

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
A Parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Western New York
96 Jewett Parkway • Buffalo, NY 14214

October 7, 2026
St. Francis of Assisi (tr)
6:00 P.M.

Congregational responses are **in bold**.

Opening Hymn

You are no longer strangers and sojourners, but citizens together
with the saints and members of the household of God. *Ephesians 2:19*

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.

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.**

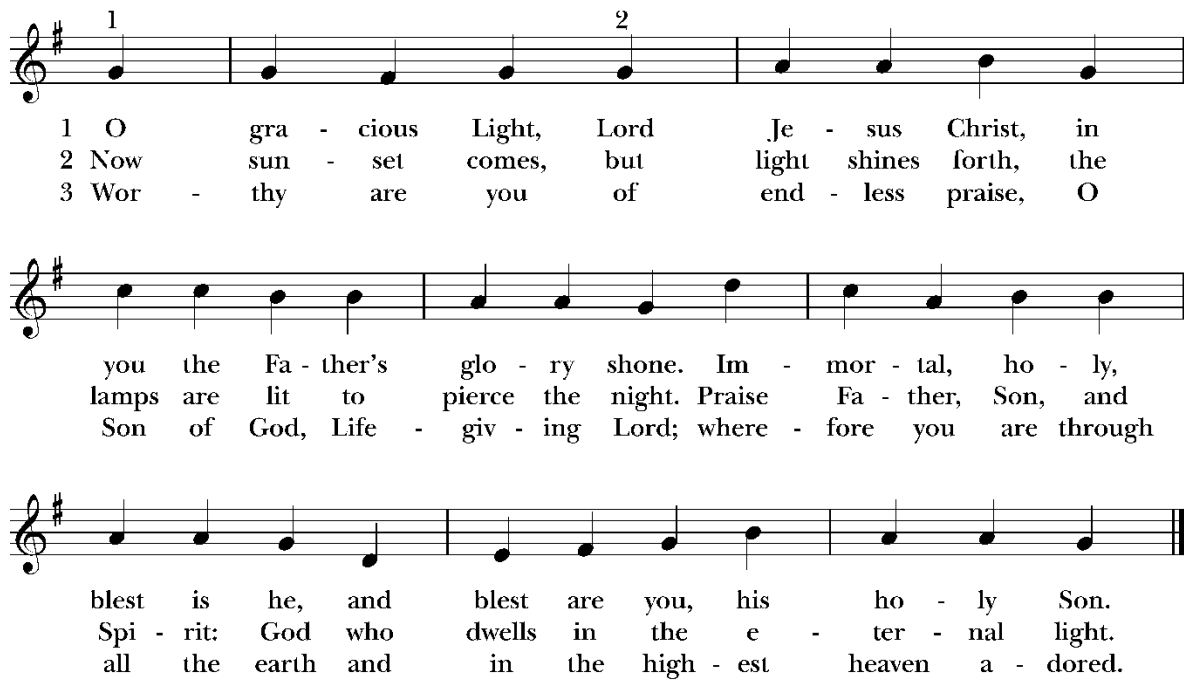
Officiant O God, be not far from us.

People **Come quickly to help us, O God.**

**Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Except in Lent add Alleluia.

Phos hilaron



1 O gra - cious Light, Lord Je - sus Christ, in
2 Now sun - set comes, but light shines forth, the
3 Wor - thy are you of end - less praise, O

you the Fa - ther's glo - ry shone. Im - mor - tal, ho - ly,
lamps are lit to pierce the night. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and
Son of God, Life - giv - ing Lord; where - fore you are through

blest is he, and blest are you, his ho - ly Son.
Spi - rit: God who dwells in the e - ter - nal light.
all the earth and in the high - est heaven a - dored.

This hymn may be sung unaccompanied as a four-part canon at a distance of one measure.

Words: Greek, 3rd cent.; tr. F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984); para. of *O Gracious Light*. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund.
Music: *The Eighth Tune*, Thomas Tallis (1505?-1585); adapt. *Hymnal* 1982.

Psalm 121 (St. Helena Psalter)

said responsively by the half verse

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; *

from where is my help to come?

2 My help comes from God, *

the maker of heaven and earth.

3 God will not let your foot be moved; *

the One who watches over you will not fall asleep.

4 Behold, the One who keeps watch over Israel *

shall neither slumber nor sleep;

5 The Holy One watches over you *

and is your shade at your right hand,

6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *

nor the moon by night.

7 God shall preserve you from all evil, *

and is the One who shall keep you safe.

8 God shall watch over your going out and your coming in, *

from this time forth for evermore.

