

The Fifth Anniversary of the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Service of Remembrance & Gratitude



EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NEWARK
Saturday, March 8, 2025 at 10 am

Trinity & St. Philip's Cathedral,
608 Broad St, Newark, NJ 07102
youtube.com/c/dionewark

Service Participants

Presider and Preacher	The Rt. Rev. Carlye J. Hughes, <i>XI Bishop of Newark</i>
Bishop's Canons	The Rev. Canon Margaret Peckham Clark, <i>Canon for Congregational Life</i> The Rev. Canon Dr. Andrew R. Wright, <i>Canon to the Ordinary</i>
Minister of Ceremonies	The Rev. Audrey Hasselbrook, <i>St. James, Upper Montclair</i>
Vergers	Mr. Eric Ofosuhene, <i>Trinity & St. Philip's Cathedral, Newark</i>
Deacon	The Venerable Diane Riley, <i>Archdeacon</i>
Readers	Mr. Larry Sunden, <i>Grace, Westwood</i> Ms. Gail Barkley, <i>Trinity & St. Philip's Cathedral, Newark</i>
Intercessor	Ms. Patty Bradley, <i>Holy Trinity, Hillsdale</i>
Litanist	Mr. Gary Yacono, <i>St. James, Ridgefield</i>
Eucharistic Ministers	The Rev. Paul Keene, <i>Christ Church, Short Hills</i> The Rev. Rod Perez-Vega, <i>St. John's/ San Juan, Dover</i> The Rev. Dr. Cathie Studwell, <i>St. Bartholomew's, Ho-Ho-Kus</i>
Organist and Music Director	Ms. Megan Coiley, <i>St. George's, Maplewood</i>
Instrumentalist	Paul Vanderwal II, cello
Soloist	Marija (Ri) Bosnar, mezzo-soprano
Readers of Names in Remembrance	Ms. Patty Bradley, <i>Holy Trinity, Hillsdale</i> Mr. Chuck Hardy, <i>St. John's Memorial, Ramsey</i> Ms. Marilyn Musielski, <i>Grace, Madison?</i> Mr. Tom Reynolds, <i>Christ Church, Bloomfield/ Glen Ridge</i>
Readers of Names in Gratitude	Ms. Rosie Grant, <i>St. Paul's, Paterson</i> Mr. John Norcross, <i>St. Luke's and St. Mary's, Hope/ Behvidere</i> Ms. Amy Szurly, <i>St. Andrew's, Harrington Park</i>

*Many thanks to Trinity & St. Philip's Cathedral for hosting us today,
particularly for their liturgical ministries of Altar Guild, Acolytes, and Ushers*

