The Great Vigil of Easter

April 8, 2023-8:00 p.m.



Saint Luke's Episcopal Church

Los Gatos, California

The Service of Light

The service begins in the courtyard. All will be given an unlit hand-held candle as we gather around the new Paschal Candle.

The Lighting of the Paschal Candle

Dear friends in Christ: On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which, by hearing his Word and celebrating his Sacraments, we share in his victory over death.

Let us pray. O God, through your Son you have bestowed upon your people the brightness of your light: Sanctify this new fire, and grant that in this Paschal feast we may so burn with heavenly desires, that with pure minds we may attain to the festival of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

The Celebrant marks the Paschal Candle with the sign of the cross, saying,

Christ yesterday and today, the Beginning and the End,

The Celebrant then traces the Alpha and Omega into the Paschal Candle, saying, Alpha and Omega.

The Celebrant traces the year into the Paschal Candle, saying,

His are the times and ages. To him be glory and dominion through all ages of eternity. **Amen**.

The Celebrant places five grains of incense, one each into the four points and center of the cross on the Paschal Candle, saying,

Through his holy and glorious wounds may Christ the Lord guard and preserve us.

The Celebrant lights the Paschal Candle from the New Fire, saying,

May the light of Christ gloriously rising dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

All process from the courtyard to the church via the Memorial Garden, led by the Paschal Candle, pausing three times and singing,



The light of Christ. Thanks be to God.

After filing into pews, versicle & response are sung the third time, after which the People's candles are lit.

The Exsultet is then sung.

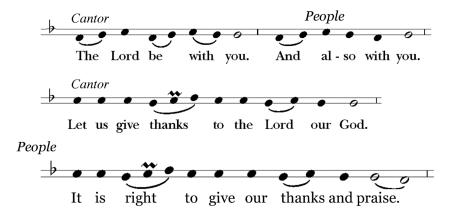
Exsultet

Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels, and let your trumpets shout Salvation for the victory of our mighty King.

Rejoice and sing now, all the round earth, bright with a glorious splendor, for darkness has been vanquished by our eternal King.

Rejoice and be glad now, Mother Church, and let your holy courts, in radiant light, resound with the praises of your people.

All you who stand near this marvelous and holy flame, pray with me to God the Almighty for the grace to sing the worthy praise of this great light; through Jesus Christ his Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**.



It is truly right and good, always and everywhere, with our whole heart and mind and voice, to praise you, the invisible, almighty, and eternal God, and your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who at the feast of the Passover paid for us the debt of Adam's sin, and by his blood delivered your faithful people.

This is the night, when you brought our forebears, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt, and led them through the Red Sea on dry land.

This is the night, when all who believe in Christ are delivered from the gloom of sin, and are restored to grace and holiness of life.

This is the night, when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell, and rose victorious from the grave.

How wonderful and beyond our knowing, O God, is your mercy and loving-kindness to us, that to redeem a slave, you gave a Son.

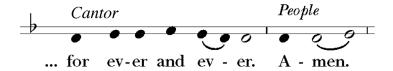
How holy is this night, when wickedness is put to flight, and sin is washed away.

It restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to those who mourn. it casts out pride and hatred, and brings peace and concord. How blessed is this night, when earth and heaven are joined and man is reconciled to God.

Holy Father, accept our evening sacrifice, the offering of this candle in your honor.

May it shine continually to drive away all darkness.

May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find it ever burning—he who gives his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns...



The Liturgy of the Word

The Celebrant introduces the Scripture readings, saying,

Let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, how he saved his people in ages past; and let us pray that our God will bring each of us to the fullness of redemption.

Please be seated.

The First Lesson

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

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

Please stand.

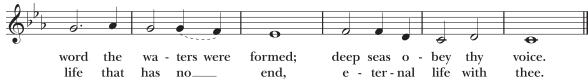
Hymn 385

"Many and great, O God, are thy works"









Words: American folk hymn; para. Philip Frazier (1892-1964), alt. Music: Dakota Indian Chant [Lacquiparle], Native American melody.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

Please be seated.

