St. Mary of the Hills Episcopal Church

Blowing Rock, North Carolina



The Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 8, 2026
10:10AM

WELCOME!

We are so glad that you are here to share in worship of the Living God.

Restrooms are located in the hallway beyond the Foyer.

A nursery is available for children up to age five and is in the hallway beyond the Parish Hall.

Children in Worship is offered for elementary age children during the service. Children are invited to follow the cross in procession during the *Gloria in excelsis* and will return at the Peace.

Please silence all electronic devices.

"BCP" page numbers refer to the red *Book of Common Prayer* found in the pew rack in front of you. Hymn numbers refer to the blue *Hymnal, 1982* also found in the pew rack. Note that 'S' numbers refer to service music and are located at the beginning of the hymnal.

The Hymns and Service Music are sung by all.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

A prayerful silence begins at 10:00AM as the bells ring the hour.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY Prelude on Brother James's Air M. Searle Wright (1918-2004)

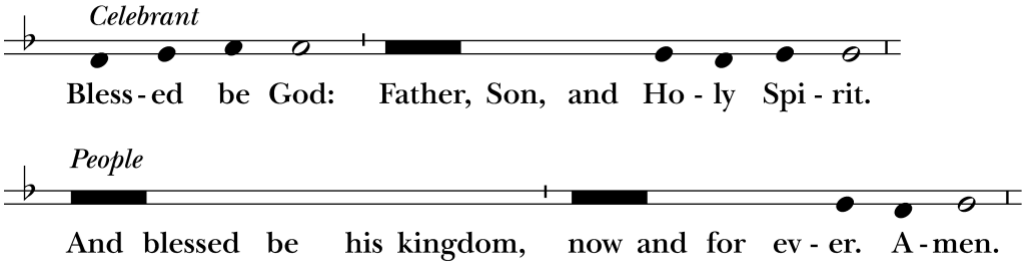
WELCOME & PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE WORD OF GOD

All stand as able.

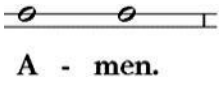
HYMN 574 Before thy throne, O God, we kneel *St. Petersburg*

