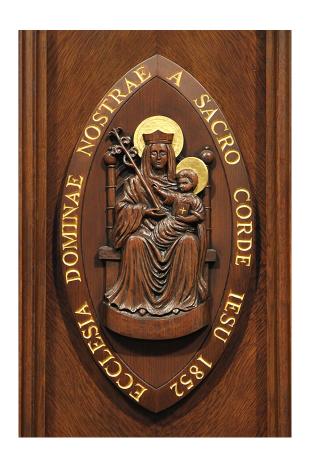
# st mary's catholic charch greenville, south carolina



twenty-fifth sunday of the year 21 september 2025

# Entrance Antiphon

Psalm 36.39, 40, 28; Psalm 77

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.



Text: Jesu, delcedo cordium; Attr. to Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091-1153; Para. by Ray Palmer, 1808-1887, alt. Tune: WAREHAM, LM; William Knapp, 1698-1768

#### Penitential Act

#### Confiteor

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

All strike their breast, saying:

through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault;

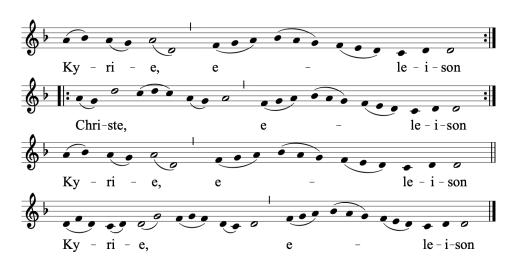
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Priest May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

#### People Amen.

# Kyrie

#### Missa Orbis Factor



Gloria Missa VIII Gló-ri - a in ex-cél-sis De - o. Et in ter-ra pax ho-mí-ni-bus bo - nae vo - lun - tá - tis. Lau-dá mus te. Be-ne-dí-ci-mus te. A-do-rá mus te. Grá-ti - as á - gi - mus ti - bi Gló-ri - fi - cá-mus te. pro-pter ma-gnam gló-ri-am tu-am. Dó-mi-ne De-us, Rex cae-Pa-ter lé - stis, De-us, om - ní - po - tens. Dó-mi-ne Fi-li u-ni-gé-ni-te, Je-su Chri-ste. Dó-mi-ne De-us, A-gnus De - i, Qui tol-lis pec-cá-ta mun - di, - re no-bis. sú-sci-pé de-pre-ca-ti-ó-Qui tol - lis pec-cá - ta mun - di, Qui se - des ad déx-te-ram Pa-tris, nem no stram. mi-se-ré-re no - bis. Quó - ni - am tu so - lus San - ctus. Tu so-lus Dó - mi - nus. Tu so-lus Tu so-lus Al - tís - si-mus, Je - su Chri - ste. Cum San - cto Spí - ri - tu, in gló-ri- a De-i Pa tris.

men.



# First Reading Amos 8.4-7

Hear this, you who trample upon the needy and destroy the poor of the land! "When will the new moon be over," you ask, "that we may sell our grain, and the sabbath, that we may display the wheat? We will diminish the ephah, add to the shekel, and fix our scales for cheating! We will buy the lowly for silver, and the poor for a pair of sandals; even the refuse of the wheat we will sell!" The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Never will I forget a thing they have done!

Lector: The Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.** 



## Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 113.1-2, 4-6, 7-8



Praise, you servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD. Blessed be the name of the LORD both now and forever.

High above all nations is the LORD; above the heavens is his glory.

Who is like the LORD, our God, who is enthroned on high and looks upon the heavens and the earth below?

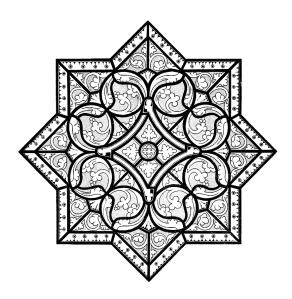
He raises up the lowly from the dust; from the dunghill he lifts up the poor to seat them with princes, with the princes of his own people.

## Second Reading

Beloved: First of all, I ask that supplications, prayers, petitions, and thanksgivings be offered for everyone, for kings and for all in authority, that we may lead a quiet and tranquil life in all devotion and dignity. This is good and pleasing to God our savior, who wills everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth. For there is one God. There is also one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as ransom for all. This was the testimony at the proper time. For this I was appointed preacher and apostle — I am speaking the truth, I am not lying —, teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

It is my wish, then, that in every place the men should pray, lifting up holy hands, without anger or argument.

Lector: The Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.** 



#### Gospel Acclamation



Though our Lord Jesus Christ was rich, he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. *Response*.

