St. Margaret’s Church

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Pastoral Emergency Number: 443-837-5463



The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, August 2, 2015 – 7:30 A.M.

Holy Eucharist: Rite 1

Sundays

7:30 a.m. – The Holy Eucharist: Rite One, spoken

9:00 a.m. – The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two, with music

10:15 to 11:00 a.m.: Coffee Hour

11:15 a.m. – The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two, with music

Wednesdays

7:30 a.m. – The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

**Welcome to St. Margaret’s Episcopal Church**

If you are visiting us for the first time, let us offer you an especially warm welcome. We hope that you will enjoy worshiping with us. If at any moment in the service you are not sure what to do, ask any of your neighbors in the congregation—they will be happy to help you. We would like to continue our relationship with you, so please fill out a visitor card (found in the pew racks) and drop the card in the collection plate or hand it to one of the clergy or ushers.

**Formation**

We provide **Sunday School** and formation to children from ages 3 to 18 from Sept. – part of May. Sunday School is now on summer break but will return on Sept. 20. While children are always welcome at all services, professional **nursery** care for children ages six weeks to four years is provided from 8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Nursery (downstairs classroom in the Day School.) **Children’s Chapel** is offered during the first part of the 9 a.m. service for children from ages three to six from Sept. thru June. The children leave the nave during the sequence hymn following behind the cross which will come down the aisle and then go into the downstairs Day School classroom with the children rejoining their parents at the Peace. **Adult Bible Study** is offered during the 10:15 a.m. to 11 a.m. formation hour in the portable classroom. An adult book study group meets in the conference room at the same time. We also offer adult forums in the parish hall periodically during this formation time period.

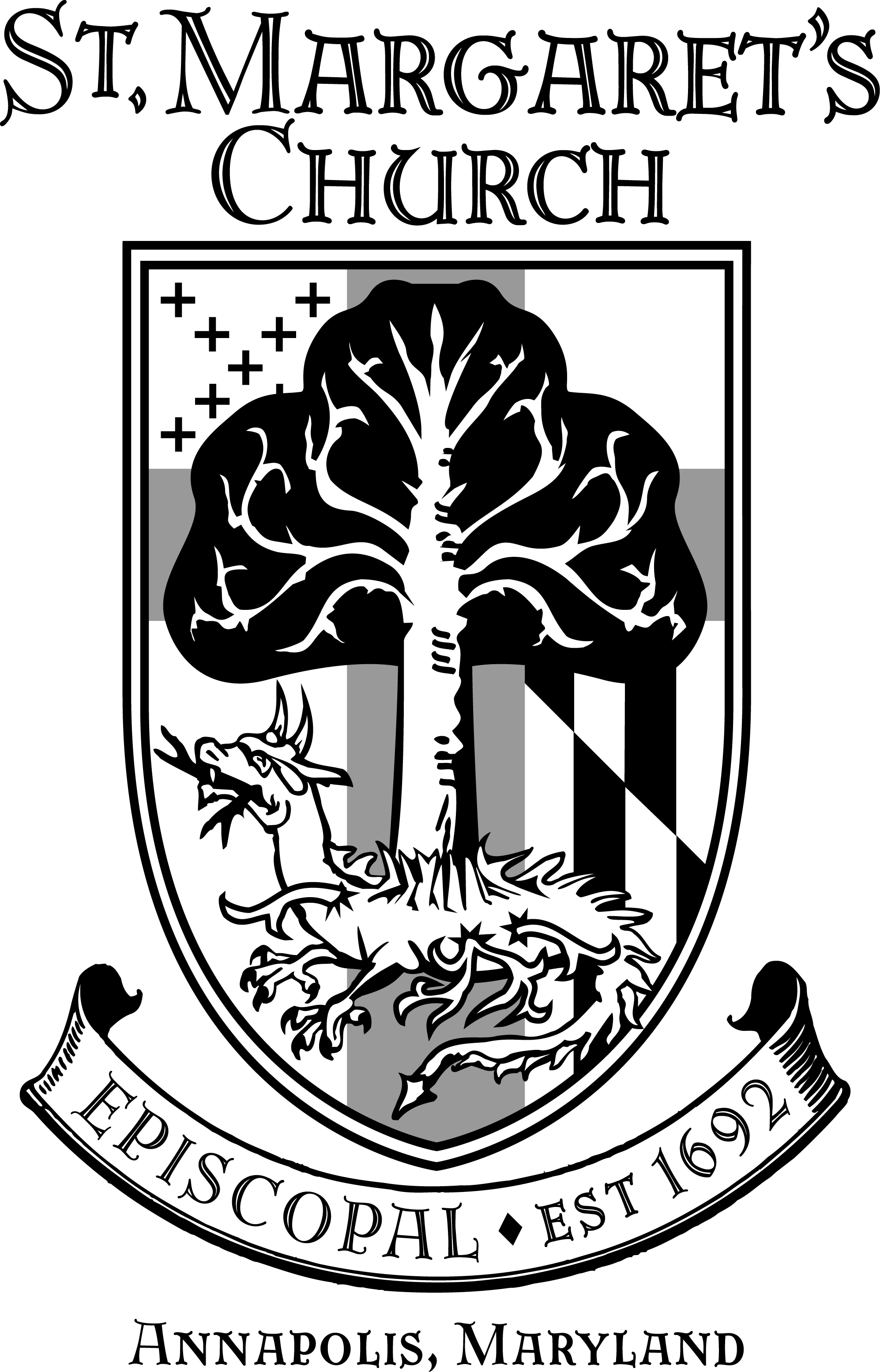
**Communion**

All are welcome to receive bread and wine during communion, including children. To receive bread, place your hands palms-up at the communion rail. To receive wine, assist the Eucharistic Minister in guiding the chalice to your lips, or you may intinct by dipping the bread in the wine. If you do not wish to receive the bread or wine, place your arms across your chest to receive a blessing. Gluten-free wafers are available. Indicate your request by first extending your hands palms down when at the communion rail. The square wafers are kept in a separate holder, and you are invited to take one from this holder.

**Liturgy**

The Liturgy for today is from The Book of Common Prayer.

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 **The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**

August 2, 2015

7:30 A.M.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE ONE

**Liturgy of the Word**

**Opening Acclamation**

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| Celebrant | Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. |
| People | **And blessed be his kingdom now and for ever.**  **Amen.** |

**Collect for Purity**

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

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

**Kyrie**

*Celebrant* Lord, have mercy upon us.

*People* **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

*Celebrant* Lord, have mercy upon us.

### Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And with thy spirit.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O Lord, we beseech thee, let thy continual pity cleanse and defend thy Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without thy succor, preserve it evermore by thy help and goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The people are seated.

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| First Reading2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a |

A reading from the second book of Samuel.

When the wife of Uriah heard that her husband was dead, she made lamentation for him. When the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife, and bore him a son.

But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD, and the LORD sent Nathan to David. He came to him, and said to him, "There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. The rich man had very many flocks and herds; but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. He brