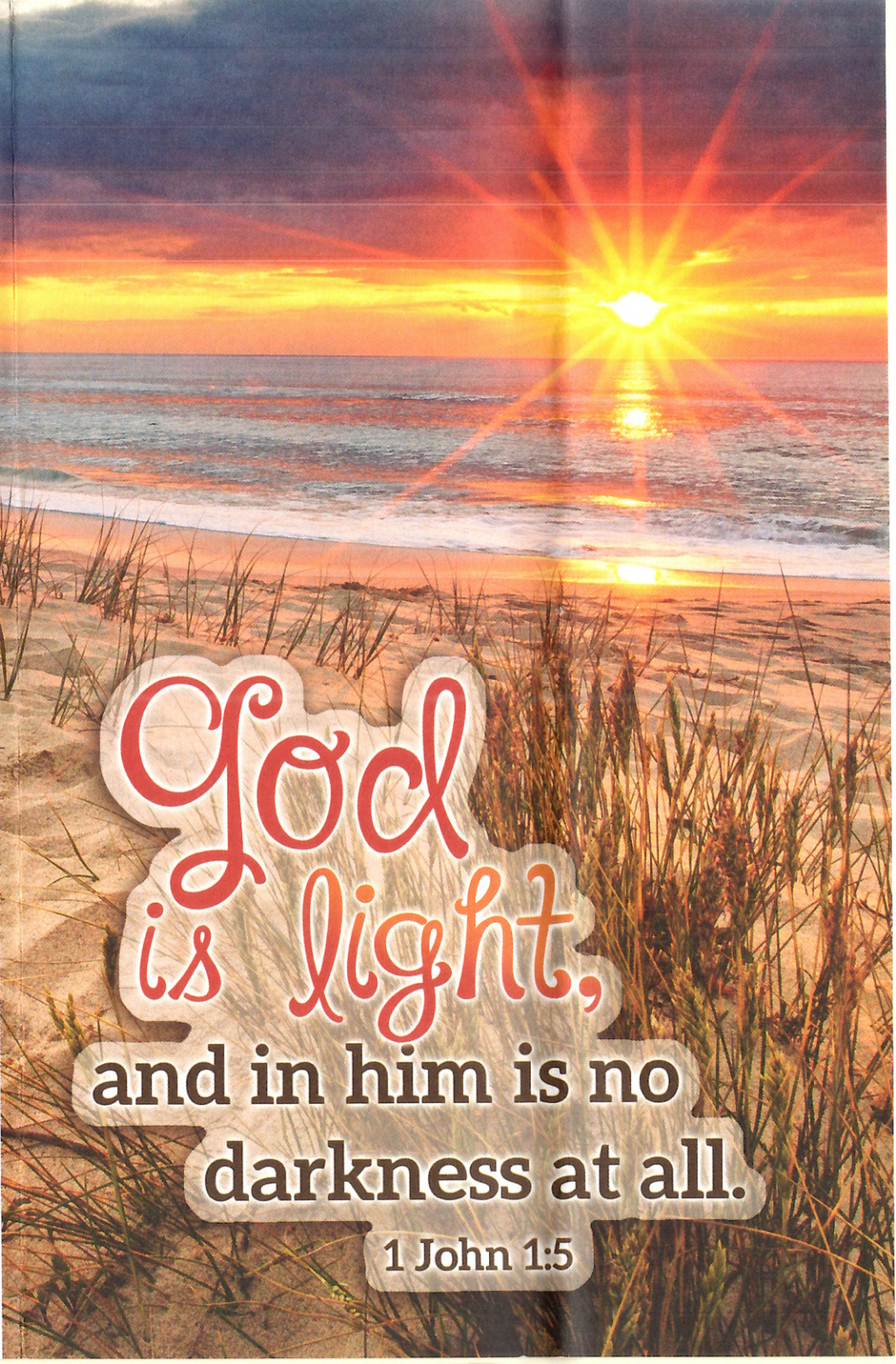

God is light,
and in him is no darkness at all.
1 John 1:5

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

(Serving the Tuskegee Community since 1912)