Gospel Luke 16.1-13

Deacon: The Lord be with you. **People: And with your spirit.** 

Deacon: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples, "A rich man had a steward who was reported to him for squandering his property. He summoned him and said, 'What is this I hear about you? Prepare a full account of your stewardship, because you can no longer be my steward.' The steward said to himself, 'What shall I do, now that my master is taking the position of steward away from me? I am not strong enough to dig and I am ashamed to beg. I know what I shall do so that, when I am removed from the stewardship, they may welcome me into their homes.' He called in his master's debtors one by one. To the first he said, 'How much do you owe my master?' He replied, 'One hundred measures of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Here is your promissory note. Sit down and quickly write one for fifty.' Then to another the steward said, 'And you, how much do you owe?' He replied, 'One hundred kors of wheat.' The steward said to him, 'Here is your promissory note; write one for eighty.' And the master commended that dishonest steward for acting prudently. "For the children of this world are more prudent in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. I tell you, make friends for yourselves with dishonest wealth, so that when it fails, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings. The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones; and the person who is dishonest in very small matters is also dishonest in great ones. If, therefore, you are not trustworthy with dishonest wealth, who will trust you with true wealth? If you are not trustworthy with what belongs to another, who will give you what is yours? No servant can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and mammon."

Homily

## Profession of Faith (spoken slowly and reverently)

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

Bow profoundly during these two lines:

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day 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.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

# The Bidding Prayers

#### The Collection

The offering is for the support of the parish and for the Catholic Appeal of SC.

Please Click Here to Make a Donation to Saint Mary's Church.

If I shall walk in the midst of tribulation, you will give me life, O Lord; and you will stretch forth your hand against the wrath of my enemies; and your right hand shall save me.

#### Offertory Hymn

#### Blessed Jesus, At Thy Word



# Offertory Anthem

#### Sicut cervus desiderat

#### Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

As the hart yearns for the water springs: so longs my soul for thee, O God! My soul has thirsted for the living God: When shall I come and appear before his presence? My tears have been my bread by day and also by night, while it is said to me daily: Where is your God?



Priest Pray, brethren,

that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the Almighty Father.

People May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands

for the praise and glory of his name,

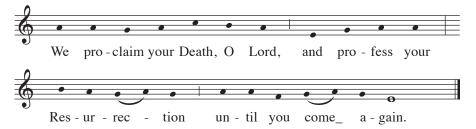
for our good

and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer Over the Offerings



## Mystérium Fídei (The Mystery of Faith)



# Communion Rite

*Priest* At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

People 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.

*Priest* Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,

graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**People** For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

*Priest* Lord Jesus Christ,

who said to your Apostles:

Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,

look not on our sins,

but on the faith of your Church,

and graciously grant her peace and unity

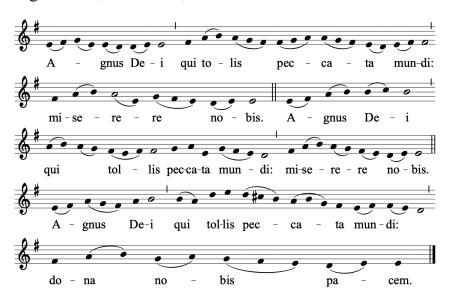
in accordance with your will.

Who live and reign for ever and ever.

People Amen.

*Priest* The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People And with your spirit.





Priest Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

People Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

# Communion Antiphon

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.



#### AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Lord Jesus, I love you above all things.
How I long to receive you with my brothers
and sisters at the table you have prepared.
But since I cannot at this moment receive you in
the holy sacrament of your Body and Blood,
I ask you to feed me with the manna of your Holy Spirit
and nourish me with your holy presence.
I unite myself completely to you;
never permit me to be separated from your love.
Amen.

#### Communion Motet

The Eyes of All Wait Upon Thee

William Henry Harris

The eyes of all wait upon thee, and thou givest them their meat in due season. Thou openest thine hand, and satisfieth the desire of every living thing.

Draw Nigh and Take the Body

Orlando Gibbons

Draw nigh and take the Body of the Lord, and drink the holy Blood for you outpoured. Saved by that Body and that holy Blood, with souls refreshed, we render thanks to God. Salvation's giver, Christ, the only Son, by his dear cross and blood the victory won. Offered was he for greatest and for least, himself the Victim, and himself the Priest. Approach ye then with faithful hearts sincere, and take the pledges of salvation here. He that his saints in this world rules and shields to all believers life eternal yields; with heavenly bread he makes the hungry whole, gives living waters to the thirsting soul. Alpha-Omega, unto whom shall bow all nations at the doom, is with us now.



# Communion Hymn

# O God Beyond All Praising



Text: Michael Perry, b.1942, © 1982, Hope Publishing Co. Tune: THAXTED, 13 13 13 13 13 13; Gustave Holst, 1874-1934





Priest The Lord be with you.People And with your spirit.

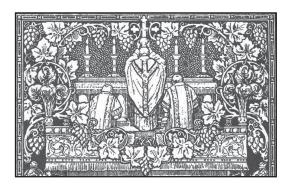
*Priest* May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

People Amen.

Deacon Go in peace.

People Thanks be to God.

During Mass at St Mary's, the priest and people face the same direction at the altar, a custom that was once universal in the Catholic Church but is now rare in the celebration of the modern liturgy. For an explanation of this practice, please visit our parish website, smcgvl.org, and look in the section called *Parish Links* for the essay entitled *Facing East to Pray*.



