



ST. MATTHEW'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Holy Eucharist

Sunday October 4, 2026
10:00 am

St. Francis Sunday Blessing of the Beasts



The Word of God

Opening Hymn

People stand as able.

O God, Your Creatures Fill the Earth

Ellacombe

1. O God, your creatures fill the earth with wonder and delight,
And every living thing has worth and beauty in your sight.
So playful dolphins dance and swim; Your sheep bow down and graze.
Your songbirds share a morning hymn To offer you their praise.
2. You made the pets we welcome in — They're wondrous blessings, too.
With paws and whiskers, wings and fins, They offer praise to you.
O Lord, you call us to embrace these creatures in our care.
May we show kindness, love and grace To all pets everywhere.
3. You made the creatures on each farm; You know the things they need.
May they grow healthy, safe from harm, And safe from human greed.
Just as a shepherd loves the sheep, You know their joy, their pain.
Lord, bless the animals we keep; May all farms be humane.
4. Your creatures live in every land; They fill the sky and sea.
O Lord, you give us your command To love them tenderly.
We're called to have dominion here — To care for them always.
By loving creatures you hold dear, We offer you our praise.

Collect of the Day

Presider Blessed be the God of all creation.
People **And blessed be God's holy Name for ever and ever.**
Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider 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.**

First Reading

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

The people are seated

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die." Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin."

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

19

- 1 The heavens declare your glory, O God, *
and the firmament shows your handiwork.
- 2 One day tells its tale to another, *
and one night imparts knowledge to another.
- 3 Although they have no words or language, *
and their voices are not heard,
- 4 Their sound has gone out into all lands, *
and their message to the ends of the world.
- 5 In the deep you have set a pavilion for the sun; *
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
- 6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again; *
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.
- 7 Your law, O God, is perfect and revives the soul; *
your testimony is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.
- 8 Your statutes are just and rejoice the heart; *
your commandment is clear and gives light to the eyes.
- 9 The fear of you is clean and endures for ever; *
your judgments are true and righteous altogether.
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold,
more than much fine gold; *
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.
- 11 By them also is your servant enlightened, *
and in keeping them there is great reward.
- 12 Who can tell how often one offends? *
Cleanse me from my secret faults.
- 13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
let them not get dominion over me; *
then shall I be whole and sound,
and innocent of a great offense.
- 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my
heart be acceptable in your sight, *
O God, my strength and my redeemer.

The Saint Helena Psalter Translation

Second Reading

Philippians 3:4b-14

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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn: *Lord, make us servants of your peace*

Hymnal 593

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line, with five verses of text for each line of music. The first system covers the first two lines of the hymn, the second system covers the next two lines, and the third system covers the final line. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

1 Lord, make us ser - vants of your peace: where there is
2 Where all is doubt, may we sow faith; where all is
3 Je - sus, our Lord, may we not seek to be con -
4 May we not look for love's re - turn, but seek to
5 Dy - ing, we live, and are re - born through death's dark

1 hate, may we sow love; where there is hurt, may we for -
2 gloom, may we sow hope; where all is night, may we sow
3 soled, but to con - sole, nor look to un - der - stand - ing
4 love un - self - ish - ly, for in our giv - ing we re -
5 night to end - less day: Lord, make us ser - vants of your

1 give; where there is strife, may we make one.
2 light; where all is tears, may we sow joy.
3 hearts, but look for hearts to un - der - stand.
4 ceive, and in for - giv - ing are for - given.
5 peace, to wake at last in hea - ven's light.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:33-46

Remain standing

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glorify 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.

Deacon The Gospel of our Savior.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

The Rev. Kelly Kirby

Seated

Litany of Thanks

Remain standing

Presider Let us name with thanksgiving those animals for whom we care: (pause)_____.
Let us name with thanksgiving those animals who have been our companions over the years and are no longer with us: (pause)_____.
And let us remember the unnamed, unknown animals whose lives have benefited our own. **Amen.**

Intercessor Let us give thanks to God our Father for all gifts so freely bestowed upon us, for the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth, sky and sea.
People **For the richness of mountains, plains and rivers.**

Intercessor For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women, revealing the image of Christ,
People **For all creatures that breathe, and move, and have life.**

Intercessor For all the songs of birds, and the loveliness of the seasons.
People **For the trust you have shown us in giving into our care these, our pets.**

Intercessor We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
People **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**
Intercessor That each pet here may be treasured with care;
People **That we may love and honor all your works, O God.**

Intercessor We lift up our prayers for anyone we now name: _____. And we pray for those entrusted to our prayers: Janelle, Kevin, Candis, Vicki, Karl, Melinda, Len, Kinsey, Granville, JP & Family, Al, and Beverly.
People **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Intercessor We pray for those we now name who have died _____, and those known to God alone: Phil and Anne Ardery, Mr. and Mrs. George Ogilvie, Jr.
People **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Presider Holy God: No sparrow falls without your attention; nothing dies that is lost to you; nothing comes into being without your love. Give us just and compassionate hearts, that we may serve the earth and all its creatures, holding fast to the vision of your peaceable reign in which all will live with you eternally; through the Risen One, Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

The Blessing of the Animals

Presider It is the priestly work of all God's people to give thanks for God's blessings, to ask for and lend assistance to all in need, and to stretch our hands to heal and cherish the creatures of God; this is our work of blessing.

