**Grace & Holy Trinity Church**

*an Episcopal parish on Monroe Park*



# The Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

## Year A

## Holy Eucharist, Rite One

Sunday, November 8, 2026 | 8:00 a.m.

## Welcome

**Welcome to Grace & Holy Trinity**. We hope you will find a community here with us, whether you are a college student, Richmond newcomer, out-of-towner, or a long-time resident looking for a new church home. **If you are visiting**, please fill out the **Connect Card** from the Connect Table and place it in the offering plate during the service. A wonderful **nursery** staff is available from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. should you wish to drop off your young children (up to age 3) during worship. **Changing tables** are located in the family restroom in the choir room. A greeter can direct you. Information about **complimentary Sunday parking** can be found on the back of this bulletin.

# The Word of God

*The beginning of our worship is intended as a reflection.*

**Opening Acclamation** *Book of Common Prayer* p. 323

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

**The Collect for Purity** *Book of Common Prayer* p. 323

*Celebrant* Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: **Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Trisagion** *Book of Common Prayer* p. 324

*Celebrant* Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,

***All*** **Have mercy upon us.**

**The Collect of the Day** *Book of Common Prayer* p. 184

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

***All*** **And with thy spirit.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son was manifested that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant us, we beseech thee, that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that, when he shall appear again with power and great glory, we may be made like unto him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where with thee, O Father, and thee, O Holy Ghost, he liveth and reigneth ever, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

*You may be seated for the readings.*

**First Reading** Joshua 24:1–3a, 14–25

*Lay Reader* A reading from the Book of Joshua.

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. "Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God." But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the Lord!" Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

*Lay Reader* The Word of the Lord.

***All*** **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 78:1–7** *Book of Common Prayer* p. 694

*Read responsively by whole verse.* *Attendite, populе*

*Lay Reader* 1 Hear my teaching, O my people;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

***All*** **2 I will open my mouth in a parable;**
**I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.**

3 That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us,
we will not hide from their children.
**4 We will recount to generations to come**
**the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord,**
**and the wonderful works he has done.**
5 He gave his decrees to Jacob
and established a law for Israel,
which he commanded them to teach their children;
**6 That the generations to come might know,**
**and the children yet unborn;**
**that they in their turn might tell it to their children;**
7 So that they might put their trust in God,
and not forget the deeds of God,
but keep his commandments;

**Second Reading** 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

*Lay Reader* A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

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.

*Lay Reader* The Word of the Lord.
***All*** **Thanks be to God.**

**The Gospel** Matthew 25:1–13

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
***All*** **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

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."

*Deacon* The Gospel of the Lord.
***All*** **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

**Sermon** The Rev. Marissa Sotos, *Assistant Priest*

*Silence for reflection.*

**The Nicene Creed** *Book of Common Prayer* p. 326

*Celebrant* Let us stand, and affirm our common faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

**The Prayers of the People** *Book of Common Prayer* p. 328

**Parish Prayer List**

**The Confession of Sin & Absolution** *Book of Common Prayer* p. 330

**The Peace** *Book of Common Prayer* p. 332

**Welcome & Announcements**

# The Holy Communion

**Offertory Sentence** *Book of Common Prayer* p. 376

*Celebrant* Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.
*– Ephesians 5:2*

**To donate or pay your pledge, text "GHTC" to 73256 or visit ghtc.org/give.**

*In receiving the offertory plates we say …*

***All*** **All things come of thee O Lord and of thine own have we given thee.** *– 1 Chronicles 29:14*

**The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer II** *Book of Common Prayer* p. 340

**The Lord's Prayer** *Book of Common Prayer* p. 336

**The Breaking of the Bread** *Book of Common Prayer* p. 337

**Communion Instructions**

Communicants will drink from the Chalice at the Altar in the chapel or intinct (dip) their wafer in the intinction cup. If you choose to intinct, after you receive the wafer, simply pinch the wafer between your thumb and index finger and hold it up near your face. This will signal for the intinction cup to be brought to you. You will dip the wafer yourself and then receive. Alternatively, communicants who receive the Bread may refrain from drinking from the Chalice entirely. Those who refrain from drinking from the Chalice are encouraged to cross their arms and say "Amen" when the Chalice is offered: their "Amen" is their verbal acknowledgment of the grace of the sacrament, the full grace of which is communicated through the Bread.

