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

**November 25, 2026**
**Thanksgiving Eve**
**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*

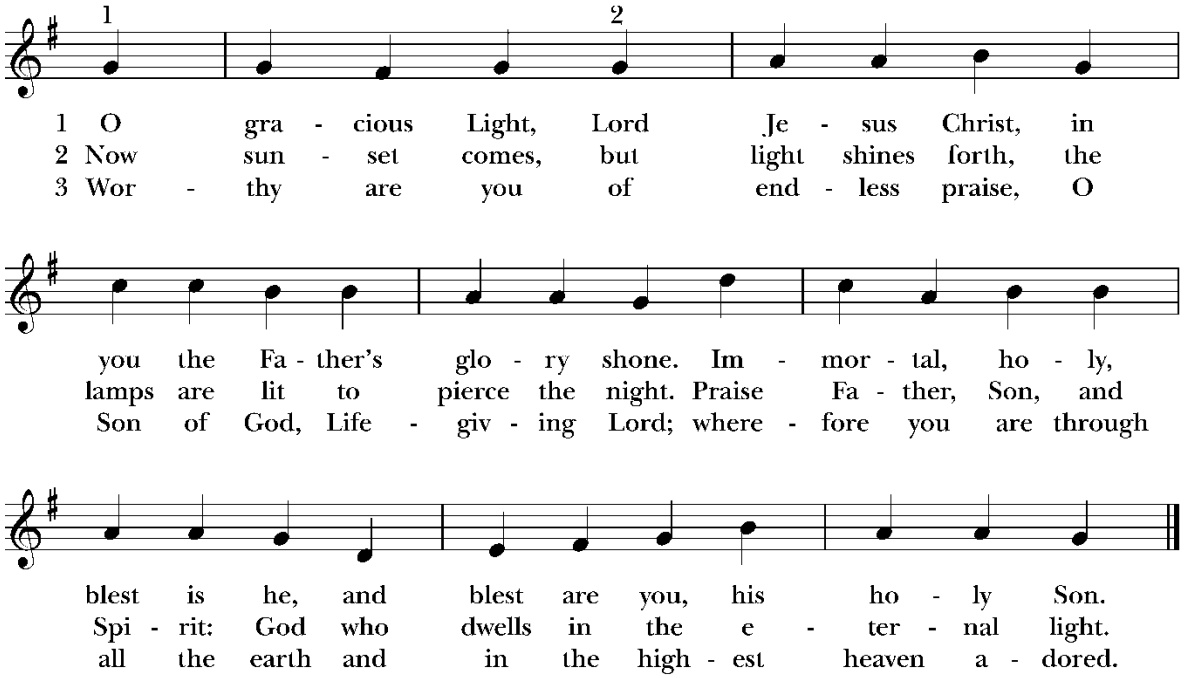
*Confession of Sin*
Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**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*




*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 126** *(St. Helena Psalter)*
*said responsively by the half verse*

1 When God restored the fortunes of Zion, *
**then were we like those who dream.**
2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
**and our tongue with shouts of joy.**
3 Then they said among the nations, *
**"God has done great things for them."**
4 God has done great things for us, *
**and we are glad indeed.**
5 Restore our fortunes, O God, *
**like the watercourses of the Negev.**
6 Those who sowed with tears *
**will reap with songs of joy.**
7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
**will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves**.

*A Reading from the Book of Joel 2:21-27*

Don't fear, fertile land;
rejoice and be glad,

for the Lord is about to do great things!
Don't be afraid, animals of the field,
for the meadows of the wilderness will turn green;
the tree will bear its fruit;
the fig tree and grapevine will give their full yield.
Children of Zion,
rejoice and be glad in the Lord your God,
because he will give you the early rain as a sign of righteousness;
he will pour down abundant rain for you,
the early and the late rain, as before.
The threshing floors will be full of grain;
the vats will overflow with new wine and fresh oil.
I will repay you for the years
that the cutting locust,
the swarming locust, the hopping locust, and the devouring locust have eaten—
my great army, which I sent against you.
You will eat abundantly and be satisfied,
and you will praise the name of the Lord your God,
who has done wonders for you;
and my people will never again be put to shame.
You will know that I am in the midst of Israel,
and that I am the Lord your God—no other exists;
never again will my people be put to shame.

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

*Canticle of the Turning* *Daigle/Cooley/Donohoo* *Insert*

*Please stand for the proclamation of the Gospel*

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

**Glory to you, Lord Christ**

"Therefore, I say to you, don't worry about your life, what you'll eat or what you'll drink, or about your body, what you'll wear. Isn't life more than food and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds in the sky. They don't sow seed or harvest grain or gather crops into barns. Yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you worth much more than they are? Who among you by worrying can add a single moment to your life? And why do you worry about clothes? Notice how the lilies in the field grow. They don't wear themselves out with work, and they don't spin cloth. But I say to you that even Solomon in all of his splendor wasn't dressed like one of these. If God

dresses grass in the field so beautifully, even though it's alive today and tomorrow it's thrown into the furnace, won't God do much more for you, you people of weak faith? Therefore, don't worry and say, 'What are we going to eat?' or 'What are we going to drink?' or 'What are we going to wear?' Gentiles long for all these things. Your heavenly Father knows that you need them. Instead, desire first and foremost God's kingdom and God's righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*Homily*

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

*The Affirmation of Faith*
*Please stand, as we proclaim our faith, by saying:*
**We believe that God is present**
**in the darkness before dawn;**
**In the waiting and uncertainty**
**where fear and courage join hands,**
**Conflict and caring link arms**
**And the sun rises over barbed wire.**
**We believe in a with-us God**
**Who sits down in our midst**
**To share our humanity,**
**A feasting God.**
**We affirm a faith,**
**That takes us beyond a safe place**
**Into action, into vulnerability,**
**Into the streets.**
**We commit ourselves to work for change**
**And put ourselves on the line;**
**To bear responsibility, to take risks,**
**Live powerfully and face humiliation;**
**To stand with those on the edge;**
**To choose life**
**And be used by the Spirit**
**For God's new community of Hope. Amen.**
*(from Iona Abbey Worship Book by The Iona Community)*

*A Litany of Thanksgiving*
Let us give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts so

freely bestowed upon us.
For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea,
**We thank you, Lord.**
For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women, revealing the image of Christ,
**We thank you, Lord.**
For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends,
**We thank you, Lord.**
For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,
**We thank you, Lord.**
For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play,
**We thank you, Lord**.
For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity,
**We thank you, Lord**.
For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice,
**We thank you, Lord.**
For the communion of saints, in all times and places,
**We thank you, Lord.**
Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord;
To him be praise and glory, with you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The Collect of the Day*
Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for 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 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 Lord's Prayer sung*
**Our Father, which art in heaven,**
**Hallowed be thy Name**
**Thy kingdom come**
**Thy will be done in earth**
**As it is in heaven**
**Give us this day, our daily bread**
**And forgive us our debts**
**As we forgive our debtors**
**And lead us not into temptation**
**But deliver us from evil**
**For thine is the kingdom,**
**And the power**
**And the glory**
**Forever. 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*

Life is short,
And we do not have much time
to gladden the hearts of those who
make the journey with us.
So… be swift to love,
and make haste to be kind.
And the blessing of the God,
who made us,
loves us,
and travels with us
be with you now and forevermore.
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.**