

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 13, 2026 ✦ 10:00 am

Celebrant and Preacher: The Rev. Jason Shelby

Deacon: The Rev. Celeste Stump



We warmly welcome you if you are here with us for the first time today. We joyfully welcome all people into our community without exception. Whoever you are, and whatever the status of your relationship with God, you will find fellow travelers here. Please join us for coffee and fellowship after the service.

St. Francis Episcopal Church welcomes all people to receive Holy Communion. If you have not been baptized but would like to be, please talk to Father Jason after the service.

Flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God by Dick Briggs and Sara Schulz in loving memory of Sara's parents, Fr. Smith and Mary.

Please take a moment to silence your cellphone. Thank you.

This Week at St. Francis

Sunday, September 13

Get Connected Sunday and Luncheon

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist (Rite I, Chapel)
- 9:10 am "Who is Jesus?" Formation Class
- 10:00 am Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

Tuesday, September 15

- 6:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting
- 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, September 16

- 10:00 am Healing Service
- 11:00 am Good Grief Group Meeting

Thursday, September 17

- 1:00 pm Quilting and Knitting Group

Friday, September 18

- 4:00 pm St. Luke's Breakfast Prep (Parish Kitchen)

Saturday, September 19

- 7:15 am St. Luke's Breakfast (St. Luke's Long Beach)

Sunday, September 20

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist (Rite I, Chapel)
- 10:00 am Holy Eucharist (Rite II)
- 5:30 pm Liturgy Lab

The Word of God

Please stand as able and join in singing.

The Processional Hymn

All Creatures of Our God and King

Hymnal #400



All crea - tures of our God and King, lift up your voic - es, let us
Great rush - ing winds and breez - es soft, you clouds that ride the heavens a -
Swift flow - ing wa - ter, pure and clear, make mus - ic for your Lord to
Let all things their cre - a - tor bless, and wor - ship him in hum - ble -

4
sing; Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Bright burn - ing sun with gold - en beams, pale
loft, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia, Fair ris - ing morn, with praise re - joice, stars
hear, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Fire, so in - tense and fierce - ly bright, you
ness, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God the Fa - ther, praisethe Son, and

9
sil - ver moon that gent - ly gleams, O — praise him, O — praise him, Al - le -
night - ly shin - ing, find a voice, —
give to us both warmth and light, —
praise the Spi - rit, Three in One: —

13
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Words: Francis of Assisi (1182-1226), tr. William H. Draper (1855-1933), alt. Music: "Lasst uns erfreuen," melody from "Auserlesene Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesang," 1623; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). By permission of Oxford University Press.

The Opening Acclamation

Celebrant

Blessed be God: ✙ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity

Celebrant

Almighty God,

People

**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 Gloria

Glory to God

WLP #900

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, — and peace to his peo-ple on earth. — Lord God, heav'n-ly King, al-
 13 might-y God and Fa-ther, — we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.
 25 Lord Je-sus Christ, — on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, — Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin
 40 of the world: have mer-cy on us; — you are seated at the right hand of the Fath-er: — re-ceive our prayer. — For
 56 you a - lone are the Ho-ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, — you a - lone are the most high, Je-sus Christ,
 70 with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, — in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A — 2 — men. —

Music: John Rutter. Copyright © Oxford University Press. "Wonder, Love, and Praise," #900. Used by permission OneLicense.net A-7091118

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Please be seated.

The First Lesson: Genesis 50:15-21

Reader A Reading from the book of Genesis.

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to

preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

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

The Response: Psalm 103:8-13

Reader Let us read from Psalm 103 responsively.



Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854); para. of Psalm 103:1-5.
Music: "St. Thomas (Williams)," melody Aaron Williams (1731-1776);
harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

- ⁸The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- ⁹He will not always accuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
- ¹⁰He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.....Refrain
- ¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
- ¹²As far as the east is from the west, *
so far has he removed our sins from us.
- ¹³As a father cares for his children, *
so does the LORD care for those who fear him.Refrain

The Second Lesson: Romans 14:1-12

Reader A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Rome.

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions.
²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,
 “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
 and every tongue shall give praise to God.”
¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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

Please stand as able and join in singing.

