# St. Francis' Episcopal Church Sunday, September 8, 2024

Service begins here at both 8am and 10:30am.

#### **GATHERING SONG**

## PRAISE BE TO THE LIVING GOD

H 372

We begin by praising God through song and prayer. Stand. At 8am, v. 1 only.



#### **GREETING**

Standing before the assembly, the Presider welcomes the community to worship.

Presider Blessed be the One, Holy and Living God.

People Glory to God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Presider 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.

People Amen.

#### **CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION**

As we enter in to worship we ask God's forgiveness for things done and things left undone and things done on our behalf so that we may be reconciled to each other and to God.

Deacon Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence is kept for a time.

People God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you,

opposing your will in our lives.

We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves,

and in the world you have created.

We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done,

and the evil done on our behalf.

Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ,

that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

Presider 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.

People Amen.

# **Song of Praise: Glory to God** 8am + 10:30am



#### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

The Presider continues with the prayer appointed for the day, called the collect.

The collect is written to go along with both the season of the church year and the readings for the day. It summarizes the attributes of God as revealed in the scripture for the day.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People Amen.

# WE HEAR THE SACRED STORIES Sit.

We hear the stories of the experience of God from our spiritual ancestors. Reading and commenting on scripture goes back to the earliest services of Christianity. Following the pattern of Jewish synagogue worship, readings follow a set pattern for what will be read when.

#### THE FIRST LESSON: A READING FROM HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Reader A reading from the Book of Proverbs.

22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favour is better than silver or gold.

The rich and the poor have this in common:

the Lord is the maker of them all.

Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity, and the rod of anger will fail.

Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor.

Do not rob the poor because they are poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate;

for the Lord pleads their cause and despoils of life those who despoil them.

Hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

#### **PSALM OF THE DAY**

45

The psalms are a part of the poetry of the Hebrew people. They express joy and sadness; loneliness and thanksgiving as part of the human longing to be united with God.

At 8am, the congregation reads the antiphon together. At 10:30, the congregation sings the antiphon together.



- 1 Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but stands fast for ever.
- 2 The hills stand about Jerusalem; so does the Lord stand round about his people, from this time forth for evermore. ANTIPHON
- 3 The scepter of the wicked shall not hold sway over the land allotted to the just, so that the just shall not put their hands to evil.
- 4 Show your goodness, O Lord, to those who are good and to those who are true of heart.
- 5 As for those who turn aside to crooked ways, the Lord will lead them away with the evildoers; but peace be upon Israel. ANTIPHON

#### THE SECOND LESSON: A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT WRITINGS

Reader A reading from the letter from James.

2:1-17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become

accountable for all of it.[ For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.]

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

## GOSPEL HYMN: PREPARING TO HEAR THE GOSPEL Stand.

We stand, as we are able, for the Gospel reading to show the particular importance we place on Jesus' words and actions, and sing the Gospel Hymn.



#### THE PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Deacon God is with you.

People And also with you.

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Mark. 7:24-37

People Glory to you, O Christ.

Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little

daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

At the end of the Gospel the Deacon says

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, O Christ.** 

**GOSPEL HYMN** The music on the previous page is sung one time through.

#### THE SERMON Sit.

We remain seated for the sermon. Having someone comment on the scriptures read goes back to the earliest days of Christianity and to the Jewish Synagogue worship which preceded it.

#### THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Stand.

Deacon Please stand, as you are able, as we affirm our faith.

Silence is kept for a time.

Deacon We are not alone; we live in God's world.

People We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word

made flesh, to reconcile and make anew, who works in us and others by the Spirit.

Deacon We trust in God.

People We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in

Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God

is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayer changes people. Prayer is not about changing God but about changing us more into the likeness of God. Collectively and individually we offer the hopes and desires of our hearts to God. The Deacon offers the prayers for those who are sick or have asked our prayers.

Deacon: God of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ you promise to hear us when we pray to

you in faith with thanksgiving. Therefore we come to you with grateful hearts asking you,

God of Love, grant our prayer.

After each prayer, the people reply, "grant our prayer."

Presider: Merciful God, you look with compassion on all who turn to you. Hear the prayers of your

people. Grant that what we have asked in faith we may by your grace receive; through

Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### THE EXCHANGE OF THE PEACE

As we enter the most sacred portion of our worship we exchange a sign of God's promised peace. There are no set words to use in greeting each other, but "Peace be with you," "God's peace," and "Shalom" are all commonly used.

Presider The Peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us offer each a sign of Christ's peace.

As a community of reconciliation and peace, we greet each other with a sign of our desire for peace.

#### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Sit.