THE OPENING ACCLIMATION & COLLECT FOR PURITY BCP 355
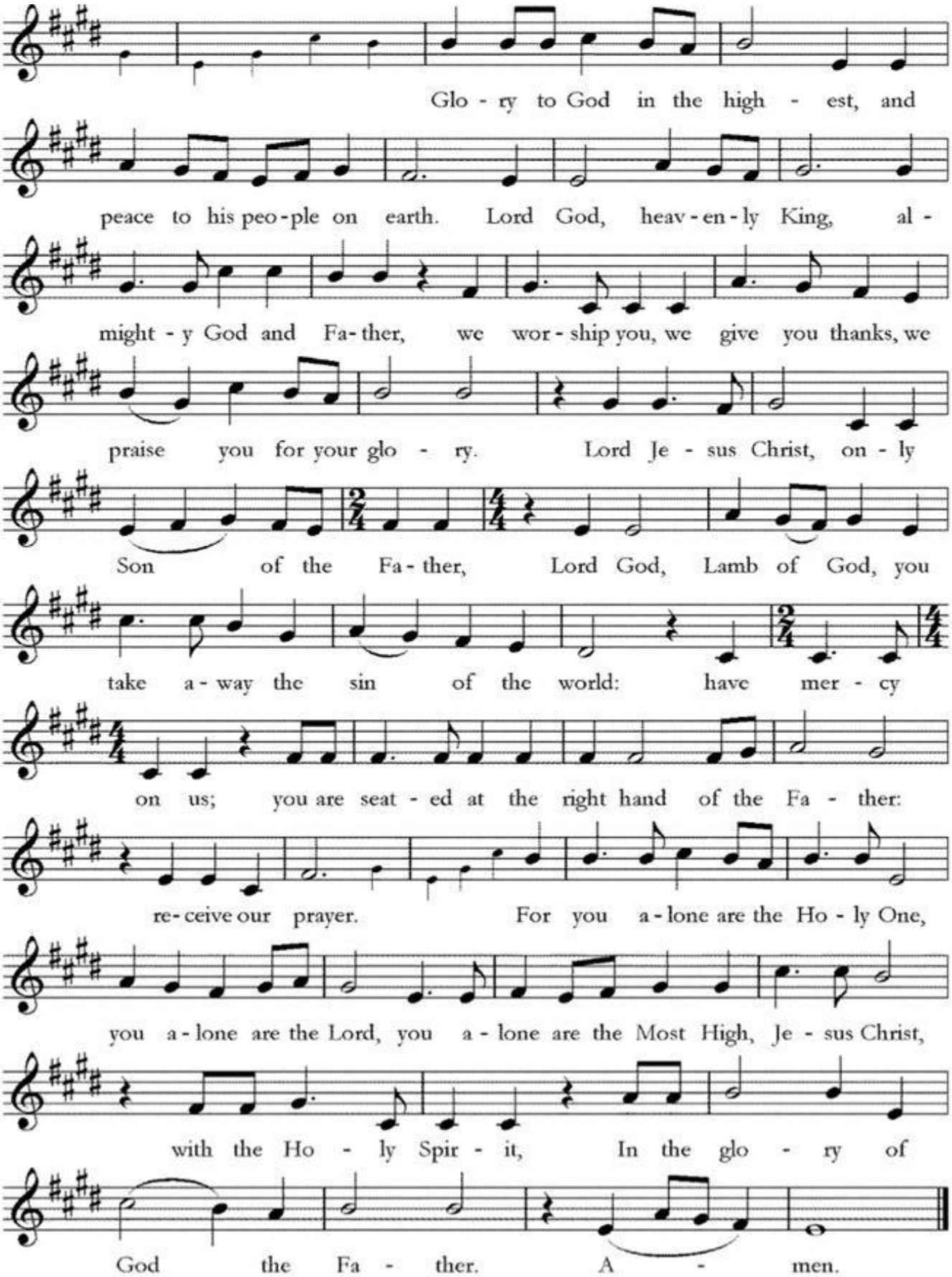


The Celebrant prays

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.



Children in Worship is offered for elementary age children during the service. Children are invited to follow the cross in procession during the Gloria in excelsis and will return at the Peace.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY



The Lord be with you. And also with you. Let us pray.

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



A - men.

The people are seated for the reading of the lessons from sacred scripture.

THE FIRST LESSON

Amos 5: 18-24

Thus says the Lord, the God of hosts, the Lord:

Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord!
Why do you want the day of the Lord?

It is darkness, not light;
as if someone fled from a lion,
and was met by a bear;

or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,
and was bitten by a snake.

Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?

I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them;

and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.

Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an everflowing stream.

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

THE PSALTER Psalm 70

Plainsong, Mode VIII.2 *The Psalm is sung by the Choir.* *Deus, in adjutorium*

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE SECOND LESSON I Thessalonians 4: 13-18

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

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

All stand to sing as able.

HYMN 68 Rejoice! rejoice, believers *Llangloffen*

THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 25: 1-13

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

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

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

THE HOMILY The Reverend Andrew J. Hege

A few moments of silence for reflection follow the homily.

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Plenty Good Room

Celebrant Jesus said, "In my Father's house there are many dwelling places." Trusting in God's abundance and welcome, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all creation.

Leader Gracious God, you have made plenty good room for us in your household. Inspire your church to be a place of welcome, hospitality, and love. We thank you for the resources you have entrusted to us, and we pray for wisdom to use them in service of your mission. *Silence.*

Leader Lord, in your mercy.
People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader God of community, you bind us together in relationships of care and compassion. Strengthen the bonds of affection within this congregation and guide us to extend hospitality to our neighbors near and far. *Silence.*

Leader Lord, in your mercy.
People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader God of abundance, you invite us to respond with gratitude for all your gifts. Bless our gifts of time, talent, and treasure, that they may be faithful signs of our trust in you. *Silence.*

Leader Lord, in your mercy.
People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader. God of creation, you have made a world with plenty good room for all living things. Teach us to care for the earth and to share its resources with justice and joy. *Silence.*

Leader Lord, in your mercy.
People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader God of mercy, your dwelling place has room for all who suffer. Be present with those who are sick, lonely, grieving, or in any kind of need. Surround them with your healing and your peace. *Silence.*

Leader Lord, in your mercy.
People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader God of hope, you prepare a place for us in your eternal home. We remember before you those who have died, confident that they now rest in your embrace. *Silence.*

Leader Lord, in your mercy.