The Sequence Hymn

Come Down, O Love Divine

Hymnal #516



Come down, O Love di - vine, seek thou this soul of
 O let it free - ly burn, til earth - ly pas - sions
 And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will

mine, and vis - it it with thine own ar - dor glow - ing;
 turn to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;
 long, shall far out - pass the power of hu - man tell - ing;

O Com - fort - er, draw near, with - in my heart ap - pear, and
 and let thy glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight, and
 for none can guess its grace, till Love cre - ate a place where -

kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.
 clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.
 in the Ho - ly Spi - rit makes a dwell - ing.

Words: Bianco da Siena (d. 1434?); tr. Richard Frededrick Littledale (1833-1890), alt.
 Music: "Down Ampney," Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958); By permission of Oxford University Press.

Please remain standing as able.

The Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

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

²¹Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

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

Please be seated.

The Sermon

The Rev. Jason Shelby

There will be a moment of silence for reflection following the sermon.

Please stand as able and join in saying the Nicene Creed.

The Nicene Creed

All **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, 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.

Please remain standing as able.

The Prayers of the People: Form V (the People read the responses in **bold**)

Deacon Almighty God, we pray for your holy catholic Church;

All **That we all may be one.**

Deacon Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

All **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

Deacon We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

All **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

Deacon We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

All **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Deacon Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

All **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Deacon Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

All **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Deacon Give to the departed eternal rest;

All **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Deacon We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

All **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Deacon Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions.

Celebrant Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Please kneel or sit as able.

The Confession of Sin

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

All **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.**

The Absolution

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.**

Please stand as able.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Ministers and People exchange signs of peace in the name of the Lord.

Please be seated.

The Welcome and Announcements

Anyone who has a birthday or anniversary in the next week is invited to come forward for a blessing:

All **Watch over your child(ren), O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may the peace which passes all understanding abide all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Holy Communion

The Offertory Sentence

Celebrant Walk in love as Christ loves us, bring offerings of praise and thanksgiving to his table.

The Offertory Anthem

The Gift of Love, American folk tune, arr. Hal Hopson

St. Francis Choir

*Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire,
And have not love; my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.*

*Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,
But not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.
Come, spirit come, our hearts control. Let inward love guide every deed.
By this we worship and are freed. Amen, Amen, Amen.*

The Offertory Hymn

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

Hymnal #674

The musical score is written on a single staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of three systems of music with lyrics underneath. The first system starts with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The second system begins with a measure rest marked '3'. The third system begins with a measure rest marked '7'. The lyrics are: "For - give our sins as we for - give" you / How can your par - don reach and bless the / Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls, and / taught us, Lord, to pray; but you a - lone can grant us grace to / un - for - giv - ing heart that broods on wrongs and will not let old / bid re - sent - ment cease; then, rec - on - ciled to God and man, our / live the words we say. / bit - ter - ness de - part? / lives will spread your peace.

Words: Rosamond E. Herklots (1905-1987); by permission of Oxford University Press.
Music: "Detroit," from "Supplement to Kentucky Harmony," acc. Margaret W. Mealy (b. 1922).

Please stand as able.



Online Giving

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The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer B)

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 right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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:

The Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord

WLP #858

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

4 might, — heaven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in — the

8 high - est. Bless - ed — is he who comes in the name of the

12 Lord. — Ho - san - na in — the high - est. Ho - san - na in — the

16 high - est.

American folk melody; arr. Marcia Pruner; harm. Annabel Morris Buchanan (1889-1983);
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Please kneel or stand as able as the Celebrant continues.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you

sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

All **We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. Francis and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.*

The Lord's Prayer

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

All **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, forever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