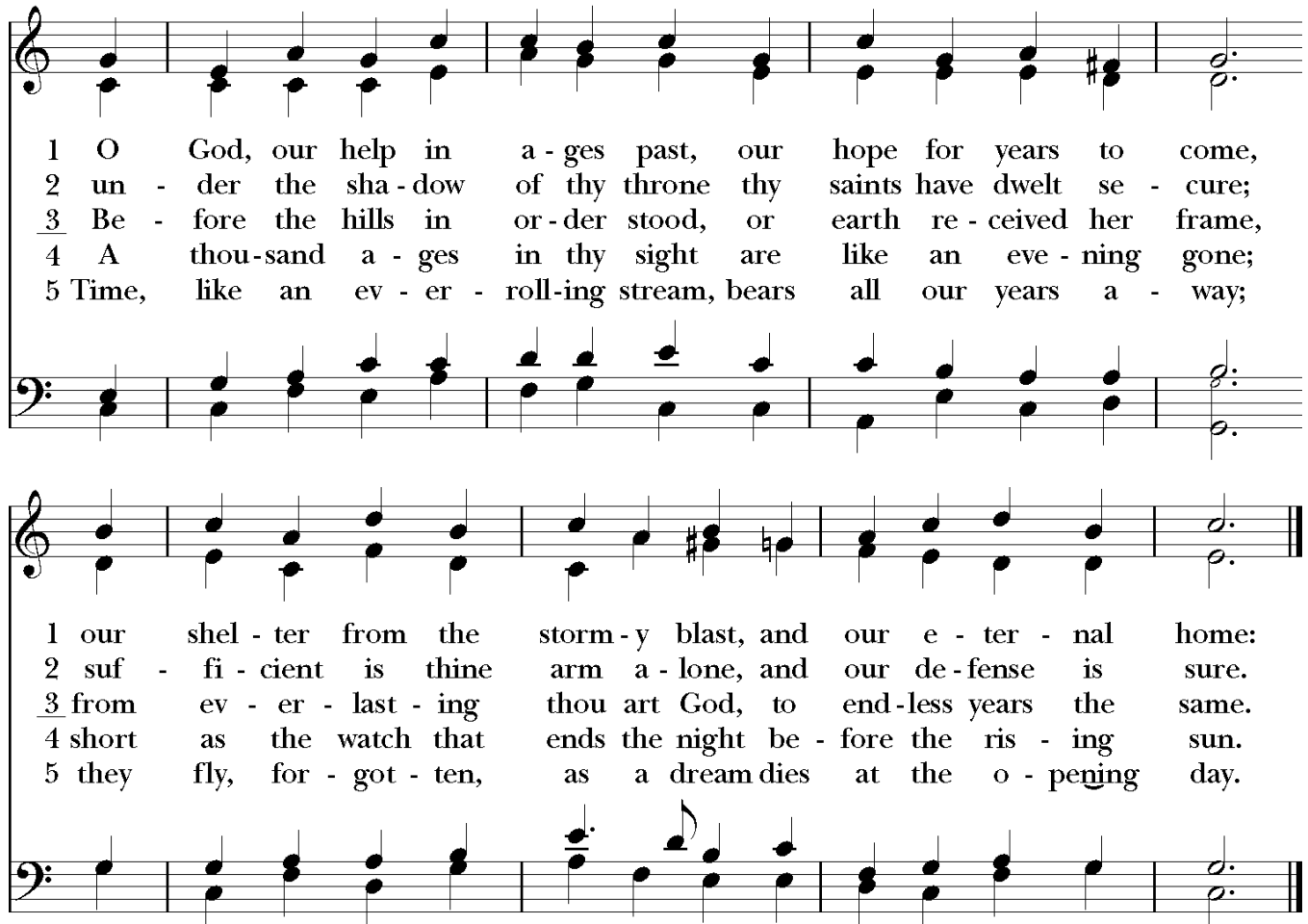
*Many thanks also to All Saints Episcopal Church, Glen Rock,
for their assistance in printing today's service booklet.*

HOLY EUCHARIST: THE WORD OF GOD

PRELUDE

OPENING HYMN

The Hymnal 1982, 680



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 un - der the sha - dow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived her frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are like an eve - ning gone;
5 Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream, bears all our years a - way;

1 our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
2 suf - fi - cient is thine arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
3 from ev - er - last - ing thou art God, to end - less years the same.
4 short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.
5 they fly, for - got - ten, as a dream dies at the o - pen - ing day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,

be thou our guide while life shall last,
and our eternal home.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.; para. of Psalm 90

Music: *St. Anne*, melody att. William Croft (1678-1727), alt.; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

The people standing, the Bishop says

Blessed be the God of our salvation:

Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.

People

The Bishop may say

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.**

Sung three times

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,

Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

Words: Orthodox Liturgy
 Music: Alexander Archangelsky, 1846-1924, ver. *The Hymnal 1982*

COLLECT OF THE DAY

*On the Anniversary of a Disaster, adapted
 Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2024, page 617*

Bishop

God be with you

People

And also with you.

Bishop

Let us pray.

God of steadfast love, who led your people through the wilderness: Be with us as we remember and grieve and as we offer thanks for those who have sustained us. By your grace, lead us in the path of new life, in the company of your saints and angels; through Jesus Christ, the Savior and Redeemer of the world. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

Reader

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 31:15-20

Thus says the LORD: A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more. Thus says the LORD: Keep your voice from weeping and your eyes from tears, for there is a reward for your work, says the LORD: they shall come back from the land of the enemy; there is hope for your future, says the LORD: your children shall come back to their own country. Indeed, I heard Ephraim pleading: "You disciplined me, and I took the discipline; I was like an untrained calf. Bring me back; let me come back, for you are the LORD my God. For after I had turned away I repented, and after I was discovered, I struck my thigh; I was ashamed, and I was dismayed because I bore the disgrace of my youth." Is Ephraim my dear son? Is he the child in whom I delight? As often as I speak against him, I still remember him. Therefore I am deeply moved for him; I will surely have mercy on him, says the LORD.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence

THE PSALM *De profundis*

Psalm 130

- 1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O LORD;
LORD, hear my voice; *
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.
- 2 If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss, *
O LORD, who could stand?
- 3 For there is forgiveness with you; *
therefore you shall be feared.
- 4 I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him; *
in his word is my hope.
- 5 My soul waits for the LORD, more than watchmen for the morning, *
more than watchmen for the morning.
- 6 O Israel, wait for the LORD, *
for with the Lord there is mercy;
- 7 With him there is plenteous redemption, *
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

SECOND LESSON

Romans 8:35-39

Reader A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Church in Rome.

