

The Last Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 29, Year C

Holy Eucharist, Rite II Sunday, November 23, 2025, 10:00 am

> The Rev. Dr. Pamela Stevens The Rev. Dcn. Skip Bushee

St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Redwood City 178 Clinton Street, Redwood City, CA 94062 www.stpetersrwc.org

Prelude

The Processional hymn

I come with joy to meet my Lord Hymnal 1982 #304

For the processional hymn, the people stand and face the back of the sanctuary as the service begins, gradually turning their bodies to face the cross as it moves to the chancel.

Traditionally, the people bow to the cross as it passes.

The service continues on the following page.

Get ready for the Gospel...

Our lesson from Luke challenges us to expand our notions of who deserves mercy. The passage is structured around three instances of mockery leveled against Jesus.

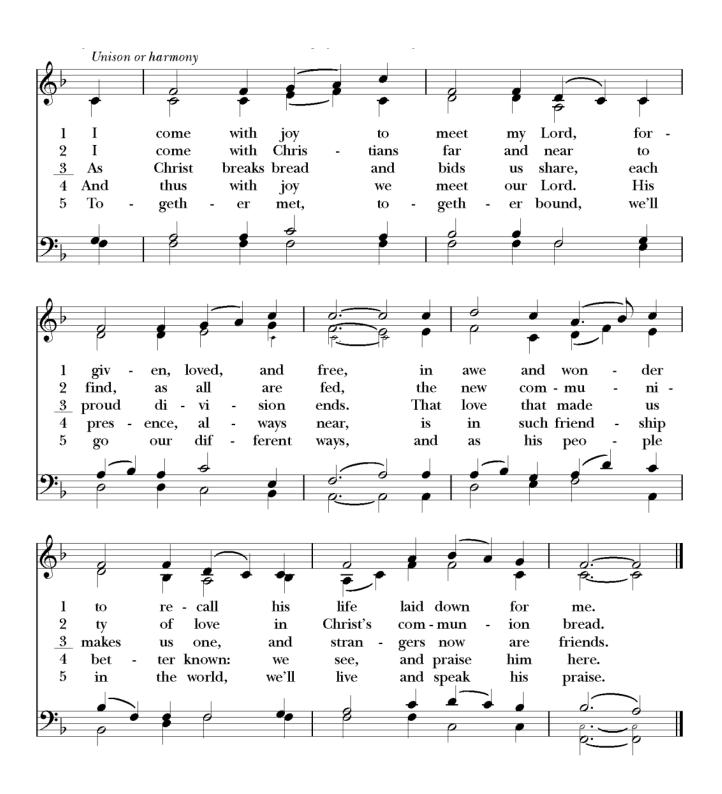
Jesus uses his power as "King" to dispense mercy in a boundlessly gracious fashion that far exceeds what is asked of him.

Whatever evil or crime one has done is no barrier for acceptance into Jesus' kingdom. Jesus offers direct access to salvation to persons worthy of the most extreme punishment for their sins.

Even those carrying out the crucifixion and the mockeries can be forgiven by Jesus!

And though he responds to the second criminal's request, Jesus ignores the calls to save himself, because it is through the cross that he comes into his kingdom, where those deemed unrighteous may share in the salvation of the righteous.

His reign is not a death-dealing system intent on punishment, but one that is gracious enough to forgive all offenses. God's mercy through Jesus is beyond anything we can conceive. We need only ask for it with a sincere heart.



The Opening Acclamation

Celebrant

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Celebrant

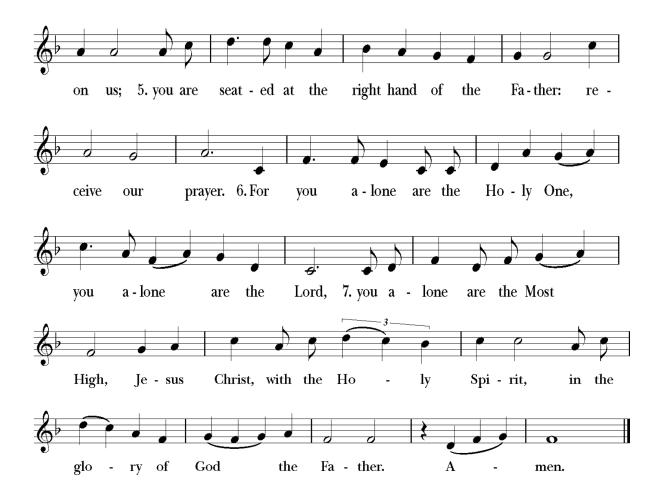
Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

The Gloria

Powell, Hymnal 1982 #S-280



4



The Collect of the Day

a "Collect" (CALLect) is a prayer said on behalf of a gathered assembly

Celebrant

The Lord be with you.

