

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 27, 2026 ♦ 8:00 am

Celebrant and Preacher: The Rev. Jason Shelby



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.

This service is dedicated to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and in loving memory of his servant Otto Vavrin; the flowers on the altar are also given in thanksgiving for the life of Otto Vavrin by his loving wife Betsy.

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

This Week at St. Francis

Sunday, September 27

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist (Rite I, Chapel)
- 9:10 am "Who is Jesus" Spiritual Formation Class (Board Room)
- 10:00 am Holy Eucharist (Rite II)
- 11:30 am Faithful Families Potluck (Parish Hall)

Monday, September 28

- 6:00 pm St. Anne's Guild Meeting

Wednesday, September 30

- 10:00 am Service of Healing and Reconciliation (Chapel)
- 11:00 am Good Grief Group Meeting

Thursday, October 1

- 1:00 pm Quilting and Knitting Group

Friday, October 2

- 9:30 am Beaders Group

Sunday, October 4 — Feast of St. Francis

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist (Rite I, Chapel)
- 9:10 am "Who is Jesus" Spiritual Formation Class (Board Room)
- 10:00 am Holy Eucharist (Rite II)
- 11:30 am St. Francis Day Celebration
- 4:00 pm Blessing of the Animals (St. Francis Garden)



Online Giving

To make a one-time donation to St. Francis, scan this QR code or visit <https://bit.ly/STFGIVING1>

The Processional Hymn: All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name Hymnal #450

All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name, let an - gels pros - trate fall; bring
Crown him ye mar - tyrs of our God, who from his al - tar call: praise
Hail him, the Heir of Dav - id's line, whom Da - vid Lord did call, the
Let ev - 'ry kin - dred, ev - 'ry tribe on this cel - es - tial ball to

6
forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all! Bring
him whose way of pain ye trod, and crown him Lord of all! Praise
God in - car - nate, Man di - vine, and crown him Lord of all! The
him all maj - es - ty as - cribe, and crown him Lord of all. To

11
forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all.
him whose way of pain ye trod, and crown him Lord of all!
God in - car - nate, Man di - vine, and crown him Lord of all.
him all maj - es - ty as - cribe, and crown him Lord of all.

Words: Edward Perronet (1726-1792), alt. Music: "Coronation," Oliver Holden (1765-1844), alt.; desc. Michael E. Young (b. 1939);
Descant © 1979, G. i. A. Publications, Inc.

The Opening Acclamation Book of Common Prayer p. 323
The Collect for Purity Book of Common Prayer p. 323
The Summary of the Law Book of Common Prayer p. 324
The Gloria Book of Common Prayer p. 324
The Collect of the Day: Proper 21 Book of Common Prayer p. 182

The First Lesson Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²What 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"? ³"As I live," says the Lord GOD, "this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know 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.

²⁵Yet 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? ²⁶When 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. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet 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?

³⁰Therefore 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.

³¹Cast 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? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone,” says the Lord GOD. “Turn, then, and live.”

The Response Psalm 25:1-8 (Book of Common Prayer p. 614)

The Epistle Philippians 2:1-13

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,
⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The Holy Gospel Matthew 21:23-32

²³When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

The Sermon.....The Rev. Jason Shelby

The Nicene CreedBook of Common Prayer p. 327

The Prayers of the PeopleBook of Common Prayer p. 328

The ConfessionBook of Common Prayer p. 331

The PeaceBook of Common Prayer p. 332

The Welcome and Announcements

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

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 Great ThanksgivingBook of Common Prayer p. 333

The Post-Communion Prayer.....Book of Common Prayer p. 339

The Blessing and Sending Forth.....Book of Common Prayer p. 339

The Recessional Hymn: Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing Hymnal #344

Lord, dis - miss us — with thy bless - ing; fill our hearts with
 Thanks we give and a - dor - a - tion for thy Gos - pel's
 so that when thy love shall call us, Sa - vior, from the —

4
 joy and peace; let us each, thy love pos - sess - ing, tri - umph in re -
 joy - ful sound: may the fruits of — thy sal - va - tion in our hearts and —
 world a - way, fear of death shall not ap - pall us, glad thy sum - mons

8
 deem - ing grace: O — re - fresh us, O — re - fresh us, trav - eling through this
 lives a - bound: ev - er faith - ful, ev - er faith - ful to — thy truth may
 to o - bey. May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with thee in —

12
 wil - der - ness.
 we be found.
 end - less day.

Words: Att. John Fawcett (1739/40-1817). Music: "Sicilian Mariners," Sicilian melody;
 first published "The European Magazine and London Review," 1792, alt.