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

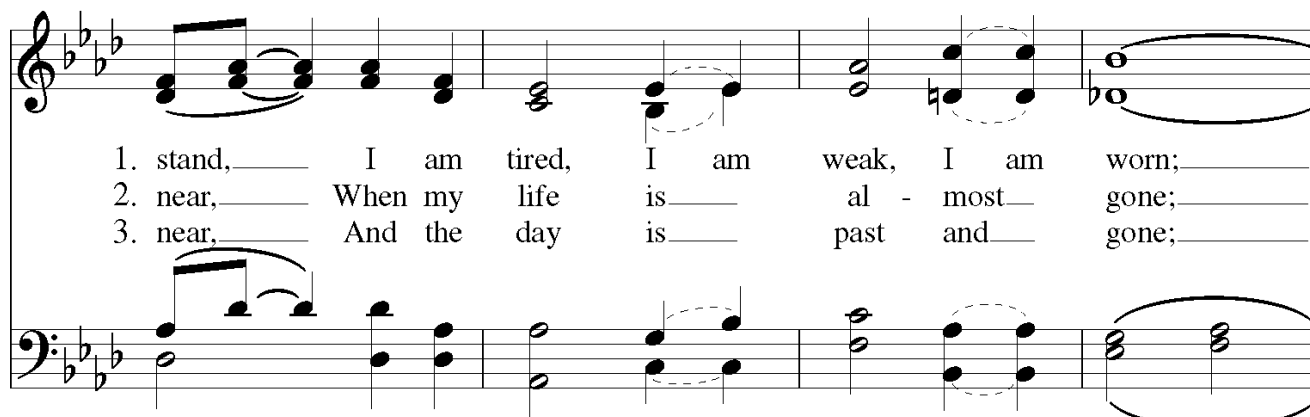
People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence

HYMN



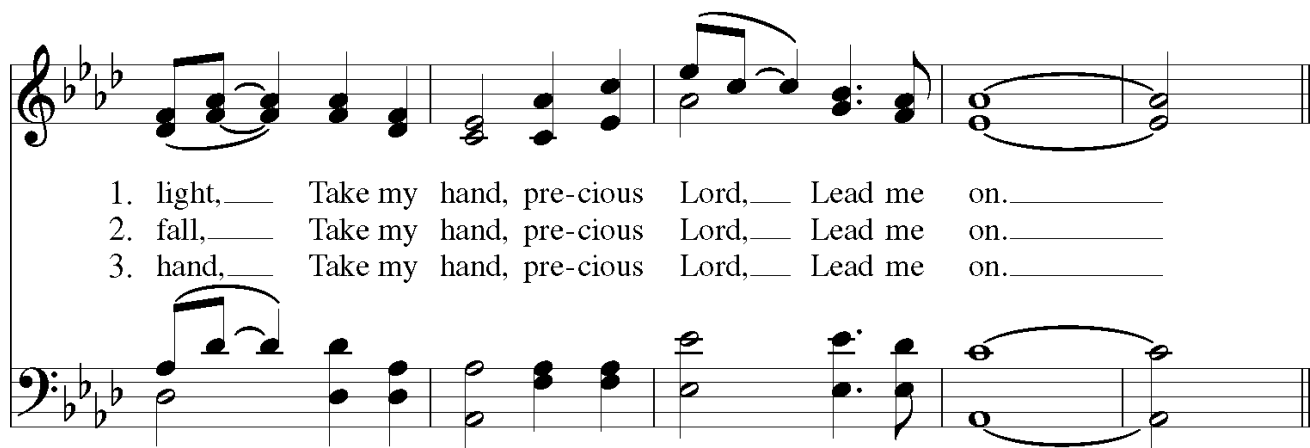
1. Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me
 2. When my way grows drear, pre - cious Lord, lin - ger
 3. When the dark - ness ap - pears and the night draws



1. stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
 2. near, When my life is al - most gone;
 3. near, And the day is past and gone;



1. Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the
 2. Hear my cry, hear my call, Hold my hand, lest I
 3. At the riv - er I stand, Guide my feet, hold my



1. light, Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, Lead me on.
 2. fall, Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, Lead me on.
 3. hand, Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, Lead me on.

