



St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Wilson, NC

# Twenty-Fifth Sunday of Pentecost: Proper 28

Year A

## November 19, 2023

Celebrant: The Rev. Paul H. Castelli, SCP    Preacher: Susan Schrader, Ministry Intern

Organist: Kara Zaharin

Greeter: (8:00) Mary deGuehery (10:30) Sue Fautz    Ushers: (10:30) Mike Miller, Dante Pittman

Lay Reader: (8:00) Renee Turner (10:30) Carol Rees

Eucharistic Ministers: (8:00) Renee Turner, (10:30) Eliza Stephenson (L), Bobby Boykin (R)

Acolytes: (10:30) Colin Stronach, Jack Rhodes, Cooke Rhodes

Altar Guild: Elizabeth Skinner, Margaret Jenkins, Lisa Robbins, Melissa Rees

Counters: Evelyn Baskerville, Ann Barnes

*Let us remember that the nave is a place of prayer and worship. Please enter reverently, keeping conversation to a whisper and to a minimum as your brothers and sisters in Christ may be trying to pray in preparation for the Holy Eucharist. We hope you will stay and visit with each other after the service. Appropriate personal devotional prayers for Sundays, before and after worship, and before and after receiving Holy Communion can be found on Pages 833-835 of the Book of Common Prayer. In addition, there are appropriate Psalms that can be prayed in preparation for worship, such as Psalms 84, 85, 86, 116, and 130. The Psalter can be found from Pages 585-808 in the Book of Common Prayer.*

### HOLY EUCHARIST RITE I 8:00 AM

*The 10:30 AM Rite II service begins on Page 2 of this bulletin.*

#### Welcome & Announcements

*The people stand as they are able as the Sacred Ministers process in silence.*

Opening Acclamation	BCP p. 323
Collect for Purity	
Summary of the Law	BCP p. 324
Kyrie	
Gloria	
Collect of the Day	BCP p. 325
Readings & Psalm	See Pages 3-5 in this bulletin.
Sermon	
The Nicene Creed	BCP p. 327
Prayers of the People	BCP p. 328
<i>During the silence to follow each paragraph, the congregation adds prayers aloud or in their hearts.</i>	
Confession & Absolution	BCP p. 330
The Peace	BCP p. 332
Offertory	BCP p. 333
The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer I	
Lord's Prayer	BCP p. 336
The Fraction Anthems	BCP p. 337
The Prayer of Humble Access	

*We believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, the consecrated bread and wine. Communion in the Episcopal Church is open to all baptized Christians and they are invited at this time to the altar rail to receive Christ's Body and Blood. If you require a gluten-free wafer, please inform the Priest and one will be provided for you. Please let an usher know if you need Communion brought to your seat for any reason. If you wish to receive a blessing, please come forward and cross your arms over your chest to signify that to the Priest.*

Post-Communion Prayer	BCP p. 339
Blessing	
Dismissal	

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II 10:30 AM

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn

O Christ, the Word Incarnate

The Hymnal 1982 #632

Opening Acclamation

BCP 355

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant +Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Celebrant prays the Collect for Purity

BCP 355

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.

The Gloria is sung

The Hymnal 1982 S-280

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
 peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly  
 King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we  
 give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus  
 Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
 take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy  
 on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -  
 ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,  
 you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most



*After the Gloria, the Celebrant faces the People and says,*

The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*The Celebrant says the Collect of the Day.*

**BCP 236**

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*The children are dismissed to children's church.*

**The First Lesson**

**Zephaniah 1:7,12-18**

*Zephaniah prophesies that there will be consequences to the people's sin. Persistent disobedience will not be disregarded.*

*Reader* A reading from Zephaniah.

Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm." Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.

The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

8:00 – The Psalm is read responsively by whole verse.

10:30 – The Psalm is chanted in unison.



© 1956, Jerome Webster Meachen.