People **Hear our prayer.**

The Celebrant adds a concluding collect and the People respond, **Amen**.

The Confession of Sin and Absolution

BCP 360

The Celebrant bids the Confession. Silence may be kept.

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 Celebrant pronounces the absolution, and the people respond, **Amen**.

The Peace

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

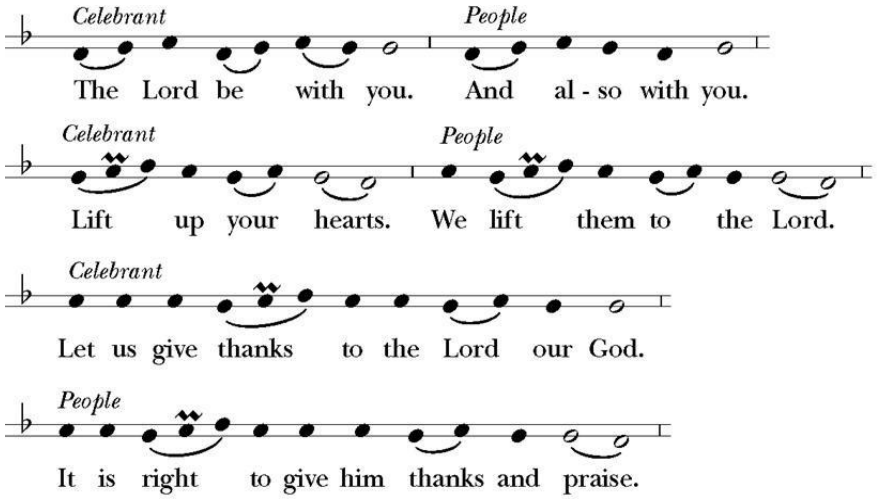
The Ministers and People exchange a sign of peace.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY

ANTIPHON	Out of the deep have I called unto Thee	Tone II
HYMN 11	Awake, my soul	*Morning Hymn*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *(Eucharistic Prayer B)* BCP 367



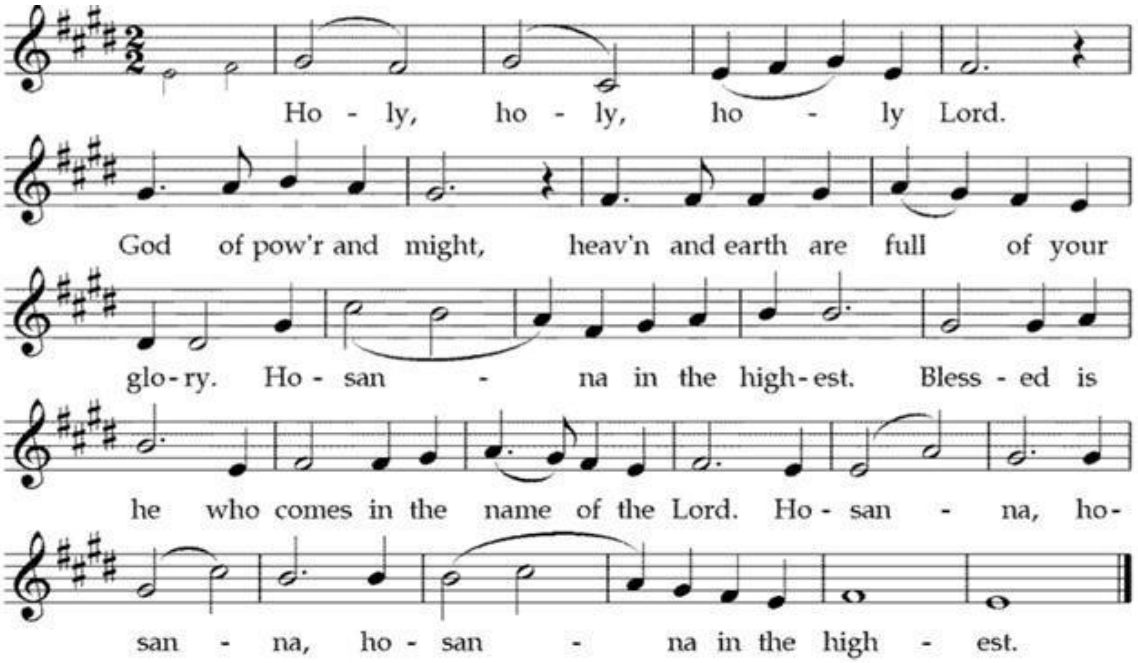
Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant continues the prayer and concludes the preface, saying,