People

And also with you.

Celebrant

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*.

The Liturgy of the Word

Celebrant

Let us be seated for the lessons

The Lesson from the Old Testament

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Lector

A reading from the book of Jeremiah

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Response

Canticle 16
Luke 1: 68 - 79
God language without Gender

The First Song of Isaiah

The Lector and the People will read responsively (marked by an asterisk*). The People may bow at the portion of the Gloria Patri (Glory to the Father...) marked in italics below.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;*

Who has come to the Lord's people and set them free.

Who has raised up for us a mighty savior,*

born of the house of his servant David.

Through God's holy prophets God promised of old, that God would save us from our enemies,*
from the hands of all who hate us.

God promised to show mercy to our ancestors* and to remember the holy covenant.

This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham,* to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship God without fear, * holy and righteous in God's sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,* for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

To give God's people knowledge of salvation* by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God* the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, * and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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.*

The Lesson from the Epistles:

Colossians 1:11-20

Lector:

A reading from the second letter to the Colossians

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from the Lord's glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to God, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. The Lord has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of God's beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

The Savior is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. Jesus himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in Jesus all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Jesus God was pleased to

reconcile to God's self all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of the cross.

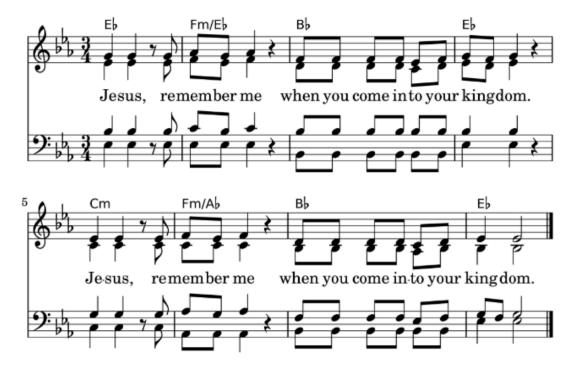
The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Gradual Hymn

Jesus remember me Sing 3 x before the Gospel Proclamation And 2 x after Taize Community

The People stand for the Gradual hymn. A member of the clergy carries the Gospel among the People for the Proclamation. The People turn to face the Gospel.



The Gospel Luke 23:33-43

Traditionally, as the clergy member says "The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" at the beginning of the proclamation, *the people may make three small crosses over the forehead, lips, and heart*.

Clergy:

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke

People:

Glory to you, Lord Christ

Clergy:

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. The people stood by, watching Jesus on the cross; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The People remain standing until they are invited to be seated by the preacher.

The Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Pamela Stevens

The Nicene Creed

The People stand.

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 [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,

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 [She] is worshiped and glorified.

[She]* 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

Rev. Dr. Pamela Stevens

A moment of silence begins this time of prayer.

and his kingdom will have no end.

Intercessor

Let us pray.

God of mercy, we give thanks for your guidance in our common life; help us to discern your will as members of the living Body of Christ.

People Help us, O God, to be the Beloved Community.

Intercessor

May you so fill our lives that we may speak truth and bring about healing in the world by building trust.

People Fill us O God, with kindness and gentleness toward each other.

*why the "She" pronoun here? In Hebrew the term "Holy Spirit" or breath of God, ruach ha-kodesh , is feminine. In the Greek, *Pneuma Hagios* is neuter. Only in Latin, *Spiritus Sanctus*, is the term masculine. Using "She" honors the generative birthing action of the Book of Genesis.

Intercessor

We give thanks for the Body in which we all are truly welcomed into transformation. We pray that you will move us to recognize spiritual need, and practice welcome and healing. *People* Move us, O God, to share the truth of your love.

Intercessor

We give thanks for all ministers, all bishops, priests, deacons; and all ministers through their baptism who serve God in the church.

