

ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA



THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 27, 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

WELCOME & PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE WORD OF GOD

All stand as able.

HYMN 492

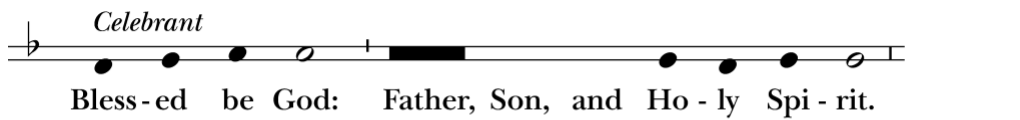
Sing, ye faithhful, sing with gladness

Finnian

THE OPENING ACCLIMATION & COLLECT FOR PURITY

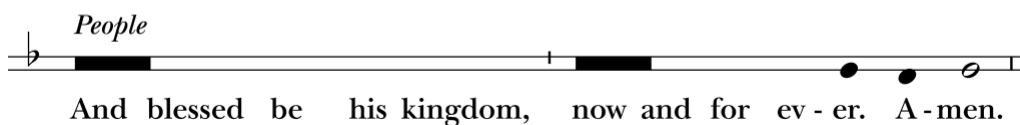
BCP 355

Celebrant



Bless-ed be God: Father, Son, and Ho-ly Spi-rit.

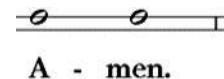
People



And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ev-er. A-men.

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.



A - men.

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



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al -
might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly
Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther:
re - ceive our prayer. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,
with the Ho - ly Spir - it, In the glo - ry of
God the Fa - ther. A - men.

The musical score is written on ten staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The lyrics are printed below the notes. The score includes various musical notations such as eighth, quarter, and half notes, rests, and bar lines. There are time signature changes from 4/4 to 2/4 and back to 4/4. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY



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

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who 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

Ezekiel 18: 1-4, 25-32

The word of the Lord came to me: What 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”? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know 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.

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

Therefore 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. Cast 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? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

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

THE PSALTER

Tune: Crotch

The Psalm is sung by the Choir.

Psalm 25: 1-8

Ad te, Domini, levavi

- 1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O Lord, *
and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.

THE SECOND LESSON

Philippians 2: 1-13

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

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

and became obedient to the point of death--
even death on a cross.

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

Therefore, 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; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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

All stand to sing as able.

HYMN 686

Come, thou fount of every blessing

Nettleton

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 21: 23-32

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

When 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?" Jesus 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. Did 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?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So 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.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which 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. For 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."

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	I, Daniel, prayed unto the Lord	Tone II
ANTHEM	<i>Call to Remembrance</i>	Richard Farrant (c.1525-1580)

Call to remembrance, O Lord,
thy tender mercy and thy loving kindness which hath been ever of old.
O remember not the sins and offences of my youth,
but according to thy mercy think thou on me, O Lord, for thy goodness.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (*Eucharistic Prayer B*)

BCP 367

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C). The first staff is for the Celebrant, with the lyrics "The Lord be with you." and the People, with the lyrics "And al - so with you." The second staff is for the Celebrant, with the lyrics "Lift up your hearts." and the People, with the lyrics "We lift them to the Lord." The third staff is for the Celebrant, with the lyrics "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." The fourth staff is for the People, with the lyrics "It is right to give him thanks and praise." The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and accidentals.

