**Grace & Holy Trinity Church**

*an Episcopal parish on Monroe Park*




# The Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

## Year A

## Holy Eucharist, Rite One

Sunday, November 15, 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.

Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them; that, by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*You may be seated for the readings.*

**First Reading** Judges 4:1–7

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

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, after Ehud died. So the Lord sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years. At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the

Israelites came up to her for judgment. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, "The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you, 'Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.'"

*Lay Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

**Psalm 123** *Book of Common Prayer* p. 780

*Read responsively by whole verse.* *Ad te levavi oculos meos*

*Lay Reader* 1 To you I lift up my eyes,
to you enthroned in the heavens.

***All*** **2 As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters,
and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,**

3 So our eyes look to the Lord our God,
until he show us his mercy.

**4 Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy,
for we have had more than enough of contempt,**

5 Too much of the scorn of the indolent rich,
and of the derision of the proud.

**Second Reading** 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

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

*Lay Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

**The Gospel** Matthew 25:14–30

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

***All*** **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

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.'"

*Deacon* The Gospel of the Lord.

***All*** **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

**Sermon** The Rev. Brent Melton, *Rector*

*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. Brent A. Melton, *Preacher*
The Rev. Marissa Sotos, *Celebrant*
Terry Hathaway, *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)."

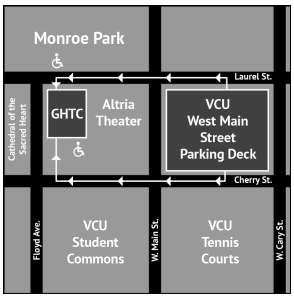
– *An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church- Armentrout & Slocum 2000* p. 454

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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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