ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost ✠ Proper 22
The Blessing of the Pets

October 4, 2026



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

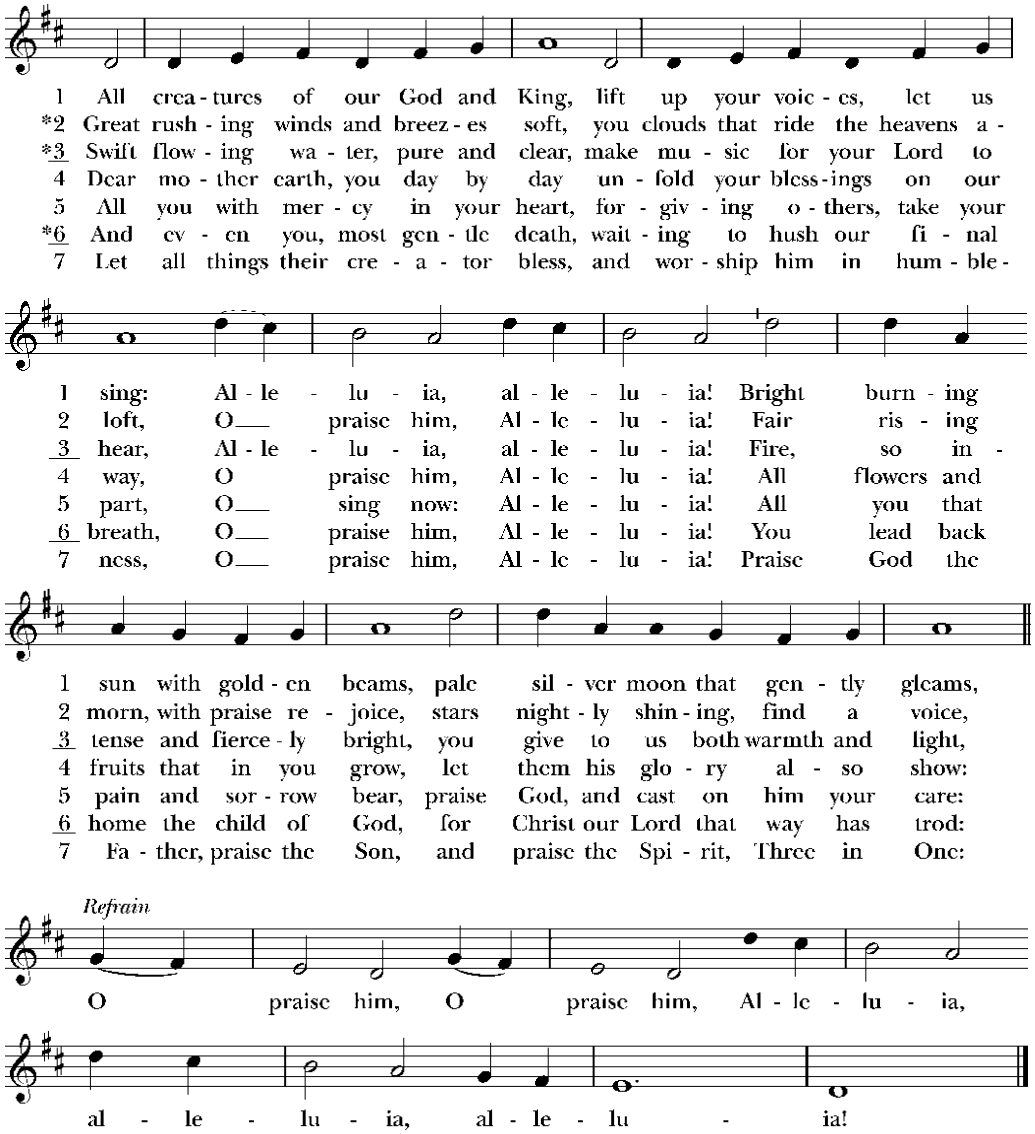
711 South Saginaw St., Flint, Michigan 48502