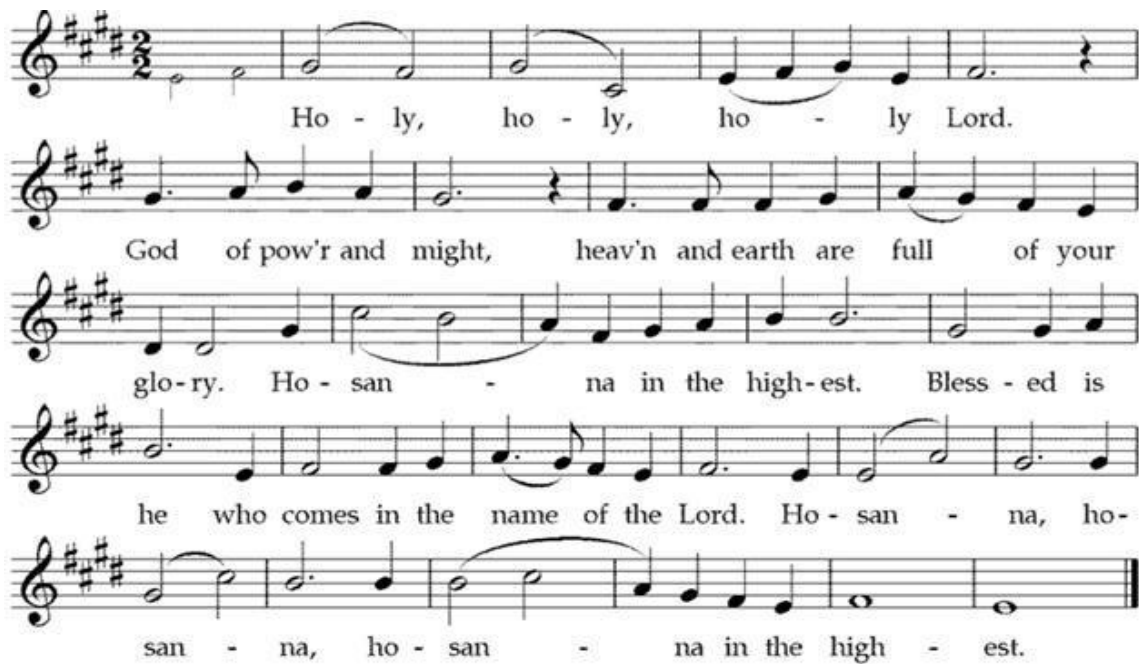
Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant continues the prayer and concludes the preface, saying,

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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord.
God of pow'r and might, heav'n 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, ho -
san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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:

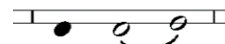
Celebrant and People

**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



A-men.

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.

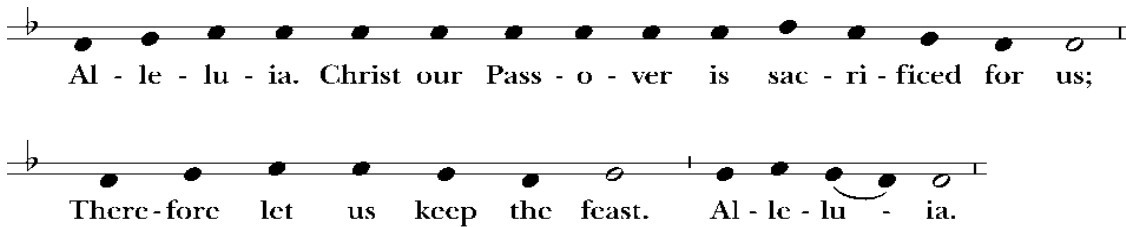
**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us**

**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

Promise unto the Lord, your God

Tone I

AGNUS DEI

The musical score for the Agnus Dei is written in G major (three sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff is for High Voices, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps. The second staff is for Low Voices, also with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps. The third staff is for All Voices, with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps. The fourth staff is for All Voices, with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps. The fifth staff is for All Voices, with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps. The lyrics are: (Organ) 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.

HYMN 339

Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness

Schmuck dich

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 477

All praise to thee, for thou, O King divine

Engleberg

THE DISMISSAL

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

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

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

LEADERS IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

The Reverend Andrew J. Hege
Celebrant & Homilist

Dr. James Bumgardner
Choirmaster/Organist

Thomas McNeil
Cantor

Will Postlethwaite
Crucifer

Lindsey Postlethwaite, Ryan Postlethwaite
Eucharistic Minister

Hannah Reule, Lynn Searfoss, Thomas McNeil
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

Malia McAllister | Christian Formation Coordinator

Michelle Curry | Verger

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