The Second Lesson

Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21

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

Please stand.



Words: Afro-American Spiritual Music: Go Down, Moses, Afro-American spiritual; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer (1935-2009), Copyright © 1984, Church Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted, podcast and streamed with permission under One License #A-706525. All rights reserved.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day, you once delivered by the power of your mighty arm your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, to be a sign for us of the salvation of all nations by the water of Baptism: Grant that all the peoples of the earth may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham, and rejoice in the inheritance of Israel; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

Please be seated.

The Third Lesson

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Isaiah 55:1-11

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

Please stand.



Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you have created all things by the power of your Word, and you renew the earth by your Spirit: Give now the water of life to those who thirst for you, that they may bring forth abundant fruit in your glorious kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

Please be seated.

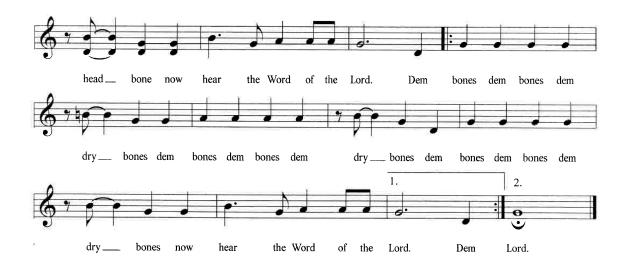
The Fourth Lesson

Ezekiel 37:1-14

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

Please stand.





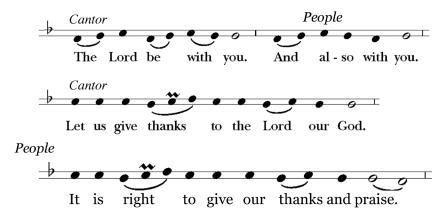
Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, by the Passover of your Son you have brought us out of sin into righteousness and out of death into life: Grant to those who are sealed by your Holy Spirit the will and the power to proclaim you to all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

Please remain standing as Altar Party processes to baptismal font, turning to the back for the Blessing of the Water and Renewal of Baptismal Vows.

The Blessing of the Water and Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Thanksgiving Over the Water



We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Celebrant

Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, now that our Lenten observance is ended, to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy Catholic Church.

Celebrant Do you reafffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your

commitment to Jesus Christ?

People I do.

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

People I believe in God, the Father almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit

and born of the Virgin Mary.

He 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,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People 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.

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,

in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you

fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the

Good News of God in Christ?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons,

loving your neighbor as yourself?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people,

and respect the dignity of every human being?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has

given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace,

in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

 ${\it The Altar Party processes to altar as the congregation is as perged.}$

The Holy Eucharist

The Altar candles are lighted from the Paschal Candle. The People extinguish their candles.

The organ sounds and **bells are rung** as the lights come up and all sing,







Music: John Rutter (b. 1945). Copyright © 1985 Oxford University Press, Inc.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection: Stir up in your Church that Spirit of adoption which is given to us in Baptism, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**.

Please be seated.

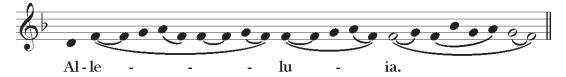
The Epistle Romans 6:3–11

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

Please stand.

The Great Alleluia

The Presider chants the "Alleluia" first, followed by the People. This is done three times, each at a successively higher tone.





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The Holy Gospel

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Matthew 28:1-10

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Very Rev. William S. Stafford

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory Hymn 199 "Come Ye faithful, raise the strain" 1 Come, ve faith - ful. raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness! 2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ hath burst his pri - son, Now the queen of sea - sons, bright with the day of splen - dor, Nei - ther might the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por - tal, God hath brought his Is - ra - el joy from sad - ness: and from three days' sleep in death sun hath ris - en; as a with the feast of feasts, rov al comes its joy to ren - der: the watch nor the seal hold thee mor - tal: ers, as a loosed from Pha - raoh's bit - ter voke Ja - cob's sons and daugh-ters, all the win ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly - ing Je ru - sa - lem, fec - tion comes to glad who with true af but to - day midst thine own thou didst stand, stow - ing a be led them with un - mois - tened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters. from his light, to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing. wel - comes inun wear - ied strains Je - sus' re - sur - rec - tion. which thy peace ev - er - more pass - eth hu - man know-ing.