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The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

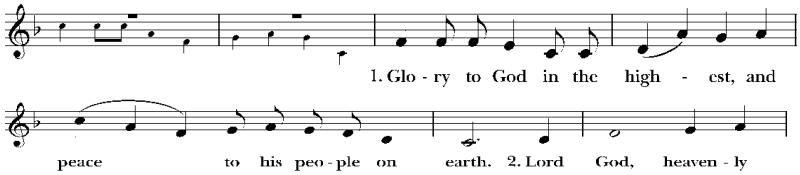
Prelude: *The Swan* C. Saint-Saëns
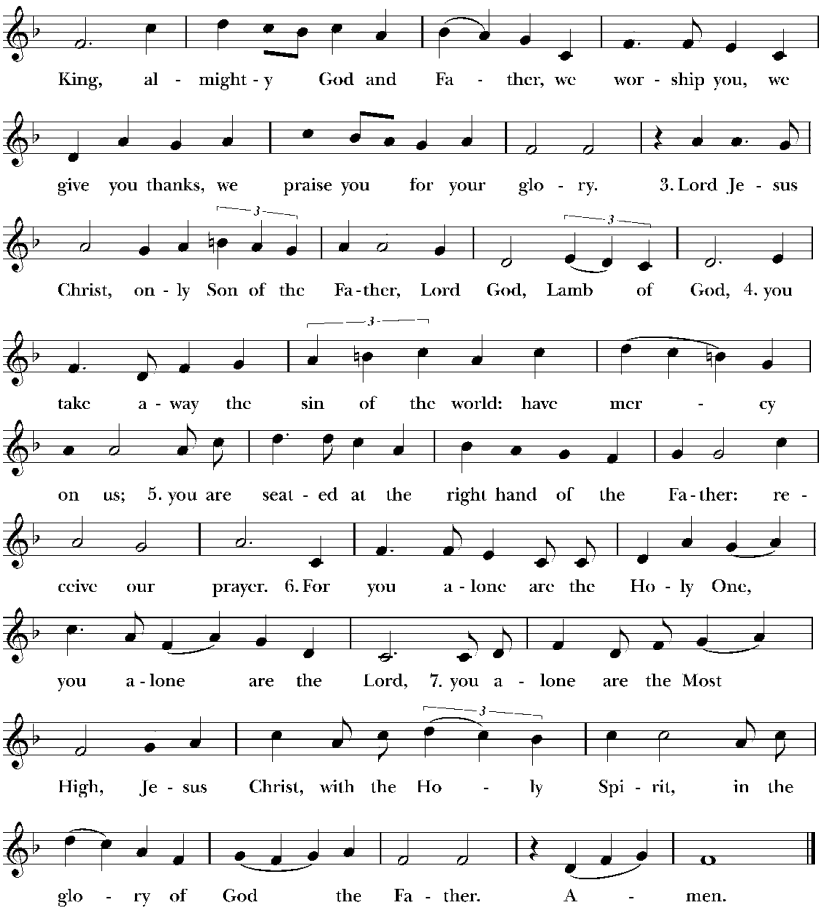
Opening Hymn: *All creatures of God and King* Hymn 400



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

Gloria: *Glory to God* Hymn S 280





The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

The Lessons
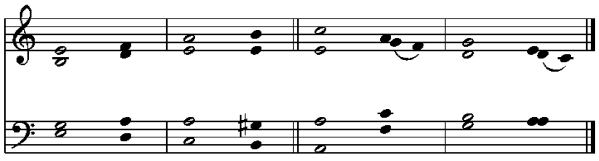
First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7 Susumu Inoue

Let me sing for my beloved
my love-song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.
He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;

he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.
And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.
What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild grapes?
And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.
I will make it a waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briers and thorns;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.
For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his pleasant planting;
he expected justice,
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness,
but heard a cry!