- <sup>1</sup> Lord, you have been our **refuge** \*  
from one generation to **another**.
- <sup>2</sup> Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or the land and the earth were **born**, \*  
from age to age you are **God**.
- <sup>3</sup> You turn us back to the dust and **say**, \*  
"Go back, O child of **earth**."
- <sup>4</sup> For a thousand years in your sight are like  
yesterday when it is **past** \*  
and like a watch in the **night**.
- <sup>5</sup> You sweep us away like a **dream**; \*  
we fade away suddenly like the **grass**.
- <sup>6</sup> In the morning it is green and **flourishes**; \*  
in the evening it is dried up and  
**withered**.

- <sup>7</sup> For we consume away in your **displeasure**; \*  
we are afraid because of your wrathful  
**indignation**.
- <sup>8</sup> Our iniquities you have set **before you**, \*  
and our secret sins in the light of your  
**countenance**.
- <sup>9</sup> When you are angry, all our days are **gone**; \*  
we bring our years to an end like a **sigh**.
- <sup>10</sup> The span of our life is seventy years,  
perhaps in strength even **eighty**; \*  
yet the sum of them is but labor and  
sorrow,  
for they pass away quickly and we are  
**gone**.
- <sup>11</sup> Who regards the power of your **wrath**? \*  
who rightly fears your **indignation**?
- <sup>12</sup> So teach us to number our **days** \*  
that we may apply our hearts to **wisdom**.

The Second Lesson

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

The Thessalonians, and we ourselves, are called to live according to God's perspective of creation rather than the temptation to the sleepiness of this world.

Reader A reading from Thessalonians.

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

\* Sequence Hymn

Signs of ending all around us

Wonder, Love, & Praise #721

Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

+++ For some it is customary at this time to use our thumbs to trace three small crosses upon our foreheads, lips, and chests to signify keeping the Gospel in our minds, on our lips, and in our hearts.

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

\* The Gospel

Matthew 25:14-30

*Jesus tells the parable of the talents, of those whom much has been given, much will be expected.*

Jesus said, "It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

*After the Gospel, the Reader says*

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

Susan Schrader, Ministry Intern

Nicene Creed

BCP 358

*Please stand as you are able*

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.

\* Prayers of the People, Form III

BCP 387

*Reader* Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

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

*Reader* Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you; we pray especially for our sister Episcopal churches St. Mark's and La Guadalupana.

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

*Reader* We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons; especially Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Sam and Jennifer, our Bishops; and Paul, our priest.

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

*Reader* We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world; especially Joe our President, Roy our Governor, and Carlton our Mayor.

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

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

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

*Reader* Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble Rudy Knight, Sharon Wethington, Vernon Hodges, Harvey Ruffin, Kim Perry, Jean Bisette, Paige Quinn Barnhill, Hope Currie, Ezra Currie, George A. Ruff, Suzanne Fleming, Joanna Powell, Joe Noulles, Beth Holding, Jim Powers, Kreshaun Brewington, David Ballard, Phyllis Connor, Dwight Batts, Randolph Walston, Tyler Turner, Harrison Barnett, Stephanie Moore, Allison Parker, James Batts, Jimmy Thompson, Charlotte Bridgers, Linda Sheen, Henry Coleman, Lee Wilhelm, Bill Robinette, Betty Jean Gauss, Anna Jane Ruffin, Kayla Thomas, Kris Hing, Ginny Lou Ellis, Jean Webb, Lenore Smith, Nathan Toms, Al Harrison, Kathryn Harrison, Harris Holland, Russ Bass, Beth Fogleman, Debbie and Joe Reddick; Jane Lyon, Lisa Howell, Carter Grine, John Boddie Crudup, Bobbi Gregory, Jim Thomas, Keith Wilson, peace for the people of Israel, Palestine, Ukraine, Russia, Ethiopia, and all refugees fleeing lands mired in military conflict; for the people of Syria, Turkey, Canada, Maui, and all peoples recovering from natural disasters; those affected by Covid-19; and those affected by the lack of respect for the dignity of every person.

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

*Reader* Give to the †departed eternal rest, especially Sue Robinette in whose memory the flowers are given.

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

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

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

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

*Silence*

*Reader* For God's blessing upon our parishioners who are celebrating birthdays this week: Jaye Reason, Trey Parker, Alex Agner.