Words: Thomas A. Dorsey (1899-1993)
 Music: Thomas A. Dorsey; arrs. Horace Clarence Boyer (1935-2009)

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Deacon Then Jesus looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets. But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

SERMON

Bishop Carlye J. Hughes

INTERCESSIONS AND THE REMEMBRANCE OF NAMES

In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People may offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

Intercessor I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishop Carlye; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.

Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.

Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

I ask your prayers for those who are poor, those who are sick or hunger, for those who are oppressed, and for those in prison.

Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. For all who are preparing for Baptism or Confirmation.

Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed.

Pray for those who have died.

Silence

The Bishop invites the Remembrance of Names at this time in these or similar words

Let us name before God all those who have died in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Readers read the names submitted. They are found at the end of this booklet. Music may be played as the names are read.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Spiegel im Spiegel
Arvo Pärt, b. 1935

Afterwards, the Bishop says

I invite any additional names to be offered at this time.

Silence

The Bishop continues

Almighty God, our Father in heaven, before whom live all who die in the Lord: Receive our sisters and brothers into the courts of your heavenly dwelling place. Let their hearts and souls now ring out in joy to you, O Lord, the living God, and the God of those who live. This we ask through Christ our Lord. **Amen. Amen.**

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding, deal graciously with all of your people in their grief. Surround them with your love, that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss, but have confidence in your goodness, and strength to meet the days to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

*Deacon
or Bishop*

Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

All

**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.**

The Bishop offers absolution, saying

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Bishop The peace of Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today's offering is designated for the Cathedral of St. Peter and St. Paul of the Diocese of Washington (Washington National Cathedral) in thanksgiving for its online presence that sustained many members of our diocese in worship during the worst of the pandemic. Checks should be made payable to The Diocese of Newark with 'Pandemic Service' in the memo line. Checks can be mailed to the Diocese of Newark, PO Box 386, Livingston, NJ 07039.



*To make an offering online,
please visit e-giving.dioceseofnewark.org,
or visit us with this QR code
Your generosity is appreciated!*

