



Christ Church Cathedral, Mobile, Alabama

Holy Communion of the Simple Presence:

The Feast of St. Birgitta of Sweden

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

5:15 p.m.

We invite you to participate in the worship of God. Our service is Holy Eucharist, Rite II. 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.

O God, who beholds all things and whose judgment is always mercy; by the example of your servant Birgitta of Sweden, give to us in this life the vision of your kingdom where Jesus Christ is all and in all, that we may pattern our earthly lives on things heavenly, where our lives are hidden with Christ in you, who with him and the Holy Spirit live and reign for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

Psalm 12

Salvum me fac

BCP 597



- 1 Help me, Lord, for there is no godly one **left**; *
the faithful have vanished from among **us**.
- 2 Everyone speaks falsely with his **neighbor**; *
with a smooth tongue they speak from a double **heart**.
- 3 Oh, that the Lord would cut off all smooth **tongues**, *
and close the lips that utter proud **boasts**.
- 4 Those who say, "With our tongue will we **prevail**; *
our lips are our own; who is lord over **us**?"
- 5 "Because the needy are **oppressed**,
and the poor cry out in **misery**," *
I will rise up", says the **Lord**,
"and give them the help they **long for**."
- 6 The words of the Lord are pure **words**, *
like silver refined from ore
and purified seven times in the **fire**.
- 7 O Lord, watch over **us** *
and save us from this generation for **ever**.
- 8 The wicked prowl on every **side**, *
and that which is worthless is highly prized by **everyone**.

Phos hilon

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:

Matthew 11:2-15

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

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

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of

you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John came; and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. Let anyone with ears listen!

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Meditation

Silence for reflection.

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. Birgitta of Sweden.

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

Silence.

The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

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

Sydney Hugo Nicholson
(1875-1947)

God Be in My Head

Mollie Adams, *soprano*

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.

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, for the wonderful grace and virtue declared in all your saints, who have been the chosen vessels of your grace, and the lights of the world in their generations. 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

Closing Hymn

Westminster Abbey
Hymnal 518

Christ is made the sure foundation v. 1
Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord, and precious,
binding all the Church in one;
holy Zion's help for ever,
and her confidence alone.

Dismissal



ST. BIRGITTA OF SWEDEN (1303-1373)

MYSTIC AND PROPHETIC WITNESS

Birgitta of Sweden (1303–1373); born as Birgitta Birgersdotter, was a mystic and saint, and founder of the Birgittines nuns and monks.

The most celebrated saint of Sweden was married at the age of 14 to Ulf Gudmarsson, to whom she bore eight children. In 1344 Ulf died, after which Birgitta devoted herself wholly to a life of prayer and caring for the poor and the sick. It was about this time that she developed the idea of establishing the religious community which was to become the Order of the Most Holy Savior, or the Birgittines. One distinctive feature of the pre-Reformation houses of the Order was that they were double monasteries, with both men and women forming a joint community, though with separate cloisters. They were to live in poor convents and to give all surplus income to the poor. However, they were allowed to have as many books as they pleased.

At the age of ten, Bridget had a vision of Jesus hanging upon the cross. She was so impressed that from that moment the Passion of Christ became the center of her spiritual life. The revelations she had received since childhood became more frequent, and her records of these *Revelationes coelestes* (“Celestial revelations”) obtained a great vogue during the Middle Ages. These revelations made Bridget something of a celebrity to some and a controversial figure to others.

In 1350, a Jubilee Year, Birgitta braved a plague-stricken Europe to make a pilgrimage to Rome accompanied by her daughter, Catherine, and a small party of priests and disciples. This was done partly to obtain from the Pope the authorization of the new Order and partly in pursuance of her self-imposed mission to elevate the moral tone of the age. Birgitta made herself universally beloved in Rome by her kindness and good works. Save for occasional pilgrimages, including one to Jerusalem in 1373, she remained in Rome until her death on 23 July 1373, urging ecclesiastical reform and an end to the Avignon schism.

CATHEDRAL NOTES



MORNING CIRCLE

Monday, October 12, at 10:30 a.m.

The group will meet at the home of Nancy Bryan.

For more information please contact Nancy Bryan or Mary Cook.



VESTRY NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Meets on Tuesday October 13

Please speak with the members of the nominating committee and give them names of those you would like to have considered for vestry. You may submit names by phone or email. It is not necessary for you to tell those you are suggesting for vestry that you are doing so. The Nominating Committee is charged with presenting a slate for vestry elections in December, as well as a slate of delegates to our diocesan convention in February of 2027. Annual Parish Meeting with Vestry and Convention Delegate Elections is on Sunday, December 13. The Vestry Nominating Committee is made up of the six retiring Vestry members; Jill S. Chow, Carl G. Cunningham, Jr., Robison C. McClure, Jr., Lara S. Sherer, Lucy Pryor B. Slaton.



DEAN'S MIDWEEK MEDITATION

Wednesdays at Noon via Zoom

Everyone is welcome to join this 30-minute midday pause, in the middle of the working week, to reflect on the Gospel and to pray together. Each week you will receive an email containing the text of the upcoming Sunday's Gospel, along with a Zoom link to our gathering. In our time of prayer, listening for how the Gospel is speaking to us in this moment, we will close with a brief sharing of our reflections. No preparation needed, and visitors are always welcome.

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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).

God Be in My Head: Words: Sarum Primer, 1514. Music: Sydney Hugo Nicholson (1875-1947).

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

Hymnal 518: Words: Latin, ca. 7th cent.; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861, after John Mason Neale (1818-1856), alt. Music: *Westminster Abbey*, Henry Purcell (1659-1695), adapt.; desc. James Gillespie (b. 1929).



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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