Recognizing God's love for these creatures, I invite you to bring forward the animals entrusted to your care, one by one, and to join me in the laying on of hands in prayer.

The animals are blessed individually by name by the Priests.

Presider Let us pray.

People **God of manifold blessings, source of all that is good and true and holy: Raise us up to see the world through your eyes, so that with the eyes of our hearts enlightened, we may treasure each creature touched by your creative hand. May your bountiful blessing be upon us all, Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, now and for ever. Amen.**

Peace

The people stand as able

Presider The peace of the Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Announcements and Celebrations

Seated

Birthday Collect

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through, Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Holy Communion

During the offertory, please consider the gifts God has given you, and give generously. Your gift will help us continue vital ministries. Our online giving works well, as does our text to give option. Please use this link for online giving.

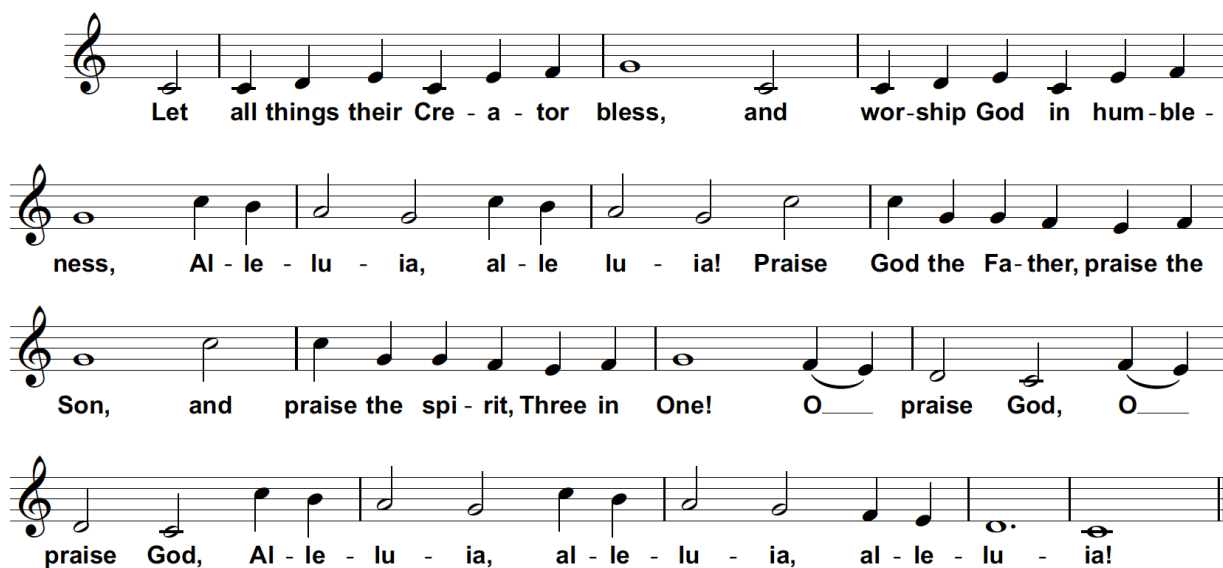
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Offertory: Bless the beasts and the children

Sebastian Temple

Presentation Verse: All creatures of our God and King

Lasst uns erfreuen



Let all things their Cre - a - tor bless, and wor-ship God in hum-ble -

ness, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le lu - ia! Praise God the Fa-ther, praise the

Son, and praise the spi - rit, Three in One! O — praise God, O —

praise God, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.

Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer C

The people remain standing.

Presider God be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Presider continues

God of all power, Source and Sustainer of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise. **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

At your command all things came to be: shining light and enfolding dark; the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, and the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home. **By your will they were created and have their being.**

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with the capacity for memory, reason, and skill. You made us the stewards of your creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another. **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your eternal Word, born of your servant Mary, to fulfill your Law, opening for us the way of freedom and peace. **By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus

S-129
Robert Powell

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.

The People stand or kneel as the prayer continues

Blessed are you, Lord our God, for sending us Jesus, the Christ, who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death, took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, 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."

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "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. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving, **We celebrate Christ's death and resurrection as we await the day of his coming.**

Therefore, O God, we who have been redeemed by Jesus Christ, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Savior.