Page six: Chapter House\_Southwell Church Nottinghamshire, England.

Page ten: Castellani brooch. (1860).

Page fifteen: Window for the World Eucharistic Congress, Budapest, Hungary. (1938).

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# from the office of readings for the twenty-fifth sunday of the year

You have failed to strengthen the weak, says the Lord. He is speaking to wicked shepherds, false shepherds, shepherds who seek their own concerns and not those of Christ. They enjoy the bounty of milk and wool, but they take no care at all of the sheep, and they make no effort to heal those who are ill. I think there is a difference between one who is weak (that is, not strong) and one who is ill, although we often say that the weak are also suffering from illness.

My brothers, when I try to make that distinction, perhaps I could do it better and with greater precision, or perhaps someone with more experience and insight could do so. But when it comes to the words of Scripture, I say what I think so that in the meantime you will not be deprived of all profit. In the case of the weak sheep, it is to be feared that the temptation, when it comes, may break him. The sick person, however, is already ill by reason of some illicit desire or other, and this is keeping him from entering God's path and submitting to Christ's yoke.

There are men who want to live a good life and have already decided to do so, but are not capable of bearing sufferings even though they are ready to do good. Now it is a part of the Christian's strength not only to do good works but also to endure evil. Weak men are those who appear to be zealous in doing good works but are unwilling or unable to endure the sufferings that threaten. Lovers of the world, however, who are kept from good works by some evil desire, lie sick and listless, and it is this sickness that deprives them of any strength to accomplish good works.

The paralytic was like that. When his bearers could not bring him in to the Lord, they opened the roof and lowered him down to the feet of Christ. Perhaps you wish to do this in spirit: to open the roof and to lower a paralytic soul down to the Lord. All its limbs are lifeless, it is empty of every good work, burdened with its sins, and weak from the illness brought on by its evil desires. Since all its limbs are helpless, and the paralysis is interior, you cannot come to the physician. But perhaps the physician himself is concealed within; for the true understanding of Scripture is hidden. Reveal therefore what is hidden, and thus you will open the roof and lower the paralytic to the feet of Christ.

As for those who fail to do this and those who are negligent, you have heard what was said to them: You have failed to heal the sick; you have failed to bind up what was broken. Of this we have already spoken. Man was broken by terrible temptations. But there is at hand a consolation that will bind what was broken: God is faithful. He does not allow you to be tempted beyond your strength, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

- From the beginning of a sermon *On Pastors* by Saint Augustine, bishop (b. 354; d. 430 AD)

# from the pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

Who is eligible to serve as a sponsor in Baptism? Who is eligible to be married in the parish church? We regularly receive requests from people who want to get married at Saint Mary's or want to have their baby baptized here or who have been invited by a friend or relative to serve as a sponsor for a Baptism or Confirmation somewhere else. And very often these requests come from people who even if they are registered here are not regularly practicing the Catholic faith by participating in Sunday Mass. Such requests from non-practicing Catholics are one sign of the most important religious trend of our time: the majority of baptized Catholics in the United States live as though they are not Catholics, but despite not practicing the Catholic Faith they still think of and identify themselves as Catholics. This is part of the phenomenon that I call cultural Catholicism, and replacing moribund cultural Catholicism with vital evangelical Catholicism is an essential part of clarifying for everyone what it means to be a Catholic Christian.

One enters the Church, as through a door, by Baptism, and because most Catholics are baptized as infants or very young children, their parents and godparents must profess the Catholic Faith on their behalf. But if the parents and godparents are not practicing the Catholic Faith and living according to the Gospel of Jesus Christ by at a bare minimum attending Mass each Sunday, then they cannot make that profession of faith without swearing a false oath even if unintentionally. And that is why no pastor can grant permission for the baptism of a child whose parents are not practicing the faith or allow a non-practicing Catholic to serve as a sponsor for Baptism or Confirmation. The sacraments of the New Covenant are not social events or ritual markers of the life cycle; they are instruments of God's grace and sacred mysteries of faith which much be approached with reverence and honesty about one's relationship with the living God.

Baptism is not a permanent membership card in the Church that confers privileges; it is an indelible mark on the soul that brings obligations. Baptism brings the Cross into our lives, both the burden and the victory of the Cross. I ask you who are reading this column to understand and be ready to explain all of this, because those who most need to hear this summons to continuing conversion will probably never read these words. They very rarely join us at Mass. They seldom hear the Gospel proclaimed and explained. They are not atheists, but they do not experience the grace of their own Baptism as a life-changing friendship with the Lord Jesus. In many ways they live their lives as though God does not exist, though if asked they would deny this. These are the 45 million "baptized pagans" or lapsed Catholics who constitute the largest religious body in the country, but while I cannot reach them, you can. You live and work side by side with them, and you may be the only evangelist they ever hear. Remember, then, that you are all missionaries and that with cultural Catholics you have a precious opportunity to teach by word and deed what it means to be a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ and a member of his holy Catholic Church.