A Reading from Job

(39:1-18)

- ¹ 'Do you know when the mountain goats give birth?
Do you observe the calving of the deer?
- ² Can you number the months that they fulfil,
and do you know the time when they give birth,
- ³ when they crouch to give birth to their offspring,
and are delivered of their young?
- ⁴ Their young ones become strong, they grow up in the open;
they go forth, and do not return to them.
- ⁵ 'Who has let the wild ass go free?
Who has loosed the bonds of the swift ass,
- ⁶ to which I have given the steppe for its home,
the salt land for its dwelling-place?
- ⁷ It scorns the tumult of the city;
it does not hear the shouts of the driver.
- ⁸ It ranges the mountains as its pasture,
and it searches after every green thing.
- ⁹ 'Is the wild ox willing to serve you?
Will it spend the night at your crib?
- ¹⁰ Can you tie it in the furrow with ropes,
or will it harrow the valleys after you?
- ¹¹ Will you depend on it because its strength is great,
and will you hand over your labour to it?
- ¹² Do you have faith in it that it will return,
and bring your grain to your threshing-floor?
- ¹³ 'The ostrich's wings flap wildly,
though its pinions lack plumage.
- ¹⁴ For it leaves its eggs to the earth,
and lets them be warmed on the ground,
- ¹⁵ forgetting that a foot may crush them,
and that a wild animal may trample them.
- ¹⁶ It deals cruelly with its young, as if they were not its own;
though its labour should be in vain, yet it has no fear;
- ¹⁷ because God has made it forget wisdom,
and given it no share in understanding.
- ¹⁸ When it spreads its plumes aloft,
it laughs at the horse and its rider.

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

St. Francis, from Lesser Feasts and Fasts

Francis, the son of a prosperous merchant of Assisi, was born in 1182. His early youth was spent in harmless revelry and fruitless attempts to win military glory. Various encounters with beggars and lepers pricked the young man's conscience, however, and he decided to embrace a life devoted to Lady Poverty. Despite his father's intense opposition, Francis totally renounced all material values and devoted himself to serve the poor. In 1210, Pope Innocent III confirmed the simple Rule for the Order of Friars Minor, a name Francis chose to emphasize his desire to be numbered among the "least" of God's servants.

The order grew rapidly all over Europe. But, by 1221, Francis had lost control of it, since his ideal of strict and absolute poverty, both for the individual friars and for the order as a whole, was found to be too difficult to maintain. His last years were spent in much suffering of body and spirit, but his unconquerable joy never failed. In his later years he was ordained as a deacon, but he resisted all efforts to persuade him to become a priest.

Please stand for the proclamation of the Gospel

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ, according to Luke

Glory to you, Lord Christ

¹³Someone in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.' ¹⁴But he said to him, 'Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?' ¹⁵And he said to them, 'Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.' ¹⁶Then he told them a parable: 'The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷And he thought to himself, "What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?" ¹⁸Then he said, "I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry." ²⁰But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" ²¹So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Homily

*Please remain sitting for the singing of the
Nunc dimittis*

Insert

The Call and Response Apostles' Creed. (from Church of England, Common Worship)

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in God's Son Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Prayers

Presider: Hear our cry, O God.

And listen to our prayer.

Let us pray.

Leader: For the Church of God in every place, that it may persevere in
faith and hope, we pray to you.

Christ, have mercy

For all who minister in your Church that they may have grace to build up your people
in love, we pray to you.

Christ, have mercy.

For the leaders of the countries, that they will heed your call and persistently pursue peace, we pray to you,

Christ have mercy.

For the sick, the hopeless and those in danger, *especially those we now name* [PAUSE]

We pray to you,

Christ have mercy.

For the dying and the dead, that they will rest in peace, *especially those we now name* [PAUSE]

We pray to you,

Christ have mercy.

The Collect of the Day

Most high, omnipotent, good Lord, grant your people grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this world; that, following the way of blessed Francis, we may, for love of you, delight in your whole creation with perfectness of joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

And also with you

The Eucharistic Prayer (Prayer 2, Enriching Our Worship)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God,
source of life abundant.

From before time you made ready the creation.

Your Spirit moved over the deep
and brought all things into being:

sun, moon, and stars;

earth, winds, and waters;

and every living thing.

You made us in your image,

and taught us to walk in your ways.

But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away;
and yet, as a mother cares for her children,
you would not forget us.

Time and again you called us
to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels
in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity,
lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing (say):

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God.
To deliver us from the power of sin and death
and to reveal the riches of your grace,
you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant,
that she might conceive and bear a son,
Jesus the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us.
He broke bread with outcasts and sinners,
healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor.
He yearned to draw all the world to himself
yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.

Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross
the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us,
Jesus was at table with his friends.
He took bread, gave thanks to you,
broke it, and gave it to them, and said:
"Take, eat:
This is my Body, which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine.
Again, he gave thanks to you,
gave it to them, and said:
"Drink this, all of you:
This is my Blood of the new Covenant,
which is poured out for you and for all
for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation,
and remembering Christ, crucified and risen,
who was and is and is to come,
we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine,
and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts
that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ.
Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth
and make us your new creation,
the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.
In the fullness of time bring us,
with [*St. Francis* and] all your saints,
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
to feast at the banquet prepared
from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
to you be honor, glory, and praise,
for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast, Alleluia

The Gifts of God given for us, the beloved of God: Come and be fed.

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

**God of abundance,
you have fed us
with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us
with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one
with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth
in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever
in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

The Blessing often attributed to Francis but, in fact writing by Sr. Ruth Fox

May God bless you with discomfort,
At easy answers, half-truths,
And superficial relationships
So that you may live
Deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger
At injustice, oppression,
And exploitation of people,
So that you may work for
Justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears,
To shed for those who suffer pain,
Rejection, hunger and war,
So that you may reach out your hand
To comfort them and
To turn their pain to joy

And may God bless you
With enough foolishness
To believe that you can
Make a difference in the world,
So that you can do
What others claim cannot be done
To bring justice and kindness
To all our children and the poor.

Amen

Closing Hymn

The Dismissal

Our worship has ended, our service continues:
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.