S 408

James Frazier
(b. 1947)



Psalm 80:7-14 *Qui regis Israel*

A 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
B 8 You have brought a vine out of Egypt; *
you cast out the nations and planted it.
A 9 You prepared the ground for it; *
it took root and filled the land.

B 10 The mountains were covered by its shadow *
and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.

A 11 You stretched out its tendrils to the Sea *
and its branches to the River.

B 12 Why have you broken down its wall, *
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?

A 13 The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, *
and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

B 14 Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;
behold and tend this vine; *
preserve what your right hand has planted.

Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14 Shane Geraghty

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Sequence: Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit LEVAS 114

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46 *all standing*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to _____.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:

'The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord's doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes'?

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Blessing of the Animals

God's animals inhabit the skies, the land, and the sea; we share the earth with them, and like them rely on God's blessing to sustain and preserve us. We gather today in communion and friendship with Francis of Assisi who preached to animals and moved throughout the known world sharing God's unconditional love for all beings. Remembering Francis' love for all God's creatures, bring forward the animals entrusted to your care that we may bless them. Those who bring animals for blessing hold or place their hands on their animals in blessing. If you would like to pray for an animal that has died or is
not present, please also come forward.

They are blessed by name by the Presider, using these or other words.

N., May God who created and preserves you bless, defend, heal, and keep you, this day and always. **Amen.**

When all have been blessed the Presider says:

Let us pray.

God of all creation: we give you thanks and praise. Open our eyes to see your hand at work in all creation. May your bountiful blessing be upon us all, God our Redeemer, now and for ever. Amen.

The Nicene Creed *all standing*

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 Pam Bailey

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;
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;
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.

We pray for those on our prayer list _____.

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.

For our Bishop candidates, Terri, Holly, Zack and Nurya.

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

Silence

The People may add their own petitions. The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

**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.

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

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

Announcements and Prayers

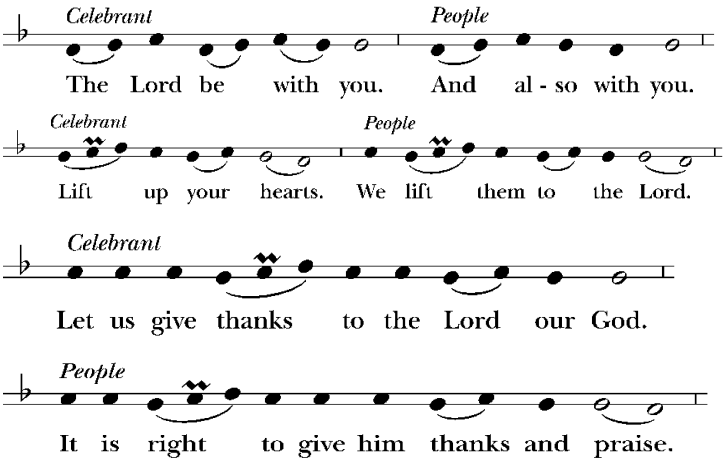
The Offertory

Offertory Anthem: *As longs the deer for cooling streams* Hymn 658

Doxology: *(verse 3 Hymn 380)*
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.

V. All things come of thee, O Lord.
R. **And of thine own have we given thee.** *1 Chr. 29:14*

The Great Thanksgiving *Eucharistic Prayer B*



Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

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

Sanctus: *Holy, holy, holy Lord* Hymn S 130

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the

Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

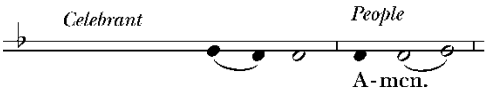
Celebrant and People

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.
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.