People Guide us, O God, to call and cultivate the gifts in each member of the Body.

Intercessor

We ask that you tend and care for all those in governance around the church and in the world; may leaders seek harmony rather than power, leading with wisdom on behalf of a future for all creatures that is sustainable, grace-filled, holy, and just.

People Tend us, O God, and call us to tend your Creation.

Intercessor

We give thanks to you God, Holy Spirit, for the comfort you provide to those suffering from sickness, financial stress, underemployment, housing challenges, prejudice, or any kind of trouble or injustice. When we or they do not find words to pray, may the Holy Spirit intercede with sighs that transcend all words. Especially, Claire wright, Tony and Bridget, Marjorie Holland, Gia Pacheco, Kathy Runyeon, Ken Spira, Rita Spira, Linda Mickelson, Irene Z, Pat G., Shannon Walker, members of the Stellamos Youth Chorus, the children in the Kumu Ola youth choir, Jenny Cornell, Karina, Ellen Berning, Jim Redman, Alejandro Mejí, Joanne Runyeon, Eva Mejía, Wendy Dickman, Jerry Berning, David Elms, Joan Brumleve, and those we name in our hearts silently or aloud.

Intercessor. And we ask you....

People Heal us, O God as we pray.

Intercessor

Gracious God, we ask for your comfort as we grieve the absence from among us of our beloved departed ones, those who have returned to you, as we aspire to do, residing with all the company of heaven. Especially **Joe Mickelson**, **Jeannie & Peter Ferber**, **Nancy Stevens**, and those within our hearts we name silently or aloud.

Intercessor And we ask you...

People Comfort us, O God, as we pray.

Intercessor

God of glory, we receive your Holy Spirit, moving among us, calling us to follow Jesus in the world. Help us to listen for your voice; as members of the living Body of Christ, the Beloved Community.

*People** Hear us, O God, to discern your will.

Celebrant

May we speak and act in ways that bring transforming love and eternal life to this world through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People Amen.

The Confession and Absolution

(the people remain standing)

Celebrant

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

A moment of silence follows. Celebrant 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.

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

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

The People exchange a sign of the peace, typically hands in prayer position with a small bow saying, "Peace," or some other greeting such as "May the Peace of the Lord be with you."

Observances of Life Events

The Celebrant will invite the congregation to offer prayers for blessings of those with birthdays and anniversaries with the following prayers.

For Birthdays

Watch over your *children*, O Lord, as *their* days increase; bless and guide *them* wherever they may be. Strengthen *them* when *they* stand; comfort *them* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *them* up if *they* fall; and in *their* heart may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of *their* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Marriage Anniversaries

O God, You have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church; Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants N. and N., that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

For Travelers

O God, our heavenly Father, whose glory fills the whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go: Preserve those who travel [in particular ______]; surround them with your loving care; protect them from every danger; and bring them in safety to their journey's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

News and Announcements

The Sr. Warden will share the news of the day and upcoming events.

The Offertory Sentence

Celebrant

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

Ushers will pass the plate for an optional offering to the church for its mission and ministry. Thank you for your generosity.

Electronic donations are welcome:



The People remain seated for the hymn, then stand at its conclusion as the musician begins the Doxology and the gifts are presented at the altar.



The Doxology and the Presentation of Gifts

The People stand.



Eucharistic Prayer B, BCP

The Great Thanksgiving

The People stand.

Celebrant

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give [God] thanks and praise.

Celebrant

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

Through Jesus Christ our great High Priest; in whom we are built up as living stones of a holy temple, that we might offer before you a sacrifice of praise and prayer which is holy and pleasing in your sight.

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:





The people stand or may kneel. 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 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

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, 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 St. Mary and St. Peter 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. 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 lead us not into temptation,

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Fraction

Jesus, Lamb of God Hymnal 1982 #S-164









Celebrant

Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world.

People

Have mercy on us.

Celebrant

Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world.

People

Have mercy on us.

Celebrant

Lamb of God you take away the sins of the word.

People

Grant us peace.

Celebrant

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.

The Administration of Communion

At St. Peter's it is our practice is to receive the host, then dip (intinct) it into the wine before consuming it. Wine and grape juice are available, as is gluten-free host.

