



Christ Church Cathedral, Mobile, Alabama  
Holy Communion of the Simple Presence:  
The Feast of St. George of Lydda  
Wednesday, May 6, 2026  
5:15 p.m.

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*We invite you to participate in the worship of God. Our service is Enriching Our Worship. For ease of use, this booklet contains the congregational portions of the liturgy and service music. Congregational responses are printed in bold. Hymn numbers refer to The Hymnal 1982. Lesson and Gospel texts are taken from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible. This year, when appropriate, the lessons for this service will commemorate Saints of the Episcopal Church.*

Prelude

Welcome

The Word of God

The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

Almighty God, you commissioned your holy martyr George to bear before the rulers of this world the banner of the cross: Strengthen us in our battles against the great serpent of sin and evil, that we too may attain the crown of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

# The Lessons

Psalm 3      *Domine, quid multiplicati*

BCP 587



- 1 Lord, how many adversaries I **have!** \*  
how many there are who rise up **against me!**
- 2 How many there are who say of **me,** \*  
“There is no help for him in his **God.**”
- 3 But you, O Lord, are a shield about **me;** \*  
you are my glory, the one who lifts up my **head.**
- 4 I call aloud upon the **Lord,** \*  
and he answers me from his holy **hill;**
- 5 I lie down and go to **sleep;** \*  
I wake again, because the Lord **sustains me.**
- 6 I do not fear the multitudes of **people** \*  
who set themselves against me all **around.**
- 7 Rise up, O Lord; set me free, O my **God;** \*  
surely, you will strike all my enemies across the **face,**  
you will break the teeth of the **wicked.**
- 8 Deliverance belongs to the **Lord.** \*  
Your blessing be upon your **people!**

*Silence.*

Phos hilaron

*The Eighth Tune*  
Hymnal 25

O gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ, in you the Father’s glory shone.  
Immortal, holy, blest is he, and blest are you, his holy Son.  
Now sunset comes, but light shines forth, the lamps are lit to pierce the night.  
Praise Father, Son, and Spirit: God who dwells in the eternal light.  
Worthy are you of endless praise, O Son of God, Life-giving Lord;  
wherefore you are through all the earth and in the highest heaven adored.

The Holy Gospel:      *John 15:18-21*

*Celebrant:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*People:* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

“If the world hates you, be aware that it hated me before it hated you. If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as its own. Because you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world—therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, ‘Servants are not greater than their master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you; if they kept my word, they will keep yours also. But they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me.

*Celebrant:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## Meditation

*Silence.*

### The Prayers of the People: Form II

*The leader and people pray responsively.*

BCP 385

*Celebrant:* I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishop, Russell; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.

Pray for the Church.

*Silence.*

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.

Pray for justice and peace.

*Silence.*

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.

Pray for those in any need or trouble.

*Silence.*

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him.

Pray that they may find and be found by him.

*Silence.*

I ask your prayers for the departed.

Pray for those who have died.

*Silence.*

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored especially St. George of Lydda.

Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

*Silence.*

## Confession of Sin

BCP 360

*Celebrant:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Celebrant 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.**

*Celebrant:*

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

*Celebrant:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

## The Holy Communion

### The Offertory

Solo

Thomas Pavlechko

*O Taste and See*

(b. 1962)

Mollie Adams, *soprano*

O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are they who take refuge in God.  
Fear the Lord, you saints of the Lord, for those who fear the Lord lack nothing.  
The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and God's ears are open to their cry.  
The Lord is near to the broken-hearted and saves those whose spirits are crushed.

## The Great Thanksgiving

*Eucharistic Prayer A*

BCP 361

*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 him thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant:* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again. 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*

Hymnal S-125

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

*Celebrant:*

Holy and gracious Father: 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 Father of all.

He 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 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."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People:*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*Celebrant :*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his 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 Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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

## The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

**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.**

## Fraction Anthem

BCP 364

*Celebrant:* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People:* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

## Post Communion Prayer

BCP 365

*Celebrant:*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People:*

**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.**

## Blessing

## Dismissal

*God be in my head*  
God be in my head,  
and in my understanding;  
God be in mine eyes,  
and in my looking;  
God be in my mouth,  
and in my speaking;  
God be in my heart,  
and in my thinking;  
God be at mine end,  
and at my departing.



## ST. GEORGE OF LYDDA

(275-303)

### SOLDIER AND MARTYR

George is a soldier and martyr who suffered around 303 at Lydda (Diospolis) in Palestine. The earliest surviving record of him is a church inscription in Syria, dated about 346. Commemorations of him are numerous, early, and widespread. However, no details of his life are known. In 495 his name appears on a list of "good men, justly remembered, whose good deeds are known only to God." The best-known story about him is that he rescued a beautiful princess in Libya by killing a dragon. It should be noted that this story is unknown before the appearance in 1265 of a romance called the Golden Legend (*Legendum Aureum*), translated into English in 1483.

When the soldiers of the First Crusade were besieging Antioch in 1098, they had a vision of George and Demetrius (a deacon of Sirmium in Serbia, martyred under Maximian, and referred to as a "soldier of Christ," from which he was often understood to be a literal soldier) encouraging them to maintain the siege, which ultimately proved successful. Richard I ("the Lion-Heart") of England, who fought in the Holy Land in 1191-1192, placed himself and his army under George's protection, and with the return home of the Crusaders, the popularity of George in England increased greatly. Edward III founded the Order of the Garter in 1348 under his patronage, his banner (a red cross on a white field) began to be used as the English national flag in 1284, and in 1415 Henry V spoke of him to rally the troops before the battle of Agincourt ("Once more unto the breach, dear friends, once more, or close the wall up with our English dead. ...cry God for Harry, England, and St George!"), and in the years following George was regarded as the special patron of England, of soldiers, and of the Boy Scouts, as well as of Venice, Genoa, Portugal, and Catalonia. He is also remembered with enthusiasm in many parts of the East Orthodox Church. He is a principal character in Edmund Spenser's allegorical poem *The Faerie Queene*, written in the late 1500's.

# CATHEDRAL NOTES



## SERVICE OF THE SIMPLE PRESENCE

### SUMMER HIATUS

The final spring service will be held on Wednesday, May 20.

The service will resume on Wednesday, August 19.

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Hymnal 25: Words: Greek, 3rd cent.; tr. F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984); para. of *O Gracious Light*. Music: *The Eighth Tune*, Thomas Tallis (1505?-1585).

*O Taste and See*: Words: Psalm 34:8, 9, 15, and 18. Music: Thomas Pavlechko (b. 1962).

Hymnal S-125: Setting: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937).

Hymnal 694: Words: *Sarum Primer*, 1514. Music: *Lytlington*, Sydney Hugo Nicholson (1875-1947). By permission of The Royal School of Church Music.



## Ministers For Today

Celebrant ..... The Reverend Thomas K. Heard  
Organist.....Josh Coble  
Cantor.....Mollie Adams  
Altar Guild ..... Barbara Archer, Skip Archer, Linda Grill



## CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL CATHEDRAL OF THE DIOCESE OF THE CENTRAL GULF COAST

The Right Reverend J. Russell Kendrick, *Bishop*  
The Very Reverend Beverly F. Gibson, Ph.D., *Rector and Dean*  
The Reverend Thomas K. Heard, *Priest Associate*  
The Reverend Pratt Paterson, *Deacon*  
Dr. Joshua H. Coble, *Organist and Choirmaster*  
Mollie A. Adams, *Cantor*  
Andy R. Palileo, *Audio-Visual Specialist*

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