

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 2026

THE HOLY EUCHARIST (RITE II) WITH PRAYERS FOR THE SEASON OF CREATION CARE

10:00 am



The Church of the Holy Spirit (Episcopal)
Knowing • Loving • Serving
God + Neighbor

*204 Monument Road
Orleans, Massachusetts 02653-3512
(508) 255-0433*

www.holyspiritorleans.org

As we prepare for worship, please make sure your cell phone is silenced.

The Word of God

The Prelude

Arietta

Alan Viner

Please stand as you are able as the bell is rung.

The Opening Hymn 601 O day of God, draw nigh in beauty

St. Michael

Celebrant Blessed be God: Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

The 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.

The Collect of the Day

People The Lord be with you.

Celebrant **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O God, you show your glory throughout your Creation, calling it very good: Grant us the fullness of your blessing, that we, stewarding your garden, may become partakers in your joy; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

A reading from the Prophet Ezekiel (18:1-4,25-32)

The word of the Lord came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, 'The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die. Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is unfair.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is unfair.' O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

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

Psalm 25:1-8 (*prayed responsively by whole verse.*)

Leader: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
 my God, I put my trust in you; *
 let me not be humiliated,
 nor let my enemies triumph over me.

**People: Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
 let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.**

Show me your ways, O Lord, *
 and teach me your paths.

**Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
 for you are the God of my salvation;
 in you have I trusted all the day long.**

Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, *
 for they are from everlasting.

**Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
 remember me according to your love
 and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.**

Gracious and upright is the Lord; *
 therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

**He guides the humble in doing right *
 and teaches his way to the lowly.**

A Reading from *Hope is Here! Spiritual Practices for Pursuing Justice & Beloved Community*
Luther Smith Jr.¹

I hear people's anxiety about the present and future state of the world... All this has led many to feel and say, "The times have never been this bad!" Although I understand how people come to this conclusion, I also know that every generation has faced crises that threatened to rip apart their personal, social, and political foundations... We insult our ancestors by exclaiming that we are overwhelmed and incapacitated because we live in the worst of times. This is our season! This is our time! We cannot use the increased complexity of our times and lives as an excuse to withdraw from our distinctive challenges. Every generation has dealt with confusing new realities that led to bewildering circumstances. Every generation has had the challenges and opportunities to embrace the work of hope. This is our time! This is our season! Hope is here to enliven us to life and the practices of justice and beloved community... Each one of us can be a sign of hope for this and future seasons.

¹ The Rev. Dr. Luther E. Smith Jr. is Professor Emeritus of Church and Community, Candler School of Theology, Emory University. He is the author and editor of influential books on Howard Thurman, Christian community, and spiritual practices.

Please stand as you are able for the sequence hymn and the reading of the gospel.

The Sequence Hymn WLP 779 The church of Christ in every age

Dunedin

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

Matthew 21:23-32

Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. “By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave you this authority?” Jesus replied, “I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. John’s baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or of human origin?” They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin’—we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We don’t know.” Then he said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. “What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’ “‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. “Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go. “Which of the two did what his father wanted?” “The first,” they answered. Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Nancy J. Hagner

Please stand as you are able for the Creed.

The Nicene Creed

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly 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, 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, who 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.

You may continue to stand or sit or kneel for the prayers as your personal piety guides you.

The Prayers of the People

From Honoring God in Creation

Blessed God, free us from anxiety and strengthen us to understand and engage the particular challenges of our time and place. We pray for all to whom you have given life and being, saying, “Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.”

For the well-being of the earth; for its resources of water, air, light, and soil, that they may be tended for the good of all creatures, we pray: **Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.**

For the waters of the earth; for their careful use and conservation, that we may have the will and the ability to keep them clean and pure, we pray: **Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.**

For the mineral and energy resources of the planet, that we may learn sustainable consumption and sound care of the environment from which they come, we pray: **Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.**

For the animals of the earth, wild and domestic, large and very small, that they may know the harmony of relationship that sustains all life, we pray: **Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.**

For the creatures of the earth who do us harm and those whose place in your creation we do not understand or welcome, that we may see them as beloved creatures of God, we pray: **Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.**

For all who shape public policies affecting the planet and its creatures, may they consider wisely the well-being of all who come after us, we pray: **Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.**

For all those engaged in conservation, in agriculture and ranching, in aquaculture and fishing, in mining and industry, and in forestry and timber-harvesting, that the health, fruitfulness, and beauty of the natural world may be sustained alongside human activity, we pray: **Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.**

For the creatures and the human beings of your world who are ill, or in danger, pain, or special need especially Terese Brown, Maureen Cardenas, the Gallahue family, Joanne Gamble, Joan, Andrew Payne, Pam Soderholm, Barbara and Philip Sousa, Dottie Walsh, Alex, Bob, Carole, Cathi, Charlie, Dave, Kristy, Lauren, Pat, Rachel and Sally and those we name before you now. (PAUSE) For all who suffer from the unjust, violent, or wasteful use of the earth's resources or their devastation by war, that all may one day live in communities of justice and peace, we pray: **Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.**

For the creatures and the people of the earth whose lives and deaths have contributed to the fruitful abundance of this planet. We remember before you those who have died. (PAUSE).
Merciful God, keep your planet and people in peace.