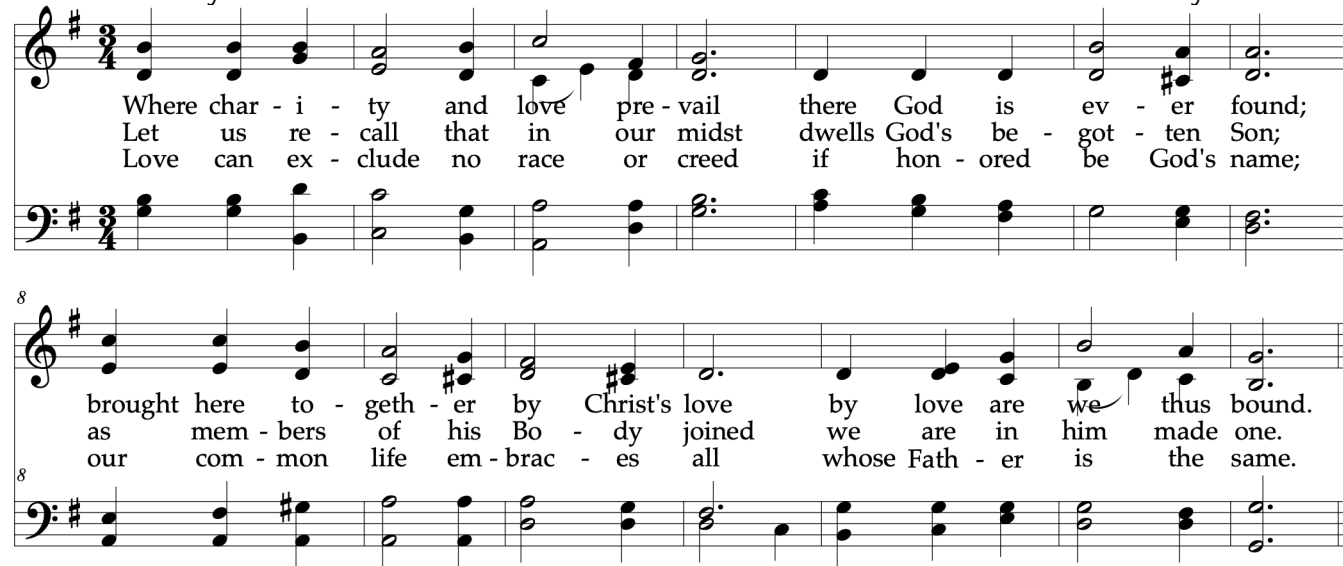
Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The Fraction Anthem

Where Charity and Love Prevail

Hymnal #581



Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail there God is ev - er found;
 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells God's be - got - ten Son;
 Love can ex - clude no race or creed if hon - ored be God's name;
 brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love by love are we thus bound.
 as mem - bers of his Bo - dy joined we are in him made one.
 our com - mon life em - brac - es all whose Fath - er is the same.

Words: Latin; tr. J. Clifford Evers (b. 1916), Copyright © 1961-62, World Library Publications. All Rights Reserved.
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 harm. Richard Proulx (b. 1937), after John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876), Copyright © 1985, G. I. A Publications.

The Invitation

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God, Holy Gifts for Holy People.

For our online community: an invitation to pray together the spiritual communion prayer from the National Cathedral. A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen. (St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)

If you have come with a particular prayer concern today, after receiving Communion you may come to the Nason Prayer Chapel to the right of the altar rail where you may light a candle and, if you wish, someone will be available to pray with you.

The Communion of the People

All are invited to receive Holy Communion. Please follow the directions of the ushers. If you do not wish to receive, we encourage you to come forward to receive a blessing. Simply fold your hands across your chest when you come forward. The clergy will carry Communion to anyone in the congregation who is unable to come forward. Please notify an usher if you wish Communion to be brought to you. Gluten-free Communion wafers are available. If you require one of these, simply ask.

The Communion Song
Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

Hymnal #602

Chorus



Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show

us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.

Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their
Neigh - bors are rich and poor, neigh-bors are black and
These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should
Lov - ing puts us on our knees, serv - ing as though we were

feet, white, love. slaves; Mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.
All are neigh - bors to us and you.
this is the way we should live with you.

Words: Ghanian; tr. Thomas Colvin (b. 1925), alt. Music: "Chereponi (Jesu, Jesu),"
Ghanian folk song, adapt. Thomas Colvin (b. 1925).
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Please kneel or stand as able.

The Post-Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **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 Prayer of St. Francis

Celebrant Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

People **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

Celebrant And, the blessing of God Almighty, ✙ The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit be with you always.

All **Amen.**

The Sending Forth

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

All **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Please stand as able and join in singing.

The Recessional Hymn

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Hymnal #390

Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
Praise to the Lord: o - ver all things he glo - rious - ly reign - eth;
Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy way and de - fend thee;
Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a - dore him!

O my soul praise him, for he is thy health and sal - va - tion!
borne as on ea - gle - wings, safe - ly his saints he sus - tain - eth.
sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall ev - er at - tend thee;
All that hath life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!

join the great throng, psal - ter - y, or - gan, and song. sound - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
Hast thou not seen how all thou need - est hath been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?
pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do, who with his love doth be - friend thee.
Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for ev - er a - dore him.