Priest-in-Charge: The Rev. H. Mawande Mzongwana

701 West Montgomery Road

Tuskegee, Alabama 36088

Phone: 334-727-3210 ***www.standrewstuskegee.com***

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Proper 27) **November 8, 2026**

MORNING PRAYER – RITE II

Self-Guided Prayer

		HYMNAL / PRAYER BOOK
	Musical Prelude:	
	Opening Hymn:	
	THE WORD OF GOD	**76**
	Opening Sentences	
	General Confession & Absolution	**79**
	THE LITURGY OF THE WORD	
**	The Collect of the Day	**355**
**	The First Reading: Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16	
**	Psalm: 70	
**	The Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	
	Sequence Hymn:	
**	**THE GOSPEL Matthew 25:1-13**	
	THE MEDITATION	
	www.episcopalchurch.org/sermons	
	The Apostles' Creed	**96**
	The Prayers	**97**
	Suffrage "A"	**97**
	Collect for Sundays	**100**
	Collect for Grace	**100**
	Collect for Guidance	

** *Refer to Insert in Bulletin*

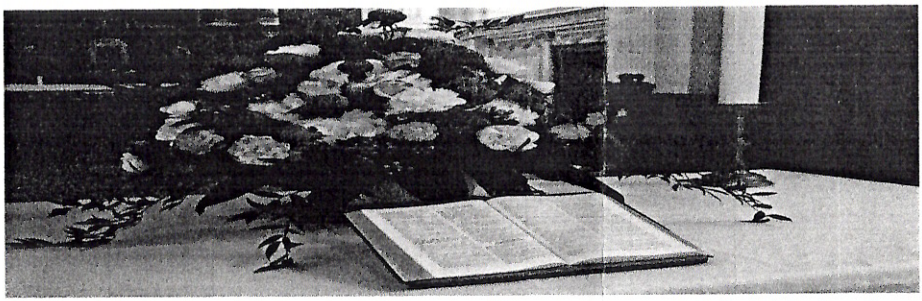
OFFERTORY

Presentation: Doxology: *Praise God From Whom all Blessings Flow*

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING	**101**
A Prayer of Chrysostom)	**101**
Versicle and Response	**102**
Closing Sentence and Scripture	**102**

ANNOUNCEMENTS (See inside Bulletin)

Closing Hymn:
The Dismissal



FELLOWSHIP HOUR

The Christian Gathering continues after this service with fellowship and refreshments in the undercroft.

PLEASE JOIN US!!!!!!

November 15 - A Parishioner

24 PENTECOST

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 27

Revised Common Lectionary
TRACK TWO

Sunday, November 8, 2026

COLLECT

Traditional

O GOD, whose blessed Son was manifested that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant us, we beseech thee, that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that, when he shall appear again with power and great glory, we may be made like unto him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where with thee, O Father, and thee, O Holy Ghost, he liveth and reigneth ever, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

Contemporary

O GOD, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

FIRST READING: Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16

WISDOM IS RADIANT and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her, and is found by those who seek her. She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her. One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty, for she will be found sitting at the gate. To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding, and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care, because she goes about seeking those worthy of her, and she graciously appears to them in their paths, and meets them in every thought.

or

Amos 5:18-24

ALAS FOR YOU who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the LORD? It is darkness, not light; as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Refrain

The love of wisdom is the keeping of her laws.

Canticle: Wisdom 6:17-20

The beginning of wisdom is the most sincere
desire for instruction, *
and concern for instruction is love of her,
and love of her is the keeping of her laws, *
and giving heed to her laws is assurance of
immortality,
and immortality *
brings one near to God,
so the desire for wisdom *
leads to a kingdom.

or

Refrain

O Lord, make haste to help me.

Psalm 70 from the Book of Common Prayer

1 Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; * O LORD, make haste to help me.

2 Let those who seek my life be ashamed and altogether dismayed; * let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.

3 Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back, * because they are ashamed.

4 Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; * let those who love your salvation say for ever, "Great is the LORD!"