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

*Please stand as you are able.*

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

***All*** **Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**

**The Blessing**

*Celebrant* The peace of God, which passeth 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 Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**The Dismissal** Henri-Frédéric Amiel & *Book of Common Prayer* p. 339

*Deacon* Friends, life is short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us so be swift to love, make haste to be kind, and go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

***All*** **Thanks be to God.**

## Flowers at the Altar

This Sunday's Altar flowers are given to the glory of God. *If you would like to remember or honor a loved one by giving altar flowers, scan the QR Code, call the office, or visit* ***ghtc.org/flowers*** *for information.*

## Today's Worship Leaders

The Rev. Marissa Sotos, *Preacher*
The Rev. Brent A. Melton, *Celebrant*
Kay Gray, *Lay Reader*

### Parishioner's Pastoral Care Phone Number

A Pastoral Care Line is active for parishioners experiencing a pastoral emergency when the church office is closed. The on-call number is **(804) 322-3758**. Please save this number to your phone's contact list. Voice and text messages can be left at this number. The pastoral care team is comprised of our clergy and two staff members. We want to make sure we can connect to support our parishioners in any time of need.

### The Season after Pentecost (Green)

The season that follows Pentecost Sunday continues through the summer and fall months. This is the longest church season, as many as 28 Sundays depending on the date of Easter Day. This season falls in an Ordinary Time and green is the preferred color. This is a time Christians should reflect on the meaning of Christ's resurrection in our ordinary life.

We look to the Book of Acts (9:32, 26:10) where the term is given to all faithful Christians as well as in Paul's letters who addresses the members of the community who receive his letters as saints. We believe that through sharing our life with Christ makes it possible for us to be saints too. This does not make us elite, but faithful people striving to do God's work and building up God's church. All Saints Day is a major feast day typically celebrated the first Sunday in November in the Episcopal Churches. This Sunday is especially important to us who identify ourselves with All Saints. As the hymn says, "…for the saints of God are just folk like me and I mean to be one too (*The Hymnal 1982* #293)."

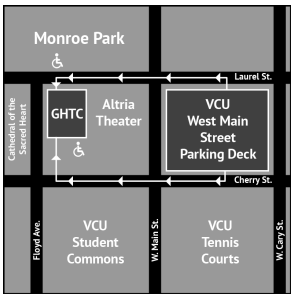
– *An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church- Armentrout & Slocum 2000* p. 454

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## Complimentary Sunday Parking Instructions at VCU W. Main Street Parking Deck

**Validation Number:** WM-1593
**Expiration date:** 06/30/2027
*QR code only valid on Sundays.*




1. Enter the parking deck from N. Laurel Street or N. Cherry Street.
2. At the parking gate arm, press the button to receive a ticket.
3. Park in any available space in the deck.
4. After visiting Grace & Holy Trinity, exit the parking deck in your vehicle and scan your parking ticket into the machine at the parking gate arm.
5. When the machine asks for payment, hold the QR code to the scanner.
6. The machine will scan the code, accept it as payment, and the parking gate arm will raise in order for you to exit.

***If you need assistance, press the "i" button at the gate and someone will assist remotely.**

| **GHTC Staff:** Name, *Title* | **Ministry Focus** | **Phone Ext.** |
|---|---|---|
| The Rev. Brent A. Melton, *Rector* | Admin. \| Liturgy \| Pastoral Care | Ext. 17 |
| The Rev. Marissa Sotos, *Assistant Priest* | Outreach \| Communications \| Liturgy | Ext. 16 |
| The Rev. Jenny Montgomery, *Priest Associate* | Worship \| Parish Life | Ext. 12 |
| The Rev. Steve Pace, *Deacon* | Outreach \| Pastoral Care | Ext. 12 |
| The Rev. Russ Kerr, *Campus Minister* | Pace Center Student Engagement Coordinator | |
| Tyler Brady, *Communications Associate* | Communications \| Media \| Printing | Ext. 25 |
| Jane Coffey, *Financial Administrator* | Admin. \| Pledges \| Stewardship \| Realm | Ext. 14 |
| Dr. Elizabeth Melcher Davis, *Choirmaster & Organist* | Music \| Choir \| Liturgy | Ext. 18 |
| Barbara Hobson-Simpson, *Receptionist* | Doors \| Phones \| Welcome | Ext. 10 |
| Spencer Koger, *Assistant Choirmaster & Organist* | Youth Instrumental Ensemble \| Choir | Ext. 21 |
| Mack McElwain, *Sexton* | Property | |
| Rufus Pittman, *Sexton* | Property | |
| Madeleine Preston, *Minister of Formation & Connection* | Children & Youth \| Newcomers \| Volunteers | Ext. 15 |
| Coco Provance, *Director of Administration & Facilities* | Operations \| Facilities \| Pastoral Care Admin. | Ext. 23 |
| Abigail Stinnett, *Intergenerational Choir Director* | Intergenerational Choir | |
| Otis Swain, *Sexton* | Property | |

**We ask that you please take this bulletin with you and recycle it when you are finished.**

Grace & Holy Trinity Church
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