Good Shepherd

Episcopal Church and School



The Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

The Holy Eucharist

Rite Two

November 15, 2026 ◆ 10:00 a.m.

Mission

We exist to be a beacon of faith, hope, and love.

Vision

We are a vibrant, spiritual, and educational community,
radiating God's love for everyone, everywhere.

We Have a Place for You

We are so glad you're here. Whether you're visiting for the first time or returning after some time away, we all belong in God's community. We'd love to get to know you better and stay connected! Please scan the QR code below to share your information with us. It's a simple way for us to welcome you personally, answer any questions, and let you know about upcoming events. You are always welcome here—just as you are.

Welcome Families with Children

Jesus welcomed children and so do we. We don't mind wiggles and noise, but if you would prefer a quiet room when infants become fussy, one is located off the lobby. A window and sound system allow families to see and hear the service. Nursery care for children under three is available in the Ryon Building (office) for the 10 a.m. service and is well-staffed by caring adults. For children in preschool through 5th grade, Sunday School is available at 10:00 in the Ryon Building. Children join their families in church mid-service for communion. Be sure to ask the greeters for directions or help.

The Season After Pentecost

The season after Pentecost extends from the Monday after Pentecost Sunday until the Saturday before the First Sunday of Advent. The first Sunday of this season is Trinity Sunday, and the last Sunday is Christ the King Sunday. It may include as many as twenty-eight Sundays, depending on the date of Easter. It may be referred to as the "green season," because green is the usual liturgical color for this period of the church year. This period is also understood by some as "ordinary time," a period of the church year not dedicated to a particular season or worship theme, but instead to the ordinary rhythms of daily life.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE

The people stand.

HYMN • 598 *Lord Christ, when first thou cam'st to earth*

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY *Prayed by Celebrant*

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.**

SONG OF PRAISE • S-236

Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers; you are worthy of praise; glory to you.
Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name;
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Glory to you in the splendor of your temple; on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.
Glory to you, seated between the cherubim;
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Glory to you, beholding the depths; in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.
Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The people are seated.

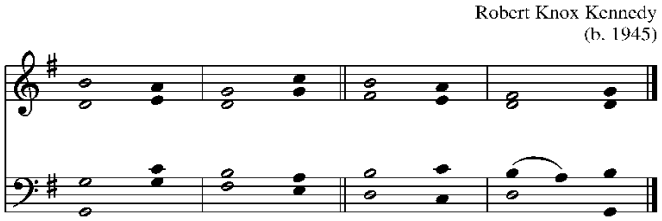
THE READINGS

THE FIRST READING — JUDGES 4:1-7

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, after Ehud died. So the LORD sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years. At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, "The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you, 'Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.'"

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

PSALM 123 *Sung by all*



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1 To you I lift up my / eyes, *
to you enthroned in the / heavens.

2 As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their / masters, *
and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her / mistress,

3 So our eyes look to the LORD our / God, *
until he shows us his / mercy.

4 Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have / mercy, *
for we have had more than enough of con / tempt,

5 Too much of the scorn of the indolent / rich, *
and of the derision of the / proud.

THE SECOND READING — 1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but

for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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

HYMN • 574 *Before thy throne, O God, we kneel*

THE HOLY GOSPEL MATTHEW 25:14-30

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

Jesus said, "It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

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

THE SERMON

The Rev. James B. Cook

A moment of quiet reflection will follow the sermon.

The people stand.

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:
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 Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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 FOR THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

God has placed into our hands more than we can measure, and entrusted us with a world still becoming. Let us pray for the courage to live generously with all we have received saying, "Generous God, **make us bold in love."**

Where your Church has grown comfortable with what is familiar, disturb us with the possibilities of your kingdom. Give us courage to risk something for the sake of the Gospel, trusting that love grows when it is put to work. Generous God,
make us bold in love.

Look upon a world where so much is held by so few, and where fear too often shapes the decisions of those in power. Awaken in our leaders a sense of sacred responsibility for the lives entrusted to their care. Generous God,
make us bold in love.

Here at Good Shepherd, we stand at the threshold of another year, imagining what might yet become possible. As we consider our gifts, free us from the fear of not having enough, and let our generosity become an act of hope in the future you are preparing. Generous God,
make us bold in love.

Somewhere within each of us lies a gift we have been afraid to offer, a possibility we have quietly buried. Stir us from the safety of holding back, and remind us that life becomes richer when we dare to give ourselves away. Generous God,
make us bold in love.

Draw close to those whose strength has been diminished by illness, grief, or the weight of living, especially those we name before you now. When they feel they have nothing left to give, let them rest in the knowledge that their worth has never depended on what they can produce. Generous God,
make us bold in love.

We carry within us the lives of those who have gone before especially Beth Armour, whose generosity still bears fruit in ways they may never have imagined. Receive them into the joy of your presence, and let the goodness they set in motion continue to grow among us. Generous God,
make us bold in love.

Let us now pray for our own parish family.

Almighty and everlasting God, make our parish of Good Shepherd truly a community of prayer and belonging. Raise up in our midst the resources and leadership which will enable us to act upon what you would have us do, in this place and in a ministry of love and concern for others. ***Open my mind and heart to discern what you would have me do*****; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

CONCLUDING COLLECT *Prayed by Celebrant*

God of abundance, you have entrusted us with more than we can measure, yet fear so easily makes us suspicious of the very generosity that sustains us. When we begin to see you as demanding rather than giving, restore our trust. Free us from the fear that turns gifts into burdens and relationships into transactions. Draw us again into the joy of belonging to you, that we may offer ourselves freely and discover how much life becomes possible when love, rather than fear, leads the way; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

ABSOLUTION *prayed by the Celebrant*

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

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

The people greet one another with a sign of God's peace and then are seated.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING OF BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Celebrant and People
O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on these 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 life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant
And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon you as you celebrate your birthday or wedding anniversary this week, and always. **Amen.**

THE OFFERING

Celebrant O Lord our God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power; because you have created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.