Words: Joachim Neander (1650-1680); tr. "Hymnal 1940, alt. Music: "Lobe den Herren," melody from "Erneuerten Gesangbuch," 1665;
harm. "The Chorale Book for England," 1863; desc. Craig Sellar Lang (1891-1971);
Descant, © 1953, Novello and Company Limited. Used by permission.

The Postlude

Prelude and Fugue in C Major (BWV 553)

J.S. Bach

Announcements

TODAY: Get Connected Sunday

Join us today following the 10:00 am service under the arches for food, fun, and fellowship! Everyone is welcome, whether you're a longtime parishioner, a new face, or simply curious about St. Francis.

Enjoy a delicious lunch and sample a variety of chilis prepared by our St. Francis Friars and members of the congregation. You'll also have a chance to meet our clergy and ministry leaders and discover ways to grow, serve, and connect with our community.

There will be fun for all ages, including chili tasting, church trivia, a bouncy house for the kids, and a scavenger hunt around the church grounds

Bring a friend and come see what makes St. Francis such a vibrant community of faith. We can't wait to see you there!

Veronica Mejia: A Story of Grit and Perseverance

I'm happy to share that I recently reconnected with Veronica Mejia, a student whom the St. Francis Outreach Scholarship Fund (SFOSF) supported from 2017–2019. We lost touch during the pandemic, and I often wondered whether she had achieved her dream of becoming a nurse. I'm delighted to say that she never gave up.

In 2017, Veronica was living with her great-grandmother, aunt, and uncle in West Hills while attending Pierce College. SFOSF provided her with a Verizon Jetpack so she could access Wi-Fi at home and helped pay the \$1,500 fee for the American Red Cross Nursing Assistant Training Program. Veronica passed her certification exam and became a Certified Nursing Assistant.

While continuing her studies, Veronica faced a difficult change in her living situation. After standing up for her great-grandmother, she was asked to leave the family home. For a brief time, she was homeless—even during finals—but because she was working, she was able to rent a room with a local family. SFOSF later helped with a portion of her rent until she completed her studies at Pierce College and earned her associate degree.

Veronica then began pursuing her nursing degree while working at a post-acute rehabilitation center. Eventually, she transitioned to the UCLA Emergency Room and Trauma Center, where she continues to work today. She is also pursuing her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Stanbridge University's Alhambra campus and expects to graduate in 2028.

When Veronica told me, "I never gave up," I immediately thought of Fr. Jason's August 30 sermon about grit. Veronica's story is a wonderful example of perseverance in the face of adversity.

Please make a point of welcoming Veronica when she visits St. Francis for Get Connected Sunday on September 13. When I asked how we could support her now, she simply asked for our prayers. She is balancing demanding work at UCLA with her nursing studies and, at times, the challenges of working with people who are not always kind.

Let's keep Veronica in our prayers as she continues pursuing her dream—and never giving up.

— Cheryl Gutierrez, *St. Francis Outreach Scholarship*

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Prayers this Week

We pray for all those who serve in the armed and foreign services, and for their families, especially Alyssa Capellino Baxter, Barry Witt, Drew Deley, Jonathan Zimmerman, Joseph Leahy, Mark Kappelmann, Michael Strong, Michael Valiquette, Scott Ruston, Steve, Thomas Dawson, TJ Malzahn, and Will Piepenbring.

Those who are ill, recovering from surgery, or in any other kind of need or trouble: Amy Clute, Andrea, Angel Lara Gonzalez, Anne Sharp, Barbara Shelby, Billy Whelan, Bob, Bruce Schaefer, Carlos, Celeste Stump and her family, Chris, Colette Furbush, Connie, Dana Genzel-Diaz, Irena Dybeic, Jeff, Jerry Pinkston, Joseph and Danielle Diestel, Kathy Falk, Kerry Myers, Kristen, Krystal, KT Martyniak, Liz, Marilyn and Dale Ghery, Mary Sharp, Miguel Diaz, Patt Parker, Phyllis Niski, Rex Claytor, Rob Ramsay, Roxanne Wall, Roz Hadley, Sally Hill, Sofia, Susan Crouse, Tess Jones, Tommy, the people of the Middle East, and for victims of violence everywhere.

We pray for all who have died that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

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