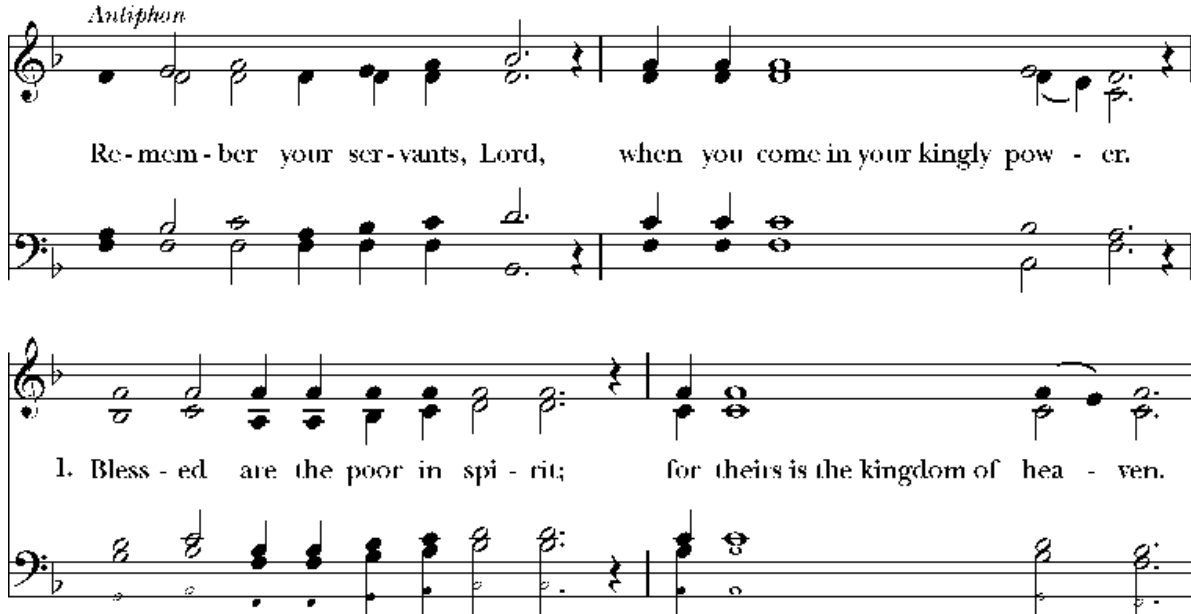
THE HOLY COMMUNION

*The Bishop may begin the Offertory with a sentence from scripture.
A Deacon prepares the Table while the People's offerings of bread and wine and money are brought forward.*

OFFERTORY HYMN

The Hymnal 560

Antiphon

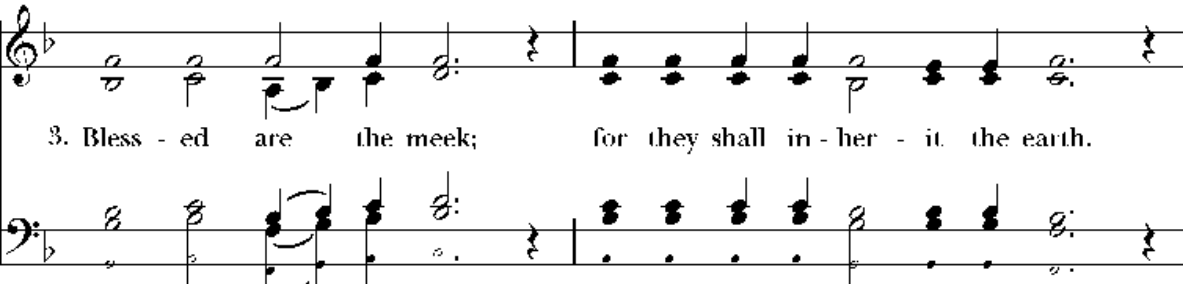


Re-mem-ber your ser-vants, Lord, when you come in your kingly pow - er.

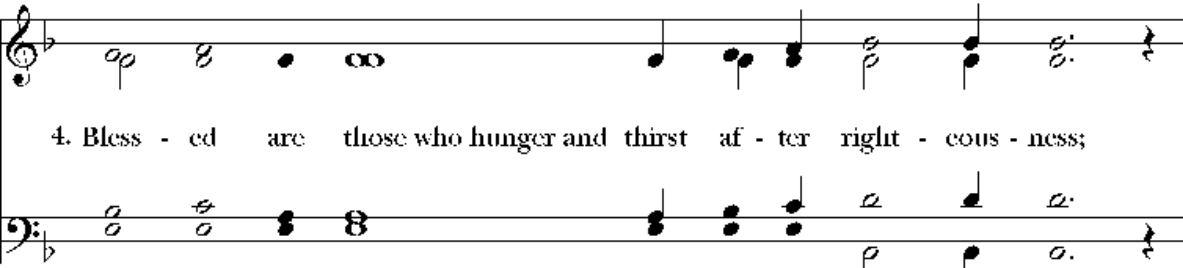
1. Bless - ed are the poor in spi - rit; for theirs is the kingdom of hea - ven.



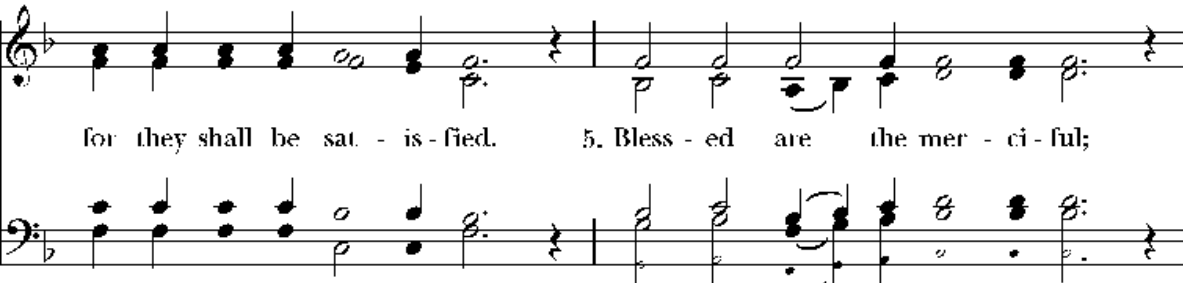
2. Bless - ed are those who mourn; for they shall be com - fort - ed.