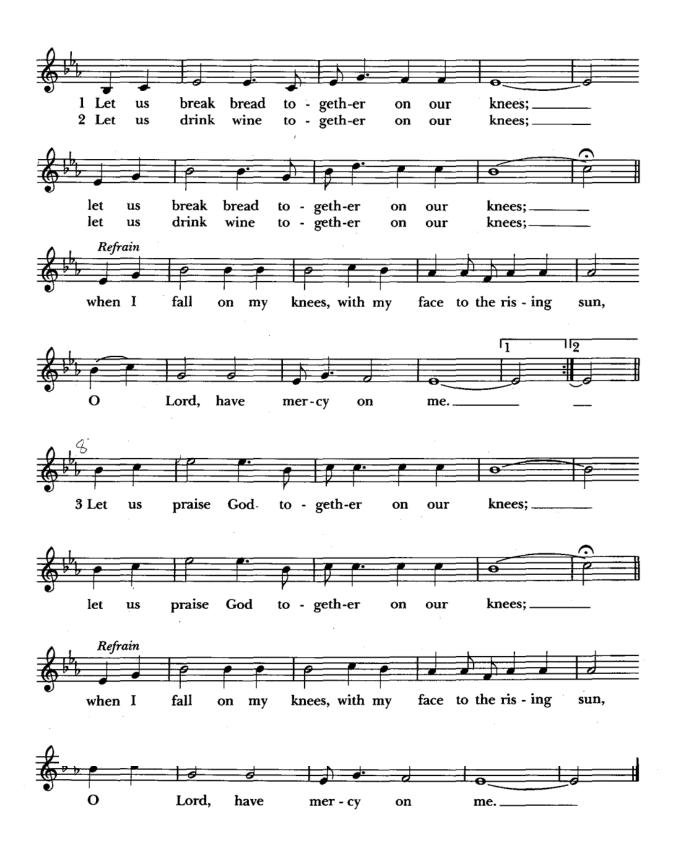
The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [Amen.] The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [Amen.]

The Communion Hymn

Let us break bread together Hymnal 1982 #325

The Communion Hymn continues on the following page.



The Prayer After Communion

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant 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.

The Blessing

Celebrant

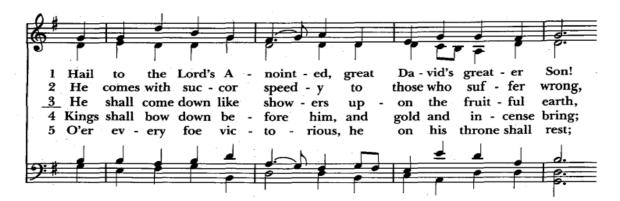
.....and may the blessing of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and always. Amen.

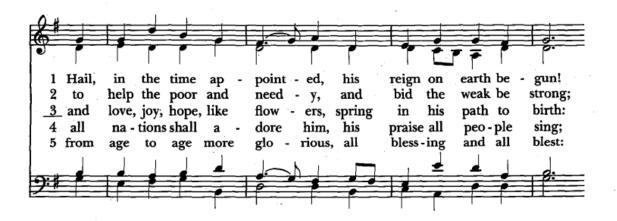
The Recessional Hymn

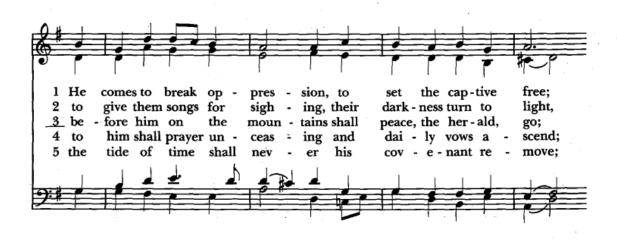
Hail to the Lord's anointed Hymnal 1982 #616

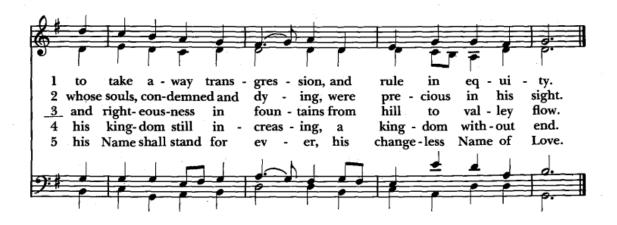
The altar party will recess, following the cross. The People, following the cross, turn to face the back of the sanctuary. The dismissal follows the hymn.