In the season after Pentecost, we live into the steady, Spirit-filled work of growing in faith and serving the world. Your offering helps Good Shepherd remain rooted in the love of Jesus Christ and responsive to the needs of our time. Giving is more than support; it's participation. It is how we join the slow, holy work of transformation that God is unfolding among us. Thank you for being part of this faithful, everyday miracle.

Scan to give now

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Lead On, Eternal Sovereign* *Holst*

DOXOLOGY • (blue Hymnal, 380 vs. 3)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Blessed are you, Lord of all seasons, who sows grace into ordinary days and brings forth holy fruit in due time. Receive these offerings, given in trust and love. In them we see signs of your goodness, and may they be tools of your mercy in a world that longs for healing. Bless those who give, and those who are drawn near by the generosity of others, that together we may grow day by day into the likeness of Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *(Prayer A)*

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 him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth …. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

SANCTUS (S-125)

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he 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 shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

People and Celebrant

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

The Celebrant breaks the bread followed by a moment of silence.

FRACTION ANTHEM *(S161)* *sung by all*

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

THE INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

You are invited to receive communion this morning, an ancient practice intended for all baptized Christians, no matter your tradition. You may receive just the bread (which is full participation in the sacrament), or both the bread and the wine. As an alternative to sipping directly from the cup, you are invited to receive by intinction and the priest will dip the bread in a separate chalice for you. To receive by intinction please fold your hands in front of you at the altar rail to indicate your preference. Gluten-free wafers are available; please make your need known to the minister. For those not receiving communion, you may also cross your arms over your chest for a blessing. If you would like special prayers for healing--whether it be physical, emotional, mental, or spiritual--members of the Healing Team are available to pray with you in the side chapel. Please notify an usher if you would like a Healing Team member to come to you.

MUSIC AT THE COMMUNION *Go Preach My Gospel* *Hastings/Watts*

Sung by the congregation *We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing* Hymn 433

SENDING FORTH EUCHARISTIC VISITORS *When scheduled*

Celebrant In the name of God and of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts to N., 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, because we all share one bread and one cup. Amen.**

All stand

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

May you be freed from the fear that makes you bury what was meant to flourish, and discover that God has entrusted you with life not as a test to be passed, but as a gift to be lived. Go with the courage to risk something for love, knowing that the God who calls you forward is not a master waiting for you to fail, but the One who delights in what you might become. And may the joy of that relationship make you bold enough to live generously in a world too often governed by fear.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

HYMN • 541 *Come, labor on*

THE SENDING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Priest Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Today's Servant Leaders

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev. James B. Cook
Acolyte Servers	Elliot Gouery, Wick Evans, Casey Grau
Verger	Heather Graham
Reader	Susan Bendlin
Intercessor	Mark Chittum
Eucharistic Ministers	Alex Serra-Wolfington, Sandy English, Larry Smith
Healing Ministers	Joan Engskow, Kate Gouery
Ushers	Peggy Greene, Jim Lanpher
Greeters	John English, Marilyn Lawrence
Vestry Host	Julie Hirsch
Choir	Ian Anderson, Peter Carras, Mark Chittum, Peggy Chittum, Jenna Hoefert, Emily Kane, Patrick Levitsky, Chantal Pontbriand, Gary Riggs, Loretta Smith, Debbie White, Bella Zayas
Organist	Timm C. Johnson-Reynolds
Sound/Livestream	Corby Steiner, Doug Kaplan
Altar Guild	Judy Collins
Coffee Hour	Valerie Hampe
Flower Delivery	Jennifer Johnson

Our Staff

The Rev. Dr. Sanford H. Groff, Jr., *Rector*
The Rev. James B. Cook, *Assisting Priest*
Timm C. Johnson-Reynolds, *Organist & Choir Director*
Heather Vaughn, *Head of School*
Jo Wood, *Director of Hospitality*
Debbie White, *Assistant Choir Director*
Lynn Evans, *Business Manager*
Michelle Lane, *Parish Admin & Dir. of Children's Ministries*
Beth Bohnsack, *Director of Youth Ministries*
Pam Steele-Unger, *Communications Manager & Asst. Thrift Store Manager*
Lisa Ellington, *Office Assistant*
Beth Long, *Thrift Store Manager*
Doug Kaplan, *Livestream Operator*
Corby Steiner, *Livestream Operator*
Yolanda Aquilar, *Custodian*
Laz Fernandez, *Sexton*
America Hernandez, *Nursery Attendant*
Alex Serra-Wolfington, *Seminarian*

Our Vestry

George Creel, *Sr. Warden*
Larry Smith, *Jr. Warden*
Mike Greene, *Treasurer*
Bowen Powers, *Youth Rep.*
Michelle Lane, *Clerk*
Dimitri Chimerakis
Alexa Chura
Ron Doucette
Quinn Foerch
Kate Gouery
Mike Grashof
Stephen Hendrickson
Julie Hirsch
Dale Smith
Janice Thomas

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