The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 8, 2024, 10:00 a.m. Homecoming Sunday



THE CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

The Episcopal Church in Agoura, Oak Park, and Westlake Village

The Rev. Jamie Barnett, Vicar The Rev. Karen James, Deacon

WELCOME

Visitors: We are delighted you have come to worship with us today! If you are interested in learning more about our church, please fill out the purple information card found in the slot in front of your seat and place it on the collection plate. We are excited to meet you and would love to get to know you!

This booklet contains the full order of service. If you are unfamiliar with our rituals and customs, just be present with us in this ancient liturgy and let the rest of the congregation carry you in worship. The bold type indicates where the people are invited to respond or pray.

Coffee Hour: Whether you are just visiting or have been here many times, we would love for you to join us for a time of fellowship with coffee and donuts in the Bishop's Hall directly after the service. If you are visiting and are not sure where the Bishop's Hall is, please ask anyone and they will be happy to show you!

Restrooms: Proceed through the office door to the right of the church and go straight down the hall and to the left. Both restrooms have baby changing tables.

Assisted listening devices: Available from the ushers in the back of the church.

Children: We welcome children in our worship. Their sounds are a gift from God – no need to subdue them! Our *prayground* is located in the side chapel and has quiet activities for parents and younger children to use while still in worship. Children ages 3-11 are welcome to join the atrium for our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Sunday School program located in Mitchel Hall. Ask the ushers for directions. Children return to the service for communion.

Contact: Office hours are Tuesday-Thursday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and the sanctuary is open during these hours for private prayer or meditation. To speak with The Rev. Jamie Barnett, please call the office and make an appointment. Her office hours are Tuesday through Thursday.

Communion: By tradition, The Episcopal Church offers Holy Communion to all baptized persons. If you are not baptized, but wish to receive, we invite you to participate fully in the opening part of the service, called the Ministry of the Word, hearing God's word and reflecting on your life, enabling you to come to the table for communion, if you so choose, with a heart prepared to receive. We hope that if you feel touched by the word and sacrament and wish to learn more about the life-giving power of the Spirit of the Risen Christ, you will contact The Rev. Jamie Barnett to inquire about participating in Holy Baptism.

Out of consideration for your fellow worshippers, please either turn off or silence your cell phones.

The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

PRELUDE

Prelude

WILLIAM H. HARRIS (1883-1973)

The Word of God

At the sound of the bell, all stand as able and sing. ENTRANCE HYMN

WLP 778

We all are one in mission

Nyland





COLLECT FOR HOMECOMING AND CELEBRATION OF MINISTRIES

Presider:

Siblings in Christ, we are all baptized by the one Spirit into one Body and given gifts for a variety of ministries for the common good. Those here gathered have each answered the Lord's call to lead a specific ministry with a resounding, "Here I am, Lord; send me." Today our joy and purpose is to recognize, commission, and bless these persons, in the Name of God and of this congregation. We ask that they may be strengthened physically and spiritually to continue to lead the special ministry to which they have been called.

All:

O Eternal God, the foundation of all wisdom and the source of all courage: enlighten with your grace the ministry leaders of this congregation, and so rule their minds and guide their counsels that in all things they may seek your glory and promote the mission of your Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Presider: In the name of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I commission you and bless you as ministry leaders for this faith community!

All are seated.

RECOGNITION OF VOLUNTEERS

OPENING ACCLAMATION

The people standing, the Presider says

PresiderBlessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

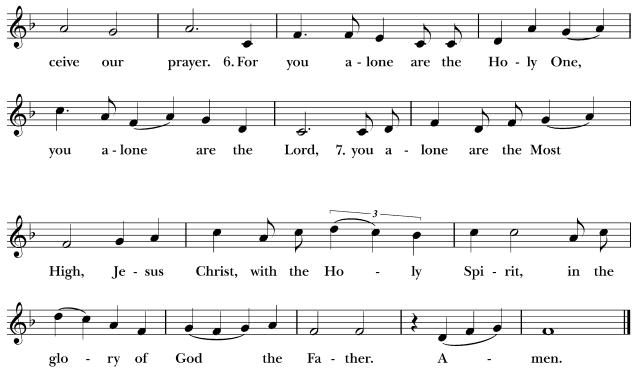
OPENING ANTHEM OR SONG OF PRAISE

The following is sung, all standing.

