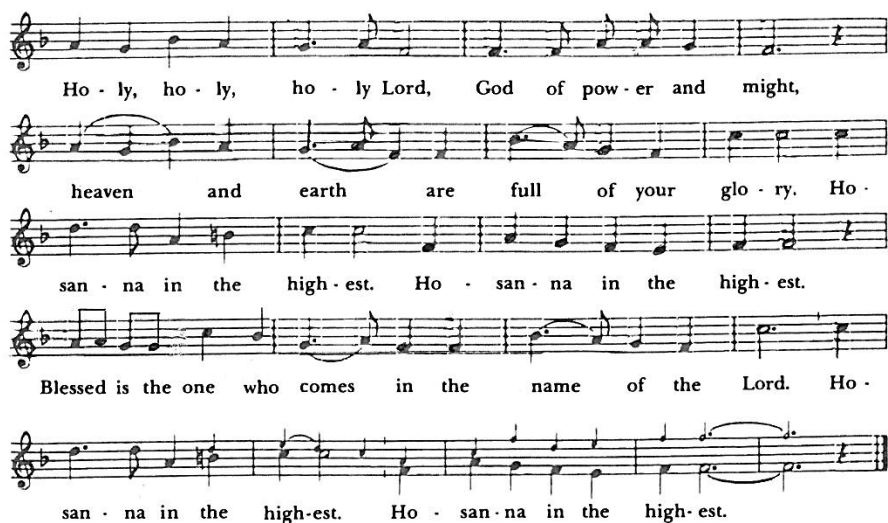
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the Name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Sanctus S125 (*sung by all*)

Richard Proulx



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 the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Joy and gladness are our song, redeeming God, for in Jesus you came among us in grace and truth, that we might abide in you and you in us.

On their last night together, Jesus gathered with his friends around the table. He 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 friends 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, 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.

Gracious God, you gather us in one faith, one hope, and one baptism. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon your church and empower us to share our lives and gifts for the life of your world. Sanctify this bread and cup that they may be for us the body and blood of your Son.

Breathe your Spirit upon all flesh, and bring us to the day when we shall be raised up with all your saints, and made one with you and one another in Christ Jesus, and there shall be one life, one hope, and one joy shared in you. In the company of your Holy Trinity, through whom, and with whom, and in whom, all honor and glory are yours, now and forever. **AMEN.**

In confidence and hope, let us pray the Lord's Prayer:
Praying either version, or in any language, as you are comfortable:

The Lord's Prayer

**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 Fraction *(if spoken)*

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.
**We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.**

The Fraction “This is the body of Christ”

John Bell

This is the bo - dy of Christ, — bro - ken that we may be
whole; — this cup, as prom - ised by God, true to his
word, cra - dles our Lord: — food for the good of the soul. —

Words & music © 1998 WGRG, Iona Community, Glasgow G51 3UU, Scotland

The Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The Communion

Everyone is welcome to receive communion from God's table.

Gluten free wafers are available, simply let the celebrant know.

Specific information about how to receive communion is found on back page of weekly insert. (Feel free to ask questions of anyone wearing a name tag!)

Music at Communion: *(see insert for detail)*

Post Communion Prayer, Form I

Let us pray:

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Post Communion Prayer, Form II

Let us pray:

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

The Blessing *(presider may use this or another blessing)*

My friends, life is short

and we do not have much time

to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us,

so be quick to love and make haste to be kind.

And rest assured that God is infinitely more concerned
with the promise of our future than the mistakes of our past.

And the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ,

and the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit,

be with you all, now and always. **Amen.**

Announcements

Closing Hymn (*please see insert for Hymn #*)

Dismissal:

Go now to love and serve the Lord.

Go with God's peace.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God, Alleluia, alleluia.

Voluntary

Liturgical Resources for A Season Celebrating Belonging 2025

The Opening Acclamation is drawn from *Enriching Our Worship*, an authorized resource for the Episcopal Church.

The Sentences following are from *Book of Common Prayer 351, Penitential Order, Rite II*.

A Collect of the Season is adapted from *A New Zealand Prayer Book*.

The Prayers of the People: are adapted from *the Book of Alternative Services, Anglican Church of Canada*. The concluding Collects are adapted from *A New Zealand Prayer Book*.

Confession: The introduction is from *A New Zealand Prayer Book*, the confession is adapted from *New Patterns of Worship, in Common Worship, of the Church of England*.

The Peace: the introduction is from the *Welsh Communion Service, Anglican Church of Wales, Colossians 3:14*.

The Eucharistic Prayer: was written in-house, and primarily drawn from/inspired by *Eucharistic Prayers*, written by *Samuel Wells and Abigail Kocher*. While I drew from more than 20 of their liturgies, the primary one would be the *Eucharistic Prayer for World Communion Sunday*.

The Fraction comes from *Enriching Our Worship*.

Post Communion Prayer: Form I is from *Enriching Our Worship*, Form II is from *the Scottish Episcopal Church*.

The Blessing: is a combination of a blessing shared with me by The Rev. Ben Nelson (and his father, also The Rev. Nelson), one original piece, and a trinitarian blessing from *St. Helena's Breviary*.

Dismissal: is adapted from *A New Zealand Prayer Book*.

Biblical texts included (among others): *Romans 8:38-39; Galatians 3:28; Mark 12:29-31; Colossians 3:14; John 6:51; Philippians 4:4-7*.

SAINT STEPHEN'S PARISH
Pittsfield, Massachusetts

A Jubilee Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts

Our mission is to be the heart and hands of Christ:
Nourishing people, transforming lives.