

The Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 25A

Holy Eucharist – October 25, 2026



We are delighted to have you here and warmly invite you to fully engage in God's mission and ministry at St. Martin's Church. Everyone is welcome—no exceptions, no reservations. We are an inclusive Christian community committed to making a meaningful difference in people's lives.

Prelude

Opening Hymn 517

How Lovely is Their Dwelling Place

The Hymnal 1982

Opening Acclamation

Blessed be the one, holy and living God.

Glory to God for ever and ever. Amen.

Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open,

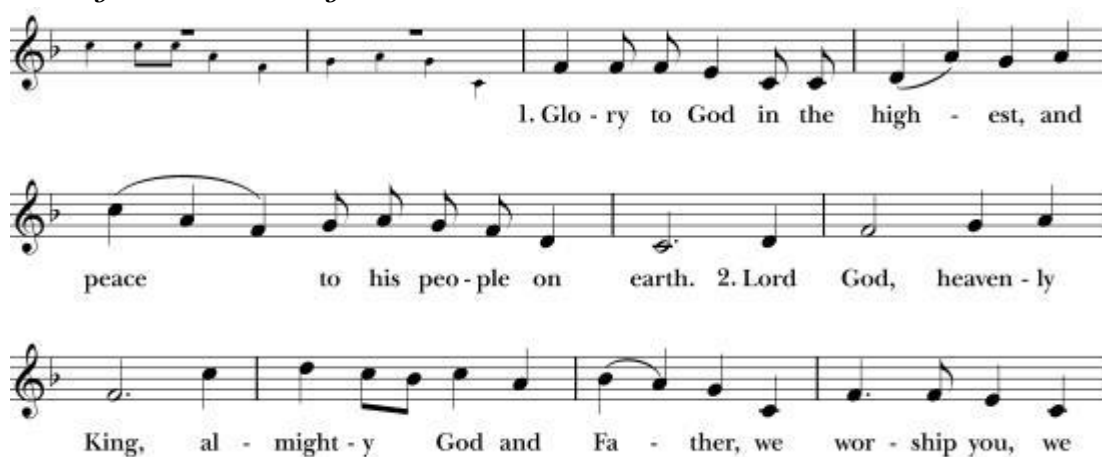
all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid:

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.

Gloria

Glory to God in the Highest

S280



give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
 Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
 take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
 on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
 ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
 you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
 High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

The Collect of the Day

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray together.

**Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity;
 and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
 one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the Lord showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar. The Lord said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants’; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.” Then Moses, the servant of the Lord, died there in the land of Moab, at the Lord’s command. He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigor had not abated. The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended.

Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the Lord had commanded Moses.

Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face. He was unequalled for all the signs and wonders that the Lord sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

A period of silence follows

<i>Reader</i>	Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
<i>People</i>	Thanks be to God.

A period of silence follows



O God, you have been our **refuge** *
from one generation to **another**.

Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were **born**, *
from age to age you are **God**.

You turn us back to the dust and **say**, *
“Go back, O child of **earth**.”

For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is **past** *
and like a watch in the **night**.

You sweep us away like a **dream**; *
we fade away suddenly like the **grass**.

In the morning it is green and **flourishes**; *
in the evening it is dried up and **withered**.

Return, O God; how long will you **tarry**? *
Be gracious to your **servants**.

Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the **morning**; *
so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our **life**.

Make us glad by the measure of the days that you a-**fflicted us** *
and the years in which we suffered ad-**versity**.

Show your servants your **works** *
and your splendor to their **children**.

Sung to the send half of the chant

May the graciousness of our God be upon **us**; *
prosper the work of our hands;
prosper our **handiwork**.

The Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

NRSVUE

A reading from Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians.

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

A period of silence follows

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

A period of silence follow

Hymn 707 *Take my Life and Let it Be*

The Hymnal 1982

Gospel *Matthew 22:34-46*

NRSVUE

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Christ

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: “What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

“The Lord said to my Lord,
“Sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your feet”?”

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

A period of silence follows

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, O Christ.

A period of silence follows

The Sermon

The Rev. Scott B. Neal

A period of silence follows

The Nicene Creed

please stand as you are able

**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 Father¹.
With the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.
Who 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.**

Prayers of the People²

A New Zealand Prayer Book

*The congregation is invited to add their own petitions and intercessions aloud
or in your heart in the pause after each bidding.*

Let us pray for the Church and the world.