*The Celebrant concludes with a suitable Collect to which the People respond, Amen.*

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **Confession of Sin**

*The Celebrant says the following sentence of Scripture and bids the faithful to Confession.*

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these. *Mark 12:29-31*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence is kept.*

*Minister and People*

**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 Bishop, when present, or the Priest, stands and says*

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.**

### **\* The Peace**

**BCP 360**

*All stand. The Celebrant says to the people*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

## Offertory Sentence

The Offertory begins with the following words. The people are seated while the altar is prepared.

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:2

## Offertory Hymn

Not here for high and holy things (vv. 4-6)

The Hymnal #9

### \* The Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

The Hymnal 1982 #380 v. 3

Celebrant All things come of Thee, O Lord;

People And of Thine own have we given Thee.

### \* Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says

The musical notation is arranged in four systems, each with a staff and lyrics below. The first system is for the Celebrant and the second for the People. The third system is for the Celebrant and the fourth for the People. The lyrics are: "The Lord be with you. And al - so with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give him thanks and praise."

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Who by water and the Holy Spirit hast made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth thy glory in all the world. 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 and Benedictus

Holy, holy, holy Lord

The Hymnal 1982 S-124

The musical notation is arranged in three systems, each with a staff and lyrics below. The lyrics are: "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."

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: 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 Father of all.



He 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 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his 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 him. +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 your Son Jesus Christ: 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+**

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

**The Lord's Prayer**

**BCP 364**

**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,**

**for ever and ever. Amen.**

## Fraction

BCP 364

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

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia

## The Agnus Dei

Lamb of God

The Hymnal 1982 S-161

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.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

## Hymns at Communion

Open your ears, O faithful people  
I want to walk as a child of the light  
Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding

The Hymnal 1982 #536  
The Hymnal 1982 #490  
The Hymnal 1982 #59

We believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, the consecrated bread and wine. Communion in the Episcopal Church is open to all baptized Christians and they are invited at this time to the altar rail to receive Christ's Body and Blood. If you require a gluten-free wafer, please inform the Priest and one will be provided for you. Please let an usher know if you need Communion brought to your seat for any reason. If you wish to receive a blessing, please come forward and cross your arms over your chest to signify that to the Priest. Prayers are offered in the Baptistry Chapel at the back of the church.

## Post Communion Prayer

BCP 366

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

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.

\* congregation stands

† indicates appropriate times for the faithful to cross themselves

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

*Lay Eucharistic Visitors are sent forth by all, saying:* We send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us one bread and one cup, the communion of Christ's body and blood.

### Blessing

*The priest blesses the people, saying*

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the +Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

### \* Dismissal

*Celebrant* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

### \* Recessional Hymn

*Rise up, ye saints of God*

The Hymnal 1982 #551

### Closing Voluntary

### Postlude

*Te lucis ante terminu, plainsong, Mode 8*



The Altar flowers are given to the glory of God

In loving memory of

Sue Miller Robinette

By

Bill Robinette, Quin Wesson, Emily Wesson and Abigail Wesson



### VESTRY 2023

Class of 2023: Jim Davis, Thomas Farmer, Elizabeth Skinner, Dante Pittman  
Class of 2024: Evelyn Baskervill, Ginger Gliarmis, Donn Holt, Catherine Walston  
Class of 2025: Ann Barnes, Melba Martin, Bob Putney, Melissa Rees

Welcome to St. Timothy's Episcopal Church! We are a welcoming, inclusive, and affirming church guided by scripture, tradition, and reason. We invite you to experience a relationship with Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit, by participating in the liturgy, engaging with the scriptures, and abiding in this Christian community of faith. In baptism, we covenant with God and each other striving for justice and peace, seeking Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves, and respecting the dignity of every human being. We believe God loves you, just as you are, and so do we! So, whoever you are and wherever you are in your spiritual journey, you will be welcomed, loved, and affirmed at St. Timothy's. Everybody needs a place. We invite you to make this place yours!



## BULLETIN INSERTS

**November 19, 2023 – Pentecost 25 (A)**

**Meet Your Episcopal Service Corps Programs: Servant Year, Philadelphia, PA**

Young adults joining Servant Year commit to a year of volunteer local service, as well as a common rhythm of life, spiritual companionship, and asking big questions.