Hymnal S-280 Glory to God in the highest

ROBERT POWELL (B. 1932)





Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

PresiderGod dwells in you.PeopleAnd also in you.PresiderLet us pray.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*.

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:4-7a

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷athe burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

Reader	The Word of the Lord.
People	Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

PSALM 146 (sung by all)



1	Hallelujah! Praise the Lord, O my soul ! * I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.
2	Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth, * for there is no help in them.
3	When they breathe their last, they return to earth, * and in that day their thoughts perish.
4	Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! * whose hope is in the Lord their God;
5	Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; * who keeps his promise for ever;
6	Who gives justice to those who are op pressed, * and food to those who hunger.
7	The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; * the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
8	The Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares for the stranger; * he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.
† 9	The Lord shall reign for ever, * your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Halle lujah!

SECOND READING: James 2:1-17

The people sit.

A Reading from the letter of James.

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. ¹¹For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

ReaderThe Word of the Lord.PeopleThanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

SEQUENCE HYMN

All stand as able.Hymn 603When Christ was lifted from the earth

St. Botolph

GOSPEL: Mark 7:24-37

Deacon	The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
People	Glory to you, Lord Christ.

²⁴[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,²⁵but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

Deacon	The Gospel of the Lord.
People	Praise to you, Lord Christ

THE SERMON

THE NICENE CREED

All stand as 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.

The Rev. Jamie Barnett

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

All remain standing as able.

We are humbled by the good you can do through us when we give ourselves over to you. Keep us close to you that we may be unafraid to speak your truth. Make your church quick to listen for your voice as we move forward as doers of the word.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons; for those who support your mission of mercy in the world; those who teach; and those who take your word into their hearts.

We are living on a vast and diverse planet. Guide those who lead others, that they may genuinely be concerned about the welfare of their people.

We pray for our nation, especially in this season of preparation for local, state, and national elections. We pray that all will be filled with the spirit of wisdom, vision, and peace.

We are burdened by illnesses, anxieties, addictions, and broken relationships. Cover us with your grace and compassion. We pray for those on our parish prayer list: Pat, Arturo, Hayven, Leila, Betty, the Morales-Aguilar family, Arthur, Boyd, Matt, Sage, Ethel, and Ron. We pray also for those who have requested our prayers but who prefer to remain anonymous, and for those on our long-term prayer list.

Drive far from us the fear that keeps us from trusting your goodness.

We are grieved by the loss of all who have died, especially the victims of the Georgia school shooting.

Give us confidence in your promise of endless life with you, surrounded by your glory and accompanied by your saints and angels. Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Deacon says Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be 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 Presider 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

PresiderThe peace of the Lord be always with you,PeopleAnd also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER FOR BIRTHDAYS

All Watch over your *children*, O Lord, as *their* days increase; bless and guide *them* wherever they may be. Strengthen *them* when *they* stand; comfort *them* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *them* up if *they* fall; and in *their* hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of *their* lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY SOLO	Praise to t	he Lord, the Almighty	(sung by the Parish Choir)
	0 my soul come, ye v	Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation; O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation: come, ye who hear, brothers and sisters draw near, praise him in glad adoration.	
	Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth, shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth: hast thou not seen? All that is needful hath been granted in what he ordaineth. Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee; surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend thee: ponder anew all the Almighty can do, he who with love doth befriend thee. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him! All that hath life and breath come now with praises before him! Let the Amen sound from his people again: gladly for ay we adore him. Amen.		
			before him!
	Text: Music:	Joachim Neander (1650-1680), trans. Cat 1878), and others Norman Gilbert (1912-1975)	THERINE WINKWORTH (1827-
	, <i>.</i> ,		, ,, ,.

As the peoples' gifts of bread, wine, and money are presented for a blessing, all stand as able and singHymn 375Give praise and glory unto GodDU LEBENSBROT, HERR JESU CHRIST

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

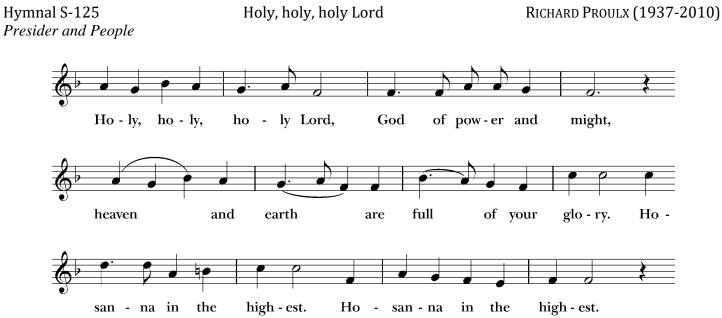
Presider	God dwells in you.
People	And also in you.
Presider	Lift up your hearts.
People	We lift them to the Lord.
Presider	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People	It is right to give God thanks and praise.