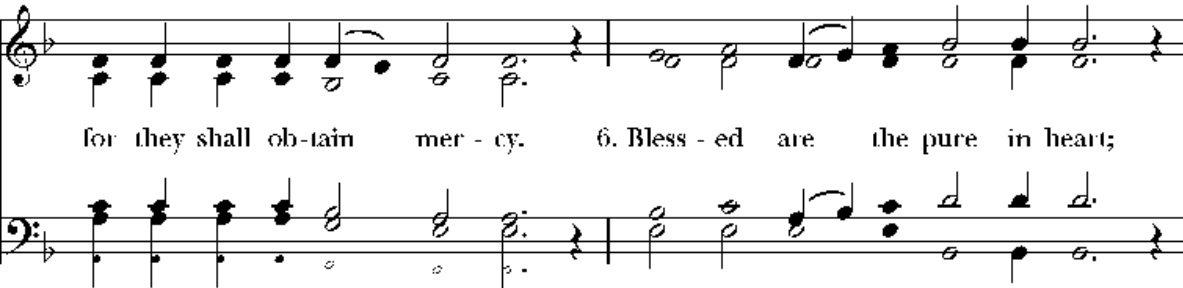
3. Bless - ed are the meek; for they shall in - her - it the earth.



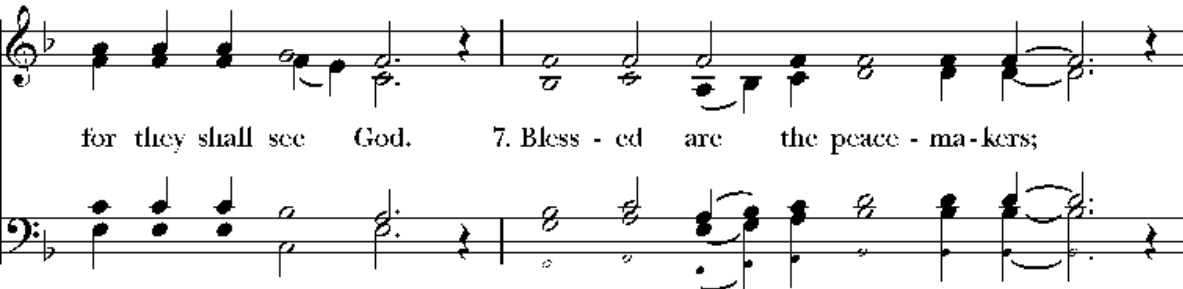
4. Bless - ed are those who hunger and thirst af - ter right - eous - ness;



for they shall be sat - is - fied. 5. Bless - ed are the mer - ci - ful;



for they shall ob - tain mer - cy. 6. Bless - ed are the pure in heart;



for they shall see God. 7. Bless - ed are the peace - ma - kers;

for they shall be called the chil - dren of God.

8. Bless - ed are those who are perse - cut - ed for right - eous - ness' sake;

for theirs is the kingdom of hea - ven.

9. Bless - ed are you when the world re - viles you and per - se - cutes you;

and utters all manner of evil against you false - ly for my sake;

Re-joice and be ex-ceed-ing glad; for great is your reward in hea - ven.

Antiphon

Re - mem - ber your ser - vants, Lord, when you come in your kingly pow - er.

The second bass part is optional.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A
Expansive Language Trial Use 2018-D078

Bishop God be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Bishop Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Bishop Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Bishop It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

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 our Name:

Sanctus, The Hymnal 1982, S-129

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.

Music: Robert Powell (1932-2025), © Church Publishing, Inc.

The people stand or kneel. Then the Bishop continues

Holy and gracious God: 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 maker of all.

Jesus 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 Savior 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 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 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:

All

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Bishop continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's 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 Christ. 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 Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

Bishop

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

All

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Bishop breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept. Then may be sung or said

Agnus Dei, The Hymnal 1982, S-163

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.

Music: Robert Powell (1932-2025), © Church Publishing, Inc.

Facing the people, the Bishop says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

and may add Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All members of God's household are welcome to receive Communion.

Please follow the directions of the ushers to come forward to receive Communion.