### **Spiritual Life**

Community life is shaped by a daily round of prayer. Each community has its own regular pattern for this prayer, established at the start of the year. In addition, worship is a central charism of the Servant Year community. As such, Corps members actively participate in the larger worshipping community of nearby Episcopal Churches: Saint Mark's or St. James.



For eleven months, Servant Year members form a community within the community of either Saint Mark's or St. James School, which is larger and more dispersed. It is home to others who live there, and in some ways a home for the people who work, learn, pray, and have fellowship in its broader community. A home is a safe place by definition, and we commit to safeguarding one another's safety in every reasonable way, primarily by taking responsibility for ourselves and our own actions.

### **Volunteering**

Through Servant Year, corps members embody the idea that Christian service begins with the recognition that we are called to service through our baptism, locating all work in response to the echoing command of Jesus to his disciples to "go" and do something! Servant Year members serve either at St. James School or St. Mark's Church, according to their gifts discerned during the interview process.

Servant Year members receive housing at either St. James School or St. Mark's Church, in individual rooms. Members also receive a \$600 monthly stipend, and are encouraged to participate in a retirement savings plan in which the program matches member contributions up to \$1,100. Members receive health insurance with no charge to themselves, and the program covers all co-pays for care. A \$5,000 education award to help with student loans or continued education after the program is available to all members. The program also covers travel costs for arrival and departure for the year of service and one trip during the service year. The program also supplies each member with a \$500 clothing allowance at the beginning of the year.

Applications for the 2024-2025 Corps will open December 1. Visit ESC's website to learn more about Servant Year or to take the ESC Discernment Quiz, [EpiscopalServiceCorps.org](http://EpiscopalServiceCorps.org).

Published by the Office of Communication of The Episcopal Church, 815 Second Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017  
© 2023 The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America. All rights reserved.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Opportunities for Prayer and Worship This Week

11/21- feria: Evening Prayer, 4:30 PM (Chapel)

11/22-feria:

11/23-Thanksgiving Day

11/24- feria/\*Day of Special Devotion

\*Days of Special Devotion are observed by special acts of discipline and self-denial, as per BCP p. 17. All Fridays of the year except Christmastide and Eastertide, or Feasts of the Lord whose fixed dates fall on a Friday, all weekdays of Lent except the Feast of the Annunciation. Either add a devotion, or do light fasting, or some other discipline (e.g. abstaining from meat, praying a Holy Hour, etc.).

Please note the office will be closed on Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24 for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Father Paul is on vacation next week. He will return to the office on Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>.

Please join us Wednesday nights for Bible study. Dinner begins at 5:15pm and Bible study begins at 6:00pm. Free childcare is provided. Children's Choir rehearses immediately after dinner. We will pause again on Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> and continue through Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> before taking a Christmas/New Years break until Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Beginning in November, The Epistle will no longer be mailed to everyone. We will continue to electronically distribute the newsletter through our bulk email service. Some hard copies will be made available for those **who are unable** to access the newsletter in that medium. **Homebound members without email access will have them continue to receive the newsletter in the mail or hand delivered by Eucharistic Visitors or St. Francis Guild visitors.** Printed copies of the calendar and server schedule will also be made available for anyone to pick up at any time from the office or church building. If you are not receiving *The Epistle* by email, please let Crissy know so our email distribution database can be properly updated.

Stay tuned for information about fun family Christmas activities in the month of December.

Christmas poinsettia donations will be available again for \$30 per plant. Please contact the office if you wish to donate a poinsettia in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving to God. You can also use the inserts provided in the bulletin.

Please be sure to turn your pledge cards into the office or in the collection plate ASAP if you have not already done so. The sooner we receive them, the more accurately we can plan. Often, we don't know what the total pledge is until January or February. Let's see if we can find out before the end of the year! To date, \$205,760 have been pledged to support God's mission through our parish ministries in 2024. Thank you to everyone who has already made these commitments.

Please turn in your Vestry nominations before the November 28th Vestry meeting.

Please bring any extra coats in good repair that may be hanging around your home and no longer being worn to the church. Any other apparel appropriate for the coming winter is also most welcome. I will ensure that they are distributed to those neighbors who need them. The deadline for this is Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>.