The Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Eucharist | November 8, 2026, at 8 am

The Word of God

Please keep a prayerful quiet as we prepare for worship.
The People's responses are printed in bold.

Please stand as you are able.

Opening Acclamation

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Song of Praise

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Collect of the Day

God be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Collect for Veterans Day

O God, our strength and our shield, grant grace and peace to our military veterans. We pray that the bonds they forged while in uniform sustain them in fellowship with one another; that we may be ever mindful of the wounds, seen and unseen, so many of them have sustained in defense of our freedoms; and that you will give special comfort to their families, who have shared in their service and sacrifice. **Amen.**

First Reading *seated as you are able* Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

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.

For the Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us,
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 78:1-7 *said responsively by whole verse*

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

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

That which we have heard and known,
and what our forebears have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.

We will recount to generations to come
your praiseworthy deeds and your power, O God, *
and the wonderful works you have done.

You gave your decrees to Jacob and established a law for Israel, *
which you commanded them to teach their children;

That the generations to come might know,
and the children yet unborn, *
that they in their turn might tell it to their children;

So that they might put their trust in you, *
and not forget your deeds,
but keep your commandments.

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

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.

For the Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us,
Thanks be to God.

The Gospel *standing as you are able* Matthew 25:1-13

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "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."

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

Sermon The Rev. Adelyn Tyler-Williams

Please be seated as able at the invitation of the preacher. A period of silence will be observed after the sermon.

The Nicene Creed *standing as you are 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.

Prayers of the People

Intercessor Gracious God, we give you thanks for the gift of beloved community that is your church. Guard and guide it, that in our worship and our witness we may be true heralds of the Gospel. Hear our prayer, Gracious One, **for we put our trust in you.**

Sovereign God, we ask your blessing on our community and this nation. Instruct those entrusted with authority to govern us in the ways of love and mercy, so that the dignity of all people may be realized to the glory of your Name. Hear our prayer, Sovereign One, **for we put our trust in you.**

Loving God, we cry out to you for peace in the world. We pray especially for victims of war and violence in eastern Europe, the Middle East, and Africa, that you will comfort and console them amid their grief and terror. Stir up in us renewed courage to work for justice and peace for the benefit of all. Hear our prayer, Loving One, **for we put our trust in you.**

Merciful God, remember in your compassion all those who are sick, unhoused, lonely, or suffering any kind of grief or trouble. We pray especially for . . . and for those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts . . . May your tender love and mercy be made known through the care and concern we show to them. Hear our prayer, Merciful One, **for we put our trust in you.**

Generous God, we thank you for the many blessings you have given us. We rejoice over . . . and those gifts we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts . . . May we follow your example and give joyfully to others. Hear our prayer, Generous One, **for we put our trust in you.**

Saving God, we commend to your care all who have died, especially . . . and those dear to us whom we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts . . . May your will for them be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with Columba and all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Hear our prayer, Saving One, **for we put our trust in you.**

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and on earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution *standing or kneeling as you are able*

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

Silence may be kept.

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.

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.**

Peace *standing as you are able*

The peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

All greet one another in the name of Jesus Christ, and are seated as able for the announcements.

The Holy Communion

At the Offertory

The Holy Spirit inspires us to give generously, to extend Christ's mission in this place and the wider world. Please visit http://tinyurl.com/GivetoSCEC to make your offering, or you can text to give using your phone. Text SCEC and AMOUNT to 73256 (QR code in Connections) and you will receive a text with instructions.

Please stand as you are able as the offering is brought forward and blessed.

The Great Thanksgiving

God be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them unto God.

Let us give thanks to our Sovereign God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus and Benedictus

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Creator of all.

Jesus stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

The bread is broken and silence observed.

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

Invitation to Communion

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Whoever you are, wherever you find yourself on the journey of faith, you are welcome at Christ's table.

Communion

Christ welcomes all to communion. ■ *Receive the bread in open and outstretched hands and sip the wine, guiding the chalice to your lips.* ■ *If you do not want to sip the wine, it is also appropriate to dip your wafer gently into the wine, or to receive the bread only.* ■ *Respond to communion by saying "Amen."* ■ *If you prefer a blessing, cross your hands over your chest.* ■ *Gluten-free wafers are available at each communion station.* ■ *Baptism is offered several times a year; speak to a priest to learn more.*

Prayer after Communion *standing as you are able*

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Sending Forth of Eucharistic Ministers *when scheduled*

In the name of St. Columba's we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that *N.* may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood. **We who are many are one body, as we all share one bread, one cup.**

Blessing

The People respond **Amen.**

Dismissal

The People respond **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Liturgical Note

St. Columba's observes the season after Pentecost in four semi-seasons; in this final segment of the season, we embrace the holiness of "Ordinary Time." The season after Pentecost uses green vestments and paraments (liturgical hangings), reminding us of the verdancy of ordinary experiences with God and community.

Land Acknowledgement

We meet today on the traditional land of the first people of Nacotchtank, who were custodians of the land for thousands of years, caring for and nurturing it. We give thanks for their stewardship and lament the ways the Nacotchtank were removed from their ancestral home. We pray for all who live on this land and pay our respects to the native leaders past, present, and emerging. We also remember and lament that this plot of land was given to St. Columba's Episcopal Church by an enslaver and that the wealth created by the labor of enslaved persons helped to build this sanctuary.

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ST. COLUMBA'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. Columba's Episcopal Church is an inclusive Christian community of all ages that welcomes one and all, encourages spiritual curiosity, celebrates children and youth, and embraces the world in the spirit of God's justice and love.

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