All wafers distributed today are gluten-free

At the time of Communion, Communicants can choose to:

receive the Bread alone and return to your seat

– or – receive the Bread and take a sip from the Cup

*– or – indicate that you wish the Bread to be intincted (dipped)
and the Eucharistic Minister will dip the Bread before giving it to you.*

Please listen to and follow all instructions.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

How Precious Is Thy Steadfast Love

John Pickett

How precious is Thy steadfast Love, O God;
the children of men take refuge in the shadow of Thy wings.
How precious is Thy steadfast Love!

They feast on the abundance of Thy house,
and Thou givest them drink from the river of Thy delight.
For with Thee is the Fountain of life!

How precious is Thy steadfast Love, O God,
how precious is Thy Love, O God.
In Thy Light do we see Light;
in Thy Light do we see Light.

1 We can - not mea - sure how you heal or
 2 The pain that will not go a - way, the
 3 So some have come who need your help and

an - swer ev - ery suf - ferer's prayer, yet
 guilt that ev - ery from things long past, the
 some have come to make a - mends, as

we be - lieve your grace re - sponds where
 fear of what the fu - ture holds, are
 hands which shaped and saved the world are

faith and doubt u - nite to care. Your
 pres - ent as if meant to last. But
 pres - ent in the touch of friends. Lord,

This 20th-century text from the Iona Community grapples with the realities of illness and pain, not only as they afflict the body but even more as they lay waste to mind and soul. The traditional folk melody helps to convey the sort of communal experience assumed in the last stanza.

hands, though blood - ied on the cross, sur -
 pres - ent too is love which tends the
 let your Spir - it meet us here to

vive to hold and heal and warn, to
 hurt we nev - er hoped to find, the
 mend the bod - y, mind, and soul, to

car - ry all through death to life and
 pri - vate ag - o - nies in - side, the
 dis - en - tan - gle peace from pain, and

cra - dle chil - dren yet un - born.
 mem - o - ries that haunt the mind.
 make your bro - ken peo - ple whole.

Words: John L. Bell and Graham Maule, © 1989 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)
 Music: *Ye Banks and Braes* Scottish Melody; arr. John L. Bell, © 1989 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

A LITANY OF GRATITUDE

This litany was originally generated in a Zoom meeting with the Bishop in the first year of pandemic from participants' comments, when asked to offer what they were thankful for. It has been adapted for use in today's service.

Bishop

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Litanist

For your presence, O Christ, whenever two or three have gathered in your name,

People

We thank you, Lord.

For our past and a vision of the future that lies ahead,

We thank you, Lord.

For the learnings we discovered in the time of pandemic,

We thank you, Lord.

For the roles our churches played in keeping us grounded and connected,

We thank you, Lord.

For the generosity of our congregations in the midst of pandemic, especially towards feeding ministries, assistance in signing up for the vaccine, emotional and mental health ministries, assisting parishioners with using on-line ways of connecting and communicating,

We thank you, Lord.

For dedicated doctors, nurses, scientists and civil servants who helped to vaccinate our communities

We thank you, Lord.

For neighbors and friends who were helpful throughout the crisis,

We thank you, Lord.

For the many acts of kindness by people who chose to remain anonymous,

We thank you, Lord.

For the many cards, emails, phone calls, teleconferencing and visits which kept us all connected,

We thank you, Lord.

For heightened awareness of things that are important and for living more simply,

We thank you, Lord.

For the opportunity to become a little less self-focused and look beyond our own needs to meet the needs of others,

We thank you, Lord.

For remote and sometimes far away connections which were made possible online, for Zoom and all those technologies which allowed us to continue and renew friendships and relationships while distant from each other,

We thank you, Lord.

For all efforts working towards peace and justice for all,

We thank you, Lord.

For the gift of the Earth,
We thank you, Lord.

For your presence, O God, in the loving actions of others,
We thank you, Lord.

The Bishop continues

We give thanks for all the many and surprising gifts that we received in that difficult time. We give thanks for the people who sustained us in so many ways in the pandemic. We name here all those for whom we give thanks.

The Readers read the names of those for whom we offer gratitude during the pandemic. The names are found at the end of this booklet.

The Bishop then says

I invite you to name any others for whom you are thankful or any other thanksgivings this time.

After a period of silence, the Bishop says

Let us pray.