And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord's Prayer
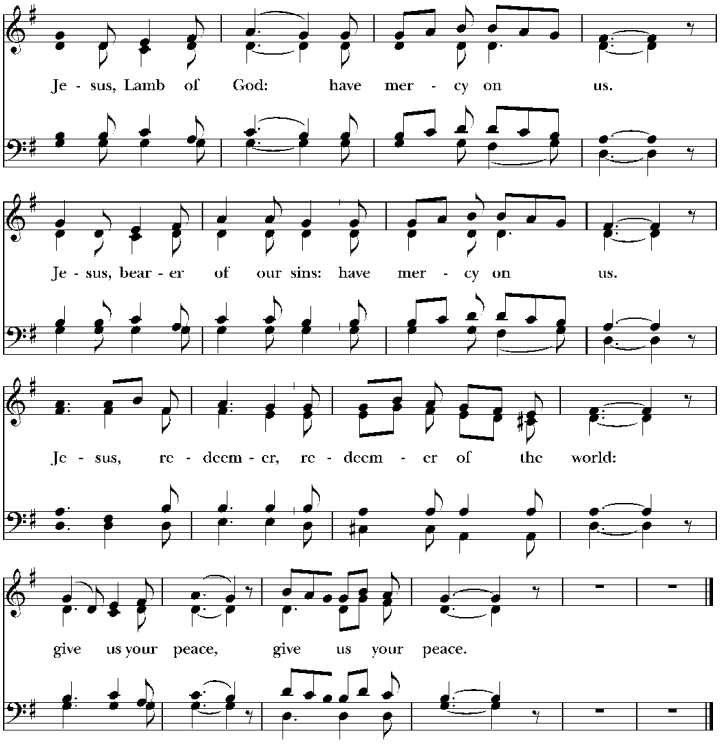
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

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

Fraction Anthem: *Jesus, Lamb of God* Hymn S 164



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.

Ministration of Communion – All are welcome at God's table.

If you are in need of special healing prayers, members of the Order of St. Luke are available during communion at the Sisters Chapel near the side entrance.
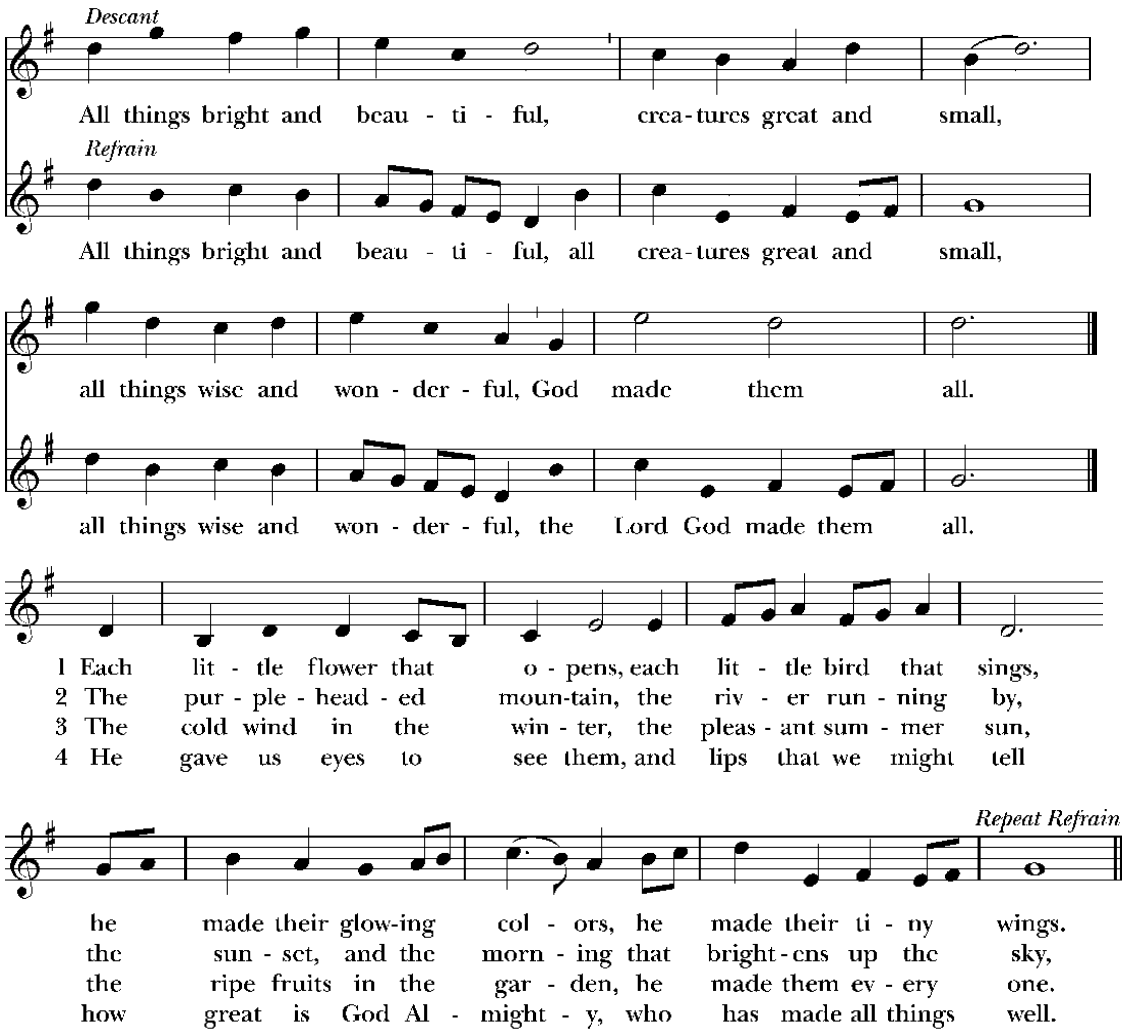
Communion Hymn: *Higher Ground* *LEVAS 165*