5 But as for me, I am poor and needy; * come to me speedily, O God.

6 You are my helper and my deliverer; * O LORD, do not tarry.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

WE DO NOT WANT you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13

JESUS SAID, "The kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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CHURCH PUBLISHING INCORPORATED

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR THE WEEK:

Monday, November 9, 2026

Tuesday, November 10, 2026

Wednesday, November 11, 2026 (Veterans Day)

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Thursday, November 12, 2026

Friday, November 13, 2026

Saturday, November 14, 2026
10 am- Church Audit (Koexco)

Sunday, November 15, 2026

11 a.m. - Morning Prayer, in-person

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

November
8 – Lewis Bland
9 – James C.B. Samuel
9 – Leslie T. Williams
18 – Harriette J. Thompson
28 – Romello Patton
30 - Taylor Kelly

NEWS FROM AROUT THE EPISCOPAL & ANGLICAN DIOCESES

November 16-19, 2026, **'Magnify, A Women's Justice Retreat.' Alabama represents not only struggles but also the powerful witness of unsung saints. Join this group meeting at Camp McDowell, Nauvoo, AL, registration is available online a dioala.org**

196th Diocesan Convention, *January 28-30, 2027*, Birmingham, AL. St. Andrew's 2027 Delegates are: Jolai Jenkins, Charlotte Marbory, and Alternate: Debra Gunn. Thank you all for volunteering.

******

T.U. NEWS/EVENTS (www.tuskegee.edu)
November 1-8, 2026 – **Homecoming Week**
Celebrate safely!

COMMUNITY EVENTS (Auburn, Montgomery, Tuskegee)
Harriott II Riverboat Cruises, Montgomery, Friday Night Dinner Cruises, Saturday Getaway Cruise and Sunday Evening Blues Cruise – until November 28, 2026.

August Wilson's 'Fences,' October 29-November 15, 2026, at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Montgomery.

2026 Football Schedule – Tuskegee U.
November 7 – Homecoming, T.U. vs Miles, 2:30 pm, HOME
November 26 – Turkey Day Game, T.U. vs Alabama State U., Cramton Bowl, Montgomery
2026 Football Schedule – Auburn U.
November 7, Auburn vs Arkansas, 11 am, HOME
November 21 – Auburn vs Samford, 2:30 pm, HOME
November 28 – Iron Bowl, Auburn vs Alabama, Tuscaloosa

PRAYER LIST

CHRISTINA ANDERSON

STEPHANIE BOSWELL

THOMASINE BRAYE
THOMAS BRAYE*
JAMES BRAYE
REBECCA LYN CARTER
CURT CARTER, SR*

CHARLES M. CRANK, II
PRESTON CRAYTON

LUCENIA DUNN*
SHANNON DIXON
TEDDY DOWDY*

ANITRA FULLER
ROBERT FRAZIER

MARGARET 'KATIE' JONES
THERON JONES

DIANE KENNEY*
JULIUS MYHAND. JR.

MARIAN GARMON*

MARIO LIGHTFOOTE*

DAVID NGAWA**
MARTHA OSGERBY
ANNA C. OWENS
CLEMENT SCOTT
TUNESHA SMITH
ANGELICA SNOWDEN
YOLANDA P. SEAWRIGHT
DARRYL SEAWRIGHT
BRENDA D. ROBINSON*
JENNIFER REAUGH
LIONEL B. RICHIE
LISA TECZAR
CHARLES THOMPSON**

E. DRAKE WHITELAW

*Local Parishioners
** Shut-In Parishioners

THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

We pray for our Companion Diocese of Honduras and their bishop, Lloyd; The Commission on Aging and those who work to serve those communities; Habitat for Humanity and all programs for the promotion of safe and affordable housing for low-income persons.

ANNOUNCEMENTS!!