Sanctify us also, and let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name. **Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

God of our ancestors; Redeemer and Mother of Israel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only and not for strength; for pardon only and not for renewal.

Accept these prayers and praises, Almighty God, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

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

People and Presider

**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.

Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem:

S 155

Gerald Near

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

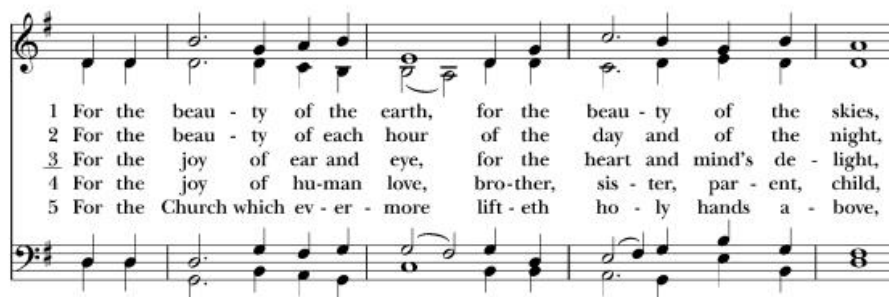
All who seek God and are drawn to God through Christ are welcome to receive communion. If for any reason you do not desire to receive communion, you may come to the altar rail and cross your arms over your chest to receive a blessing. If you need gluten-free bread, please ask the priest giving out bread. You are welcome to receive both bread and wine, or just bread. Christ is fully present in both or either the bread and wine.

Music during Communion: Andante: from concerto in G, Vivaldi

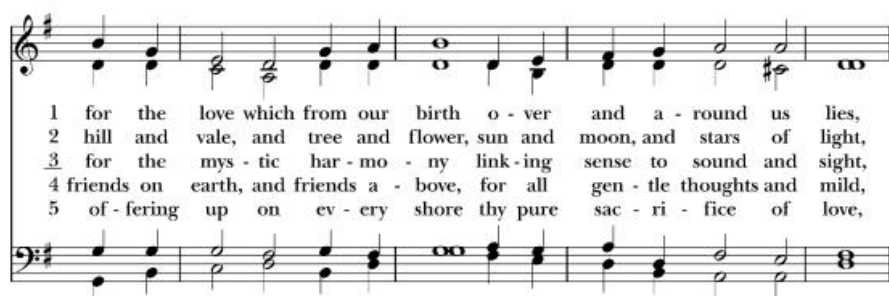
Communion Hymn: *For the Beauty of the Earth*

Hymnal 416

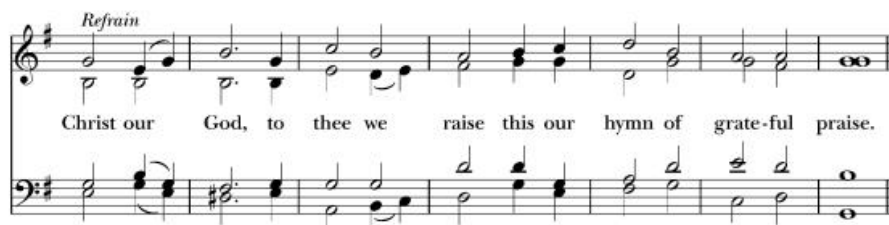
Lucerna Laudoniae



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
 2 For the beau - ty of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
 4 For the joy of hu-man love, bro-ther, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
 5 For the Church which ev - er - more lift - eth ho - ly hands a - bove,



1 for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies,
 2 hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
 3 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight,
 4 friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild,
 5 of - fering up on ev - ery shore thy pure sac - ri - fice of love,



Refrain
 Christ our God, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

6 For each perfect gift of thine
 to the world so freely given,
 faith and hope and love divine,
 peace on earth and joy in heaven,

Refrain

Eucharistic Visitors may be commissioned

Postcommunion Prayer

Presider Let us pray.

Presider and People say the prayer attributed to St. Francis

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

The Blessing

Closing Hymn: *All things bright and beautiful*

Royal Oak

Refrain



All things bright and beau - ti - ful, All crea-tures great and small,



All things wise and won - der - ful, the Lord God made them all.

Verses



1. Each lit - tle flow'r that o - pens, Each lit - tle bird that sings, God
2. The pur - ple-head - ed moun-tain, The riv - er run - ning by, The
3. The cold wind in the win - ter, The pleas ant sum-mer sun, The
4. God gave us eyes to see them, And lips that we might tell How



made their glow - ing col - ors, God made their ti - ny wings.
sun - set and the morn - ing that bright-ens up the sky.
ripe fruits in the gar - den, God made them ev - 'ry one.
great is God Al - might - y, Who has made all things well.

Dismissal

The Deacon says the dismissal, and then the people say:

People Thanks be to God.