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Blessing

Recessional: *Each little flower that opens* Hymn 405



The Dismissal

Postlude: *The Elephant* C. Saint-Saëns

This Week at St. Paul's

Sunday	4:00	NCC Concert – Celebrating 250 Years
Monday	2:00	Art Class Parlor
	7:00	NCC Rehearsal
Tuesday	11:15	C.C. Exec. Board
	5:30	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	7:00	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday	10:00	Building & Grounds
	12:10	**Noonday Mass**
	12:45	Weekly Bible Study
	5:30	Vestry Meeting
Thursday	11:00	Order of St. Luke
Friday	6:00	St. Paul's Artwalk

On the Cover: Amillieya Lorick and her kitten, Pet Blessing 2025. Photo by Edie Peake.

In our diocesan cycle of prayer:
Holy Family, Blue Water - Mary Shortt, Priest
St. Mark's, Coldwater - J Barrett Lee, Rector

Prayer List: Carmen, Clinton Stephens, Jan Smeltzer & Family, Judy Stoerman, Ken Bugbee, Mary Loue Pearson, Melissa Cussans, Sandy Ryder, Stefan Sopher, Darylee Coplin, Les Butler, Amber Ferrer, Dawn & Family, Wanda Bondon, Larry, Lee Little, Carole Davis, Charles King & Family, Robyn, G. Donald & Elaine Kaye, Heather Gagnon, Trent Schaefer, Barbie, Ezra

Recovery Alliance Project: Drop -In Hours Tuesday – Friday 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Groups – Wednesday and Friday 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Liturgical Note: Today is the **Feast of Francis of Assisi**, thirteenth-century saint and founder of the Franciscan order. He was born in Assisi in central Italy and named Giovanni Bernardone. His father changed his name to Francesco, "the Frenchman," after a visit to France. Francis stressed absolute simplicity of life marked by poverty, humility, and contemplation of Christ. The Hymnal 1982 includes two hymn texts written by Francis, "All creatures of our God and King" (400) and "Most High, omnipotent, good Lord" (406-407). The hymn text "Lord make us servants of your peace" (593) is based on a prayer attributed to Francis. He died in Assisi.

Contribute Online:

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