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

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:

SANCTUS



The people stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues the prayer, recalling God's activity in our salvation history, the institution of the Lord's Supper, and inviting the people to join in saying,

Therefore, according to his command, O Father:

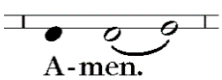
Celebrant and People

We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory.

The Celebrant continues, invoking the Spirit's present work, concluding the prayer and inviting the people to join in the doxology of the prayer, saying,

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.

People



THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Contemporary)* BCP 364

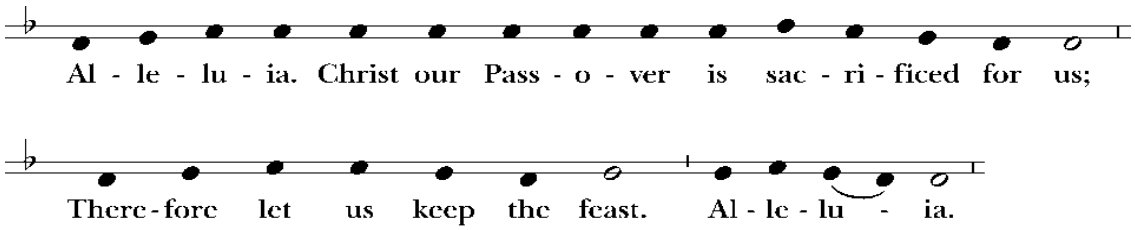
As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

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.

Fraction Anthem

After breaking the consecrated bread, the Celebrant and People sing,



The Invitation to Communion

Facing the people, the Celebrant 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.

Ministration of Holy Communion

We welcome to communion all who have been baptized in any Christian tradition. To receive the sacrament, extend your hands so that the priest may place the bread in the palm of your outstretched hands. Gluten free wafers are available. For those who desire to receive the wine that follows, guide the chalice toward your lips to drink from the cup. If you prefer to receive a blessing, cross your arms over your chest as a sign to the priest. For those unable to receive the sacrament this day, we offer this prayer:
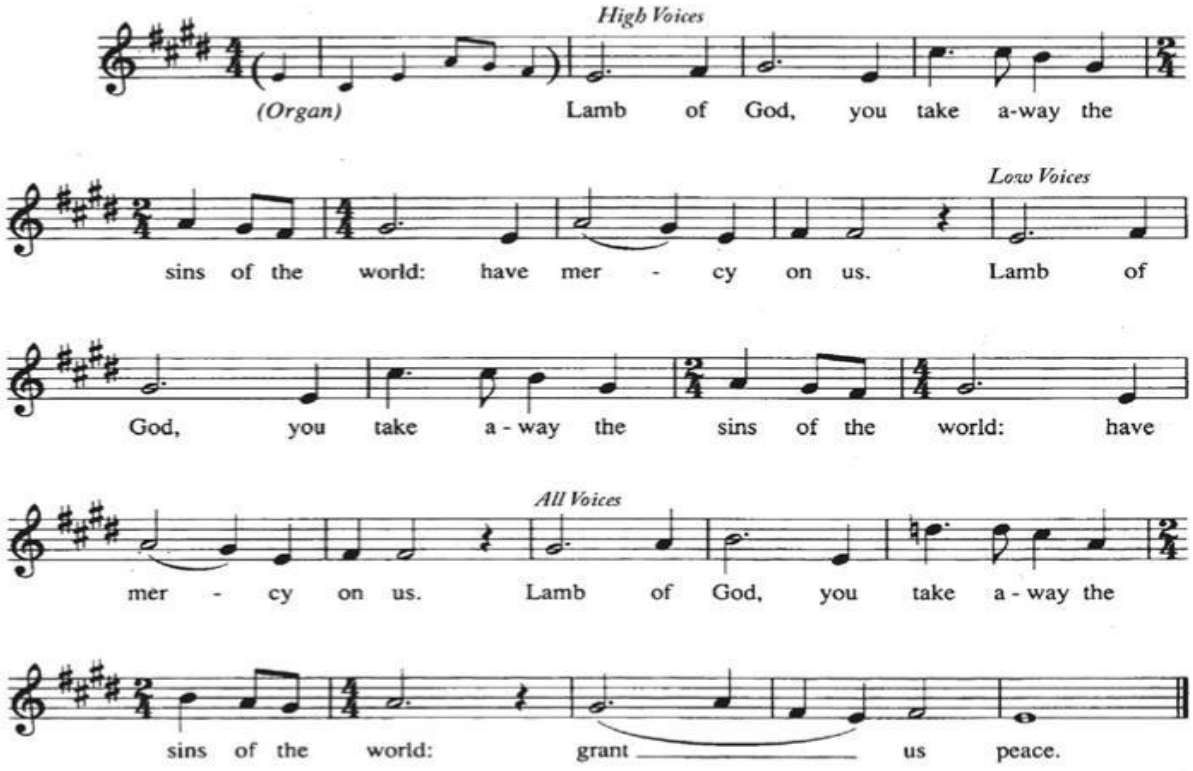
In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, in thanksgiving for the promised gift of your resurrection, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. **Amen**.