Blessed are you eternal God,
to be praised and glorified for ever.

Holy God, hear us as we pray for the unity of the Church.
May we all be one that the world may believe.

¹ The 71st General Convention (1994) reaffirms its intention to remove the Filioque clause from the Nicene Creed.

² A New Zealand Prayer Book. 1989. Prayers of the People, 483-484. Adapted.
The Sundays of Pentecost

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you,
that the life of Christ may be revealed in us.

We remember those who have died.

Loving God, into your hands we commend them.

(Remembering *N*)

We praise you for all your saints who have entered your eternal glory.

May we also come to share your heavenly kingdom.

Have compassion on those who suffer from sickness, grief or trouble.

In your presence may they find strength.

(Remembering *N*)

Look with your kindness on our homes and families.

Grant that your love may grow in our hearts.

Make us alive to the needs of our community.

Help us to share one another's joys and burdens.

Inspire and lead those who hold authority in the nations of the world.

Guide us and all people in the way of justice and peace.

Strengthen all who minister in Christ's name.

Give us courage to proclaim your Gospel.

We pray in silence for our own needs...

Presider

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.

The Confession of Sin³

Deacon/Presider Let us confess our sins to God.

All

**O God, you search us out and know us,
and all that we are is open to you.
We confess that we have sinned.**

**When we use our power to dominate
and our weaknesses to manipulate:**

**When we evade responsibility
and fail to confront evil:**

**When we are seduced by fashionable dreams
and pursue our desires at the expense of others:**

**When we attempt to change the world
and neglect to change even ourselves:**

³ Written by Nathan Nettleton, 2000. <http://laughingbird.net/Seasonal.html> Adapted by Scott B. Neal, 2018.

**When we fail to integrate spirit and flesh
and forfeit our wholeness and dignity:**

**We turn to you,
O God of infinite mercy;**

**We renounce evil;
We claim your love;
We choose to be made whole.**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal Life. **Amen.**

Birthday and Anniversary Blessings *(second Sunday of the month for the coming month)*

The Peace

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

The Holy Communion

Offertory Hymn 336 *Come with Us, O Blessed Jesus*

The Hymnal 1982

The Great Thanksgiving

Enriching Our Worship, Eucharistic Prayer I

Presider God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the faithful in every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of six systems, each with a piano accompaniment (treble and bass staves) and a vocal line (treble staff). The lyrics are as follows:

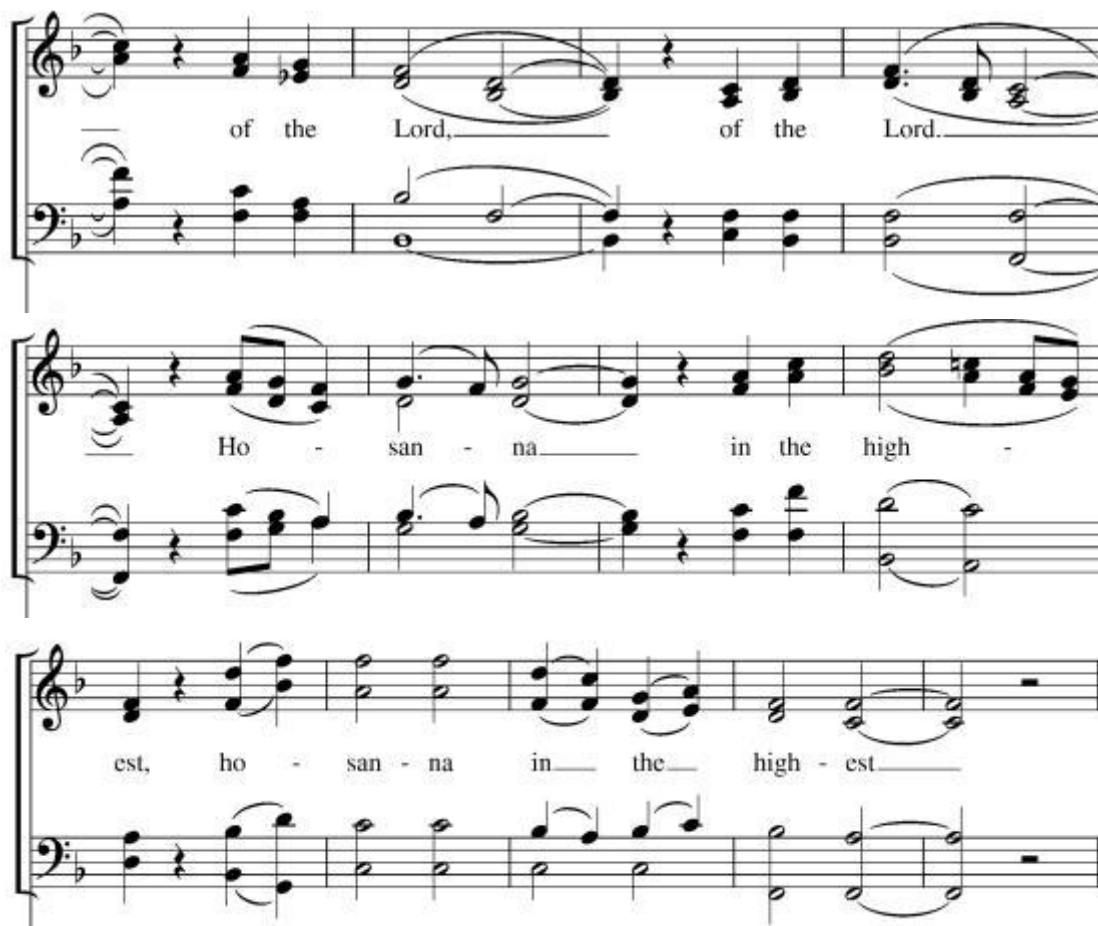
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly

ho - ly Lord God of hosts.

Heav - en and earth are filled with your glo -

ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is He who comes in the name



Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace. But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said:

“Take, eat:
This is my Body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup, 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 poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,

do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this fruit of the earth and the vine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ’s Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with Mary, the God Bearer, Martin, Paul, Barnabas, John, and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

The Lord’s Prayer

BCP, p. 364

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

**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.**

Fraction *the bread is broken and silence is kept*

Fraction Anthem

Wonder, Love and Praise 867

The bread which we break is a shar - ing in the
Bo - dy of Christ. We be - ing ma - ny are one
bread, one bo - dy, for we all share in the one bread.

Facing the people, the Presider says the following Invitation:

The Gifts of God for the People of God.
Holy Food for Holy People.

Invitation to the Table⁴

Presider

All you who hunger and thirst for a better life,
for a deeper faith,
for a better world,
here is the bread of life:
feed on it with gratitude;
here is the cup of salvation:
drink from it and believe.
These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Here at this table, Christ is our host.
For this is the table
where God intends us to be nourished;
this is the time when Christ can make us new.
All people are welcome to receive communion in this place.

About Communion: *This is God's Altar - All are welcome.*

- *All who come to this place seeking God are welcome to receive Holy Communion. The bread is gluten-free and we use grape juice and wine in individual cups in a celebration of radical hospitality.*
- *If you are unable to come forward for Communion, please let an usher know, and we will be happy to bring Communion to you in your seat.*
- *Those who do not wish to receive Communion are always welcome to come forward for a blessing, indicated by crossing your arms over your chest.*

*At this time, we invite all present to come forward to receive communion.
No matter who you are, you are a beloved Child of God and
are invited to receive either a blessing or communion.
The people receive communion first and then ministers at the altar.*

Communion Music

Postcommunion Prayer

Let us pray.

**Holy and Eternal God,
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.**

⁴ <https://saintmarks.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/2022.09.18-9AM-Propser-20C-Holy-Eucharist.pdf> and
<https://www.stmarywarsash.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Celtic-Communion-210221.pdf>

The Blessing

Hymn 450 *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

The Hymnal 1982

Announcements

Dismissal

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Postlude

The Worship is over. Now the Service begins.

Coffee Hour and fellowship follow worship in the Gathering Room

Standing on Holy Ground

You may notice that I am barefoot during worship. When Moses encountered God in the burning bush (Book of Exodus 3:5), he was told to remove his sandals, for he was standing on holy ground. I choose to worship barefoot as a reminder that all ground is holy — that God meets us here and now. Being barefoot helps me stay grounded in creation and attentive to the living Christ who fills all things. – Scott

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