- **ARMED FORCES: Please pray for our service men and women stationed in the U.S. and overseas, especially, Sam and Margaret Gunn Bunton, Shavone Marbory Hogan, and Elijah Barber.**
- **PRAYERS: Continue to pray for those on the Prayer List, friends, family and all humankind afflicted by disease, war and famine. Pray for peace!**
- **REMINDER: Please continue to furnish our Food Basket with non-perishable food items (located on the ground floor of the Education Building).**
- **REMINDER: The link for the Sunday ZOOM Companion service can be reached by dialing: 1-312-626-6799, Meeting ID: 882 671 9532, Passcode: 008810 or click on your email invite. The *next in-person service will be on Sunday, November 15, 2026.***
- **NEW: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Greenwood Missionary Baptist Church and Tuskegee University will join together to participate in *Samaritan Purse Shoebox Ministry*. You can fill a shoebox with toys, toiletries, or clothing for a boy or girl. Gift-filled shoeboxes will be shipped around the world to children in need with the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Financial donations are accepted. Collection week is November 16-23, 2026. Please contact Denise Dixon for additional information.**

Veterans Day Prayer
Dear Lord, we thank You for the brave men and women who have served our country. Protect those currently serving. Heal all wounds, visible and invisible. Comfort the families of veterans, especially those who have lost loved ones. Guide our leaders with wisdom and let peace reign. In Jesus' name. AMEN

Additional announcements are listed inside the bulletin.

SERMONS THAT WORK

Proper 27 (A)

Be Prepared to Wait
[RCL] Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78:1-7; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

At first listen, this parable sounds like something any Scout or guide could have told us: Always be prepared. Plan ahead. Bring enough oil. Keep extra batteries on hand. Know where the candles and matches are before the power goes out. Be prepared.

As good as that advice is, there's more to it than that. It's not just, "Always be prepared," but "Be prepared to wait." And not just, "Be prepared to wait," but "Be prepared to wait for the Lord."

How are you at waiting?

It can be hard to wait. "Your call is important to us. Please continue to hold." "Take a number and have a seat until you are called." "If you haven't received your test results in two weeks, contact our office." "The next available appointment is in six months." Has your blood pressure just gone up? People who study these things say in North America, as opposed to other places in the world, we tend to see time as our own individual possession and our scarcest resource. If time is passing and we're not producing something, we're wasting time. If we aren't getting something valuable in exchange for the time we're spending, then someone is wasting our time. We are afraid of pauses, unexpected interruptions to our plans, and boredom. People can tell us that some things just take time, that there are things you can't rush, that a caterpillar needs time in its cocoon to become a butterfly, and we can nod. Sure. That's nice, but we are more complicated than caterpillars and they don't have better things to do or a choice in the matter.

We're not always good at waiting.

The parable Jesus tells is about a wedding feast and waiting.

In Jesus' day, a wedding ceremony would usually be held in the bride's family home. The wedding feast afterward would be held in the groom's family home and would start at night. It lasted about a week, not just one night, so a lot of preparation had to be done.

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When the feast was set to begin, the groom would come get his bride, and together they would walk to the wedding banquet with the bridesmaids, who had one job: accompany the bride and groom to the banquet, holding lamps to light the way for them to walk to the feast. That's it. Provide the light. Remember, in those days, there are no streetlights, there is no electricity, no headlights. These lamp-bearing bridesmaids aren't decorative. They have just one job, but it's important: bring the light. Get the bride and the groom safely through the dark and to the big feast.

Except, in the parable, only half of the bridesmaids were prepared to wait for the bridegroom. The other five weren't. So, when the moment comes, they're off at the all-night oil store trying to get a refill for their lamps. Eventually, they do, but by the time they arrive, the party has started, the door has been locked, and for those five bridesmaids, it's a case of too little, too late.

In church tradition and biblical language, the bridegroom is a symbol of Christ, and the bridegroom's arrival, a symbol of the Second Coming of Christ, when he will bring the faithful to the heavenly banquet, a great feast, a party that will last not just a week, but for eternity.

We're still waiting for the arrival of the bridegroom. Whether we're waiting for the Second Coming of the Lord, waiting to meet our Lord when we die, waiting for the Lord to come to us with the help we need, the answer we're praying for, the comfort we're looking for, we are still waiting. How are you at waiting?