The Concluding Collect

Gracious God: Grant that your people may have in them the same mind that was in Jesus Christ, and guide us into harmony of relationship and the wise use of all that you have given; for you draw all things into communion with you and with each other by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

Please stand as you are able.

The Absolution

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

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

The Greeting and Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

God is Seen

Southern Harmony tune, arr. K.K.Davis

Through all the world below, God is seen all around.
Search the hills and valleys through, there he's found.
The growing of the corn, the lily and the thorn,
The pleasant and forlorn all declare, "God is there."
In the meadow dressed in green, there he's seen.
See, springs of water rise, fountains flow, rivers run.
The mist below the skies hides the sun.
Then down the rain doth pour, the ocean it doth roar,
And dash against the shore, all to praise, in their lays,
The God that never declines his designs.
The sun, to my surprise, speaks of God as he flies,
The comets in their blaze give him praise,
The shining of the stars, the moon as it appears,
His sacred name declares. See them shine, all divine.
All Nature's works declare God is there.

Please stand as you are able.

The Offertory Hymn 705 As those of old their first fruits brought

Forest Green

1 As those of old their first fruits brought of vine-yard, flock, and
field to God, the giv - er of all good, the
source of bount-eous yield; so we to - day our
first fruits bring, the wealth of this good land, of
farm and mar - ket, shop and home, of mind, and heart, and hand.

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord.

People **And of thine own have we given thee. Amen.**

Celebrant We ask your blessing today on the ministry of the Lower Cape Outreach Council, on the food donated to their pantry in recent weeks by the members of our parish, and on our neighbors it will nourish. Keep us ever hungry for justice.

People **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Enriching Our Worship, Prayer I

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 our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

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

Sanctus S 129

Powell

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and

might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est._____

You may remain standing, kneel or sit for the remainder of the Eucharistic prayer as your personal piety guides you.

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 in remembrance of me."*

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all 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 bread and this wine. 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 all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name forever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, forever and ever. **AMEN.**

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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

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

Agnus Dei S 161

Hurd

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

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 Prayer for Spiritual Communion

We offer the following prayer each week in solidarity with those viewing from home.

Holy Jesus, Redeemer of the World, we believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament of this altar. Even while some of us are unable to receive you in the elements of bread and wine, we invite you to enter our hearts and be our companion along the way. Waiting in hope, we know that you are present in every moment of our lives and will never leave us comfortless. For all good things come from you O Lord, and from that goodness, lead us to the love of others. For you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit now and forever. Amen.

All are welcome to receive the bread and/or the wine. You may stand or kneel to receive. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are also available; simply make your needs known to the person serving you. If you wish a blessing instead of the elements, cross your arms over your chest as the priest approaches you.

The Communion Hymns

Hymn 339 Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness

Schmücke dich

Hymn 554 'Tis the gift to be simple

Simple Gifts

Please stand as you are able.

The Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

Creator of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Sending *(when lay eucharistic visitors are scheduled to make home or hospital visits)*

Celebrant: In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

People: **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread and the one cup.**

The Blessing²

Go out into the world rejoicing, and encounter the Creator who waits to meet you there; Savor the earth's richness and diversity and live as those who praise God for its bounty; and the blessing of the God, the Eternal Creator, the Risen Christ and the Promised Holy Spirit bless you, and may you be a blessing to others today and always. **Amen.**

² from Green Anglican's *Season of Creation 2024: To Act and Hope with Creation*, page ix.

The Closing Hymn WLP 782 (*green hymnal*) **Gracious Spirit, give your servant** *Abbot's Leigh*

The Dismissal

People Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Postlude

Intrada

John Marsh

Celebrant

The Rev. Patrick C. Ward

Preacher

The Rev. Nancy J. Hagner

Music Director

Joan Kirchner

Eucharistic Ministers

Sue Sasso, Brian Ridgeway

Readers

Earle Bailey, Sarah Gregory, Raven Thompson

Ushers

Raven Thompson, Tom Faulkner

Altar Guild

Jean Gatzkiewicz

Altar Flower Guild

Roger Lovejoy

Audio/Video

Brenda Ridgeway

All music copyrighted under license One License.net #A-709079

*To connect to our Hearing Assist system via blue tooth, please see the instructions below.



Please connect to: "CHS_Hearing" and the
Password is: CHSOrleans. This is a case sensitive password.