MUSIC AT THE COMMUNION

The Choir sings the Antiphon. All sing Agnus Dei and Hymn.

ANTIPHON Verily, I say unto you Tone I

AGNUS DEI



HYMN 620 Jerusalem, my happy home *Land of Rest*

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER BCP 365

The Celebrant and people say together,

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING

The Celebrant announces God's blessing and the people respond, **Amen**.

HYMN 436 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates *Truro*

THE DISMISSAL

The Celebrant proclaims the dismissal, and the people respond, **Thanks be to God.**

ORGAN VOLUNTARY Concerto in F G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

The setting of the Mass Ordinary (*Gloria, Sanctus, Agnus Dei*) is *Mass in E* by Jeffrey Smith (b. 1960).

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Ryan Pierce by Paul and Jackie Delmonico

LEADERS IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

The Reverend Andrew J. Hege
Celebrant & Homilist

Dr. Joby Bell
Organist

Grayson Milhollin
Cantor

Valerie Purcell
Verger

Hannah Reule
Crucifer

Leslie Billingsley
Chalice Minister

E.B. Springs, Marjory Holder, Billie Rogers
Lectors



ST. MARY OF THE HILLS

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828.295.7323

Office Hours
Monday-Thursday: 9 am to 4 pm | Friday: 9 am-noon

SUNDAYS

Holy Eucharist: 8 am | Christian Formation: 9 am | Holy Eucharist: 10:10 am

DURING THE WEEK

Monday – Friday Morning Prayer: 8:30 am | Wednesday Holy Eucharist: Noon

PARISH STAFF

The Reverend Andrew J. Hege | Rector

The Reverend Samuel V. Tallman | Assisting Clergy

The Reverend Torrence Harman | Assisting Clergy

Dr. James Bumgardner | Director of Music & Choirmaster/Organist

Michael Marshall | Director of Administration & Finance

Bill Devereux | Director of Hospitality & Facilities

Dr. Lynn Searfoss | Director of Communications

Valerie Purcell and Andy Sicard | Vergers

For pastoral emergencies, contact The Reverend Andrew J. Hege at:
Office: (828) 295-7323 | rector@stmaryofthehills.org

VESTRY

2026: Jim Snow | Jill Storelli

2027: Bob Amos | Mike Matthews, Jr. Warden | Bob Rhoads | Luba Skibo

2028: Richard Murphy | Peter Purcell, Sr. Warden | Dale Marie Sandusky

Lynn Searfoss, Clerk
Amanda White, Treasurer