Words: John of Damascus (8th cent.); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt. Music: St. Kevin, Arthur Seymour Sullivan (1842-1900).

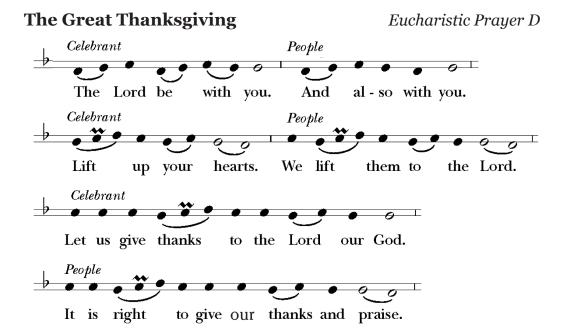
Prayers Over the Gifts

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendor, and the majesty. For everything in heaven and on earth is yours. All things come from you, **and of your own have we given you. Amen.**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation; through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the Bread of Heaven. **Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation; through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us the Cup of Salvation. **Blessed be God for ever.**

Pray friends, that this our sacrifice may be acceptable to God the Father Almighty. May the Lord receive this sacrifice at your hands, to the praise and glory of God's Name, both to our benefit and that of all God's Holy Church. Amen.

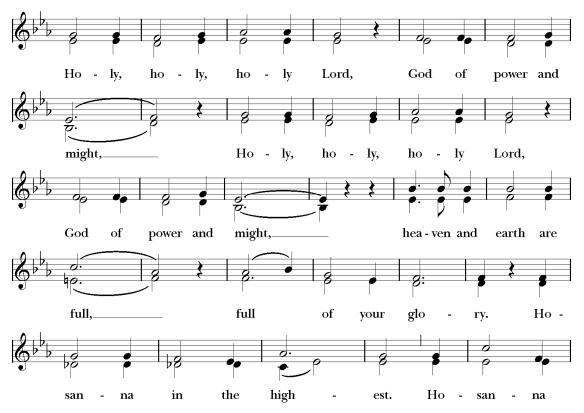


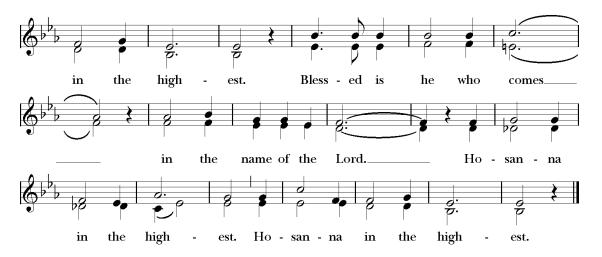
It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

Sanctus





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We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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 he 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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Celebrant and People

We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, Lord our God.

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

Remember all who minister in your Church. Remember all your people, and those who seek your truth. Remember all in any need or trouble.

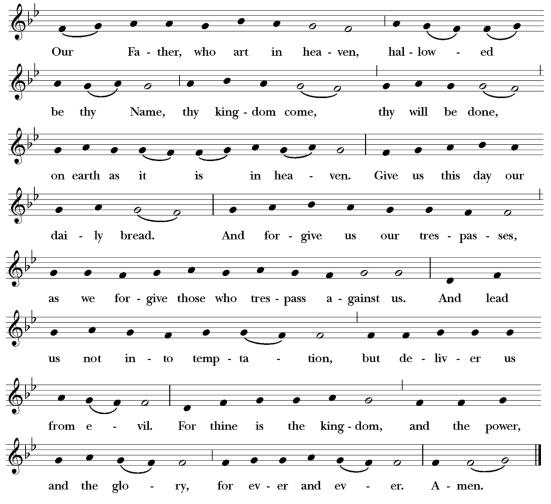
Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Ever-Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with Blessed Luke and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **AMEN**.