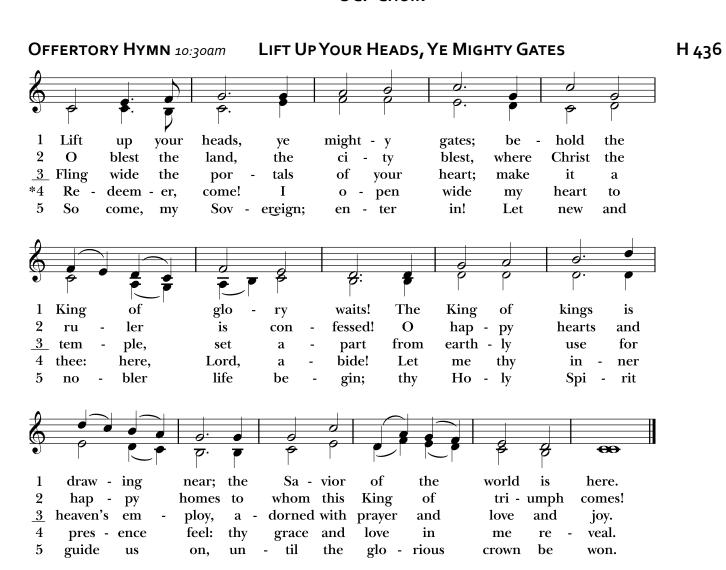
# GATHERING AT CHRIST'S TABLE

Having been nourished from the richness of God's love in sacred story and reconciled to each other through prayer and peace, we gather at Christ's table to offer ourselves to be transformed for service in the world. We listen to or sing a hymn to continue to prepare our hearts and minds for the Eucharistic Prayers to come.

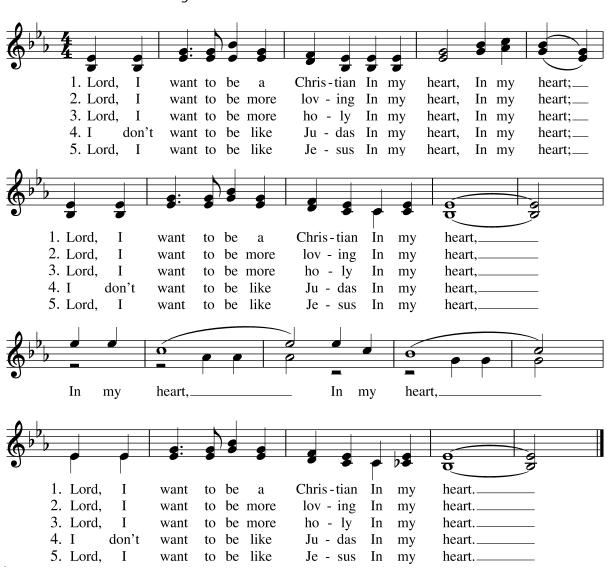
# \*THE OFFERTORY 10:30 only

The gifts of bread, wine, money and other gifts are offered by the assembly to be set apart or consecrated as a reminder of Christ's sacrificial love and life. Once the Holy Table or Altar is prepared, the Presider and people give thanks to God for the many gifts we have been given by standing and singing our praise.

# MEDITATION HYMN 8am LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, YE MIGHTY GATES OCP CHOIR



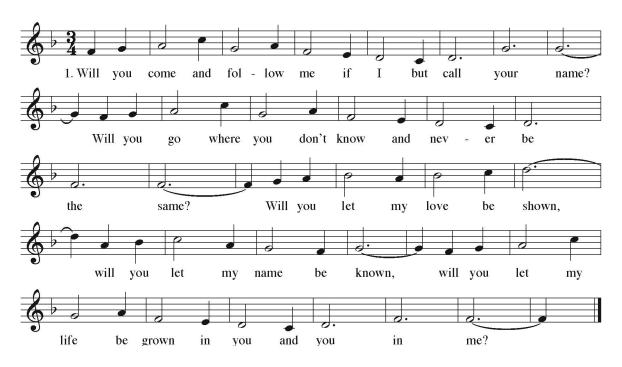
From here, continue to the yellow bulletin labelled "An Order for The Celebration of The Holy Eucharist," page 4, and return to this green insert for Communion Hymn and Sending Hymn.



From here, continue to the yellow bulletin labelled "An Order for The Celebration of The Holy Eucharist," page 10, for the Post-Communion Prayer.

# **SENDING HYMN** 8am

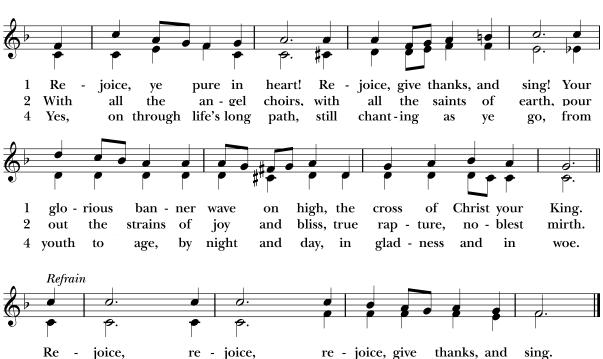
# WILLYOU COME AND FOLLOW ME?





#### REJOICE YE PURE IN HEART

H 556



Continue to the yellow bulletin labelled "An Order for The Celebration of The Holy Eucharist," page 11.

You are welcome to take this green insert home with you for prayer or pondering.