All

**Loving God,
we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

The Bishop blesses the People



CLOSING HYMN

The Hymnal 1982, 557, omit vs. 3



1. Re - jice, ye pure in heart! Re - jice, give thanks, and sing! Your
 2. With all the an - gel choirs, with all the saints of earth, pour
 4. Yes, on through life's long path, still chant - ing as ye go, from
 5. Still lift your stan - dard high, still march in firm ar ray, as
 6. At last the march shall end; the wea - ried ones shall rest; the
 7. Then on, ye pure in heart! Re - jice, give thanks, and sing! Your



glo - rious ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your
 out the strains of joy and bliss, true rap - ture, no - blest
 youth to age, by night and day, in glad - ness and in
 war - rior through the dark ness toil, 'til dawns the gold - en
 pil - grims find their Fa - ther's house, Je - ru - sa - lem the
 glo - rious ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your



King.
 mirth.
 woe.
 day.
 blest.
 King.

Ho - san - na, ho



san - na! Re - jice, give thanks and sing.

Words: Edward Hayes Plumptre (1821-1891)
 Music: *Vineyard Haven*, Richard Wayne Dirksen (1921-2003)

Deacon
 People

Go in peace to love and serve Jesus Christ our Savior.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Antiphon V. How fair and how pleasant art thou
Vêpres du commun des fêtes de la Sainte Vierge, Op.18
 Marcel Dupré, 1886-1971.

In Memoriam

Dominic Abbondante
Gail Abbott
Herbert L. Abrams
Marc Adkins
Eleanor Aiken
Michael Alfano
Jewel Allen
Cindy Lee Andersen
Christy Andersen
Angela Anderson
Henry Lionel Anderson
Lidia Anderson
Pearl Anderson
Mary Angelastro
Phil Angelastro
James Annan
Daphne Annibourne
Maurice Anyaorah
Brian Arcella
Brian Archimbaud
Clair Archimbaud
Raymond Arciszewski
Priscilla Arnold
Anna Austin Williams
Alton Avaloy
John Ayer
Fred Babcock, Sr.
J. Hugh "Hook" Bailey
Rich Baldwin
Kathleen Ballard
Brian Bamforth
Kimberly Barcus
George Barnes
Gordon Barnett
Natalie Bartlett
Giacchino Basile
Amy Batchelor
Douglas Bauman
Howard Beder
Anne Jean Benedetti
Jeanette Besen
James William Beverly

Rose Bielen
Edith Biondi
Maureen Black Ogden
Diane Louise Bonfield
George Bowen
William 'Bill' Bradbury
Suzanne Braun
Chris Brdlik
John 'Jack' Brooks
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Congregation
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Vestry
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Virtual Choir

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“This image is that of Father/Mother God looking at their own hands – hands that hold those who are dying, and those who are caring, and those who are working to keep us all fed, and those in detention, and so many more. The tears fall from his/her eyes and become part of the waters of life and the waters of death that surround us all right now. Within the waters, is light – the hope of what can be on the other side of this pandemic. As you look at the image, I invite you to see what you see through the lens of your own experiences, both before and within this pandemic. I hear strands of the hymn *On Eagles Wings*; “And hold you in the palm of God's hands,” as Mother/Father God holds the tears that are falling from God's own eyes – and ours – in the palm of her/his hands. I see the hands held in light – the light that surrounds the God image and cascades throughout the entire piece reminding us we are held in the light and love of God supported by the hands of those keeping us all safe – the doctors and nurses, custodians and clerks, pharmacists and respiratory therapists, grocery store workers and truck drivers, migrant farm workers and dairy producers, nursing home staffs and clergy and so many more all holding us in their light and love despite their own tears.”

-- Colleen Hintz, 2020

Pandemic Memorial and Gratitude Page

During the height of the pandemic, the Diocese of Newark established a Memorial Wall, a holy place online for mourning and memory, which has since been archived. Now, five years after the beginning of the pandemic, we are creating a new online space to remember those who died during that time, whether from COVID-19 or any other cause, and also to honor those for whom we are thankful, who sustained and supported others during those difficult days.

Names can be added to either of these lists throughout the year ahead, as we remember and reflect on those we wish to honor.

The Pandemic Memorial and Gratitude Page will be found at <https://dioceseofnewark.org/memorials-and-thanksgivings> and will become active after today's service. You can submit the name of someone you would like to remember or someone you would like to give thanks for and the names will be added to the page and maintained for the year ahead.