The Lord's Prayer

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

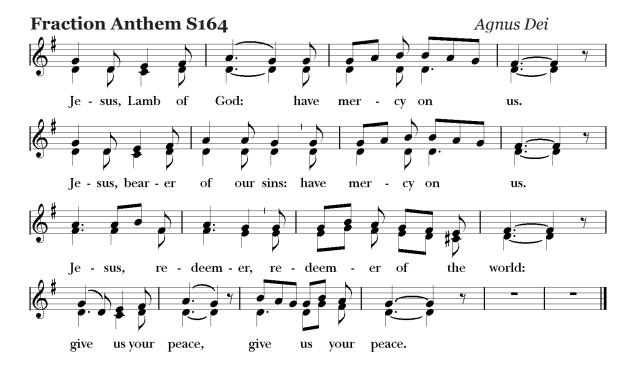


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The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.



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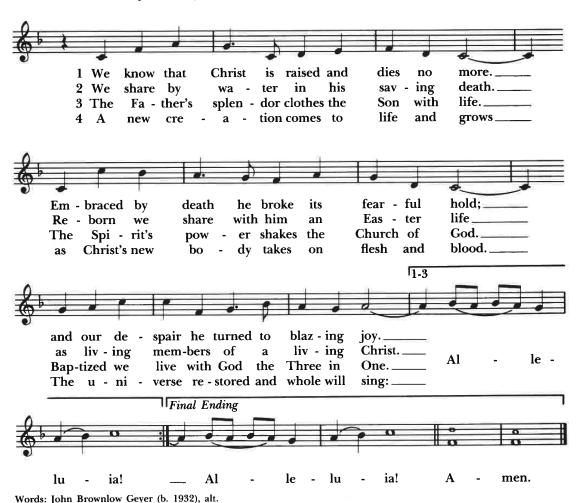
Celebrant

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Communion Hymn 296

Music: Engelberg, Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

"We know that Christ is raised"



10 10 10 with Alleluia

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

Said by all
Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son 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 Lord. Amen.

The Easter Blessing

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. **Amen.**

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. **Amen**.

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. **Amen**.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen**.

Closing Hymn 208

"The strife is o'er, the battle done"



Words: Latin, 1695; tr. Francis Pott (1832-1909), alt.

Music: Victory, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-1594); adapt. and arr. Willam Henry Monk (1826-1889)

The Dismissal



Postlude Hymn to Joy Matthew Corl



Servers-April 8, 2023

Celebrant The Rev. Ricardo Avila

Preacher The Very Rev. William S. Stafford

Lay Assistant Roger Fleming

Acolyte Evelyn Schlesinger Thurifer Warren Hackbarth

Lectors Gene Schlesinger, Cheryl Lawrence,

Stephen Wells, Loren Schlesinger,

Organist Laura Green

Musicians St. Luke's Choir Ensemble

Usher Lewis Pollard

Altar Guild The Altar Guild Team



Cover: The Resurrection by Benjamin West (1738–1820) b. Pennsylvania

St. Luke's Episcopal Church is a place of peace, beauty, and relationship that reflects God's saving presence through our rich Tradition, our intellectual curiosity, and our work in the wider community.

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revrico@stlukeslg.org

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The Rev. R. Clark Emerson The Rev. Nayan McNeill, Ph.D.

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Altar Guild Coordinator Ms. Carol Graham Outreach/Pantry Director Ms. Jo Greiner

Rector Emeritus The Rev. David R. Breuer

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Toni Dick (Senior Warden) Kenna French Genevieve Cleveland (Junior Warden) Jane Ogle

Glenn Katz (Clerk) Martha Sterne

Kelly Conway Colin Whitby-Strevens

John Culwell

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