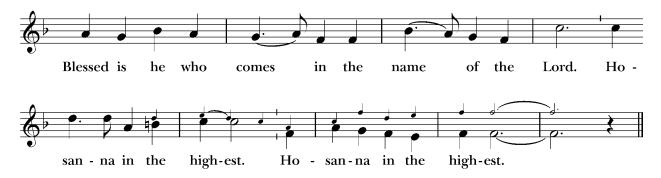
Facing the Holy Table, the Presider proceeds

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:

SANCTUS





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The People stand or kneel.
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The Presider continues

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, Iesus 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 [______ 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.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say in the language of our hearts,

People and Presider

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, forever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

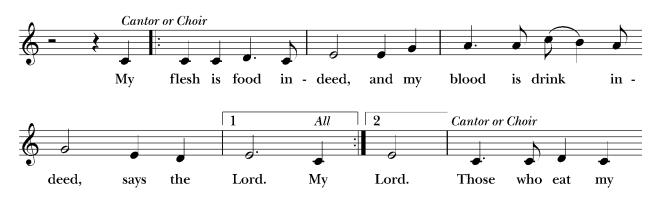
Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo, santificado sea tu nombre, venga tu reino, hágase tu voluntad, en la tierra como en el cielo. Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día, Perdona nuestras ofensas como también nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden. No nos dejes caer en la tentación, y líbranos del mal. Porque tuyo es el reino, el poder, y la gloria, ahora y por siempre. Amén.

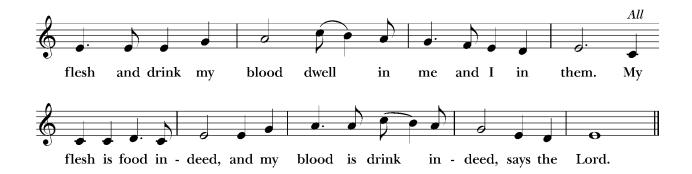
FRACTION ANTHEM

Hymnal S-169

My flesh is food indeed

RAY URWIN (B. 1950)





INVITATION

Presider	Behold who you are.
People:	May we become what we receive.

DISTRIBUTION

The Presider says

This is Christ's Banquet. It is made ready for those who love God, and for those who want to love God more. So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often, and you who have not been here long. You who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have gotten lost. Come, because it is Christ who invites you.

All who seek God and desire a deeper life in Christ are welcome to receive Holy Communion. During the distribution of Communion, we welcome you to receive the sacrament or a prayer of blessing. When you come to the altar rail, you may either stand or kneel.

If you desire to receive the sacrament, please receive the bread in open and outstretched hands. Once you have received it, you may keep it there and the chalice bearer will take it, dip it in the wine and return it to you. If you do not wish to receive the wine, simply consume the wafer and then you may place your hands on the base of the chalice and the chalice bearer will say the words of administration. If you would like a gluten-free wafer, please tell the presider. If you desire to receive a blessing, please cross your hands over your chest at the altar rail.

COMMUNION MUSIC

All are invited to sing



POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

After Communion, the Presider says Let us pray.

Presider and People

Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Savior. Amen.

BLESSING *The Presider blesses the people.*

POST-COMMUNION HYMN

All stand as a Hymn 493	ble and sing. O for a thousand tongues to sing	Azmon
DISMISSAL Deacon People	Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Thanks be to God.	
POSTLUDE	Kirchensonate in Bb	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

<u>Please join us in the Bishop's Hall following the service for our Homecoming Celebration!</u>

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THE CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

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Eileen Hannemann '24 Gabriel Rueda '24 Bob Thomson '24 Claudia Dempster '25 Linda Loomis '25 Bob Schneider '25 Joseph Cooper '26 Catherine Hahn '26 Severin Peck '26

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to ask any member of our staff, our Wardens, or any member of our Bishop's Committee, and they will be happy to assist you.