The service continues on the following page.









The Dismissal

Clergy Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia.

People: Thanks be to God Alleluia, Alleluia.

Postlude

La Réjouissance, Music for the Royal Fireworks by George Frideric Handel (1685-1759), arr. J Sanborn



Please join us for Coffee Hour, the so-called "Third Sacrament" of The Episcopal Church....

Why the third sacrament?

There are only two sacraments of The Episcopal Church, those which are dominical (ordered by Jesus).

These are: Baptism and Eucharist.

There are also five additional sacramental rites: Confirmation, Confession, Marriage, Ordination, and Anointing of the sick (called Unction).

Upcoming Events at St. Peter's Redwood City

Through November 2025: Yumraising with See's Candy

Chocolates Are Back!

See's Candy is available online for you, your neighbors, relatives & friends, even in other states; their orders will also help St. Peter's!

See's candies are delicious and make great presents! Shop for birthday presents, hostess gifts, or holiday occasions! Prices are the same as in-store, but St. Peter's receives a percentage from each sale.

- You can also buy GIFT CARDS, and St. Peter's gets the profit!
- (Gift Cards are not included in the \$75 total for free shipping.)
- Delivery via UPS; do not use P. O. boxes.
- No sales tax in California, but may apply in other states.
- If less amount is ordered, shipping charges will apply. So combine your order with others to add up to \$75 or more!

Final date for this campaign is **Thursday**, **December 4**, **2025**.

Click the following to place your order: Yumraising for St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Redwood City

<u>Through December 19th, Sign up to volunteer for the St. Peter's Bake Sale</u>



- Sign up now using the above link to bake, decorate, and sell at our upcoming bake sale fundraiser.
- Part 1 will be before church and during coffee hour on Sunday, December 21, 2025.
- Part 2 will be at the reception following the Stellamos concert, in the parish hall at 4:30 pm.

November 23, 2025, Sunday: Paul Berning will lead us on an armchair tour of Central Europe

- Join us at coffee hour in the parish hall for this journey!
- Paul will share slides of his trip to Central Europe (Netherlands, Germany, Czechia, and Austria) after church during coffee hour.

November 23, 2025, Sunday: Advent/Christmas decoration setup at the church!

- 2:45 pm Meet in the Sanctuary.
- Just in time for the first Sunday in Advent, all are welcome to a work day to deck our halls.
- All abilities are welcome, there is something for everyone to do.

<u>December 5, 2025, Friday: Ragazzi Continuo Holiday Concert</u> "Gaudete!

- 7:30 pm at St. Peter's in the Sanctuary
- Ragazzi Continuo will collaborate with Five of a Kind, a brass Quintet!
- Get tickets at www.ragazzicontinuo.org
- \$25.00 or ask Rev. Pamela about a St. Peter's block

<u>December 11, Thursday: Reswick Studios Children's Christmas</u> Concert and Recital

- 5:00 pm 7:00 pm at St. Peter's in the Sanctuary
- Ticket sales open soon, \$20 donation to St. Peter's
- Come enjoy children playing and singing your favorite Christmas music at this concert-style recital intended to share holiday cheer!
- Donations collected will benefit St. Peter's.
- Reception in the parish hall after the concert.

December 14, 2025, Sunday: Service of Lessons and Carols

- 10:00 am worship service
- The entire church service, right up to Communion, will be lessons and carols.
- Enjoy a time of Advent music and preparation for the great gift of new birth at Christmas.

<u>December 21, 2025, Saturday: Stellamos Youth Chorus Winter</u>

Concert at St. Peter's

- An evening of enchanting holiday music from these amazing youth choristers!
- Timing and ticket sale information is here, \$20.00 per ticket or volunteer your time.
- Reception directly following the concert.
- Christmas caroling in the neighborhood, promoted on Nextdoor.com



December 24, 2025, Wednesday: Christmas Eve All-ages Service

- 5:00 pm in the sanctuary
- An evening of music from all ages.
- Candle-light hymns and and Christmas Nativity
- Christmas pizza party in the Parish hall following the service.