The Postlude

Toccata

Flor Peeters

Announcements

The Feast of St. Francis: Celebrate with Us!

Sunday, October 4

You are invited to join us after the 10 am service on Sunday, October 4, to celebrate our patron saint, Francis of Assisi (Italy). In his honor, our very own Friars will be serving Italian Sausages on buns with all the fixin's, and there will also be cannolis and sparkling Italian sodas on hand. For those averse to change, worry not, as there will still be coffee and donut holes.

Bring Your Best Friend to Church: Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 4 at 4:00 pm

Celebrate the Feast of St. Francis with our annual Blessing of the Animals. Join us on Sunday, October 4 at 4:00 pm in the St. Francis Garden for this joyful annual tradition! All pets welcome – furry, feathered, or scaly. For the safety of humans and animals alike, please keep dogs on leash, and keep cats and exotic pets in cages. You may also bring a memento or photograph of your pet to receive a blessing. We can't wait to see you (and your pets)!

Undies Sundays:

Help Support St. Luke's Breakfast & Shower Program

"Whatever you do for the least of these... you did for me." — Matthew 25:40

St. Francis helps provide breakfast and hospitality to about 150 people in need each month through the Breakfast and Shower Program at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Long Beach. On the third Saturday of every odd-numbered month, St. Francis volunteers prepare and serve breakfast, while St. Luke's provides showers, clothing, and other services.

This month, we're collecting donations to help stock the clothing and personal-care supplies distributed through the program. For Undies Sundays, please donate new underwear in its original package, with boxer briefs preferred for men, in all sizes.

We also welcome gently used donations of:

- Men's jeans and Dockers, sweatpants, belts, caps, and outerwear
- Backpacks and small roller bags
- Blankets and sleeping bags
- Sturdy casual shoes and sneakers for men and women

Other needed items include women's sports bras and panties, women's hygiene products, toiletries, lip balm, lotion, sunscreen, eye drops, reading glasses, and nail clippers.

Please bring donations to the St. Francis office or contact **Gayle Taylor** at gaylentaylor@gmail.com. Every donation helps us share food, dignity, and practical care with our neighbors in need.

Morning Prayer at St. Francis

Thursdays beginning on October 8 at 7:00 am

Beginning Thursday, October 8, the Rev. Deacon Celeste will lead a said service of Morning Prayer every Thursday at 7:00 a.m. in the St. Francis Chapel. All are welcome to begin the day together in prayer, Scripture, and quiet reflection.

Schubert's Mass in G

Saturday, October 10 at 4:30 pm

Join us at St. Francis for an afternoon of beautiful choral music as the Catalyst Chamber Ensemble, the 14-member professional chamber choir of the Long Beach Camerata Singers, presents Franz Schubert's beloved *Mass in G*. Intimate, lyrical, and deeply spiritual, this radiant work is a wonderful introduction to Schubert's music and a treat for longtime lovers of choral music alike. Tickets are on sale now at <https://www.longbeachcameratasingers.org/>

Volunteer Recognition Brunch

Beginning Sunday, October 11

Our volunteers give so much of their time and talent to make St. Francis a vibrant community, and we want to celebrate them! Beginning this fall, we'll host **quarterly appreciation brunches for Sunday service volunteers** between services at 9:15 a.m. Our first will be **Sunday, October 11**, since October 4 is the Feast of St. Francis. Future brunches will generally be held on the first Sunday of each quarter, unless another parish event is scheduled.

We'll also host an annual appreciation brunch or lunch on Epiphany Sunday for all St. Francis volunteers—including Vestry, guilds, choir, Friars, outreach, Sunday service volunteers, and our Antiques Show and Rummage Sale teams.

And there's one important rule: volunteers don't have to do a thing! These gatherings are our opportunity to say thank you, so simply come, enjoy some food and fellowship, and let us celebrate you.

Lectionary Study Group Returns

Beginning Wednesday, October 21 at 6:00 pm

The St. Francis Lectionary Study Group resumes Wednesday, October 21, meeting on the **third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall Library**. We'll continue our exploration of the weekly readings using *A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church: Year W* by Dr. Wilda Gafney. Everyone is welcome! Come join the conversation, deepen your understanding of Scripture, and prepare for Sunday's worship together.

Stay in-the-know!

Subscribe to our weekly email newsletter, *Bellringer Weekly*, and receive all the news and events in your inbox each week! *Bellringer Weekly* goes out on Thursday evenings (usually). Subscribe today at stfrancispalosverdes.org/subscribe

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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