Sometimes we have the tendency to treat God like the attendant at a fast-food drive-through:

Lord, I'll take two breakfast sandwiches with bacon, a medium coffee, and some of those delicious fries.

Thank you for your order, says the Lord. Would you like cream with your coffee?

Oh, yeah, that would be nice.

Great. And because I am the Lord, your order is free of charge. Please drive around.

It doesn't work that way, does it?

Be prepared to wait, says the Lord.

We don't like waiting, but God promises us blessings even as we wait. We hear in Lamentations 3:25, "The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him." God says in Isaiah 40:31, "Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."

Waiting is not doing nothing, and having to wait for the Lord doesn't mean the Lord is doing nothing. We can wait, trusting that God is always doing something. God is not helping another customer while we

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languish in line. God is at always at work, doing "far more than we can ask or imagine," according to Ephesians 3:20. We hear the whole verse in Morning and Evening Prayer. "Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine." *Whose power, working in us!* We get to participate in what God is already doing, the purposes of God that are already underway. We can be ready, like wise bridesmaids with our one job of bringing the light, or we can be fools, untrusting, unaware, unprepared to do our part.

We may need to wait in order to become aware of what God is doing. We may have to wait through the dark night, or many dark nights, while God is preparing the feast for us, preparing to greet us, to welcome us, to say, "Here I am, let's go into the feast together."

Waiting doesn't mean inactivity. Having oil at the ready, being prepared, comes from doing what we're told to do, being obedient to God, being formed by God's power at work in us. So, how do we keep this oil on hand? By some practices and disciplines that are the same for all of us—prayer, reading the Scriptures, sharing fellowship and worship with other Christians, caring for people and the planet. And some of it's probably a specialty oil blend: it's spending time with family, it's looking at nature's beauty, it's listening to or making music, it's knitting, it's marching, it's writing, it's baking, it's building. It's using what God gives us to keep us going, to recharge, to stay connected with God and God's love.

And yes, it can run out. It does if we don't refill and refuel. You know this. If you don't have a conversation with your spouse that isn't about paying the bills or scheduling car maintenance, your marriage is going to get pretty dry. If you don't spend time with your friends and children and grandchildren, you'll become strangers. If you don't know some words of worship and scripture so well they become part of your bones, then someday you're going to be sitting alone with nothing to draw on when your own words fail.

Do you see why the wise bridesmaids can't just share their oil? Yes, sharing is a Christian virtue, but some things just don't work that way. Your friend has a marvelous marriage. There's no way to borrow some of that. Another has a vibrant and sustaining prayer life. Yes, she can pray for you, but she can't take your place in a friendship with God. You can be influenced or inspired by someone else's peace of mind and confident trust in the Lord, but they can't just give you some of theirs. We have to get that oil for ourselves.

And yes, as much as we don't like it, time does run out. You can't say forever, "Someday I'll spend time with my children, my spouse." "Someday I'll get back to church, back to reading the Bible, back to praying." "Someday I'll stand outside and breathe deeply and say a prayer of thanks to God." "Someday I'll make that phone call, write that letter, make that donation, roll up my sleeves, and help." Or, really, we can say it all we want, but someday, there will be a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!"

There is such a thing as too little, too late. We don't like it, but there it is.

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But here is the good news: we're still here. We're still here, hearing this parable. It is not too late. And remember, it's a party Jesus wants to take us to. He's preparing a great feast for us. Whether it's the great banquet feast of heaven, or the smaller celebrations of spending time with our Lord all along the journey there, we don't want to miss it. And more good news: Jesus is not just the thrower of the party. He's not just the bridegroom. He's the oil dealer too, ready to fill your flask. Just ask. For yourself.

The Rev. Dr. Amy Richter *is an Episcopal priest, currently living in Mont-Tremblant, Quebec, Canada. She is the author and editor of several books, including* Common Prayer: Reflections on Episcopal Worship *and* Saving Words: 20 Redemptive Words Worth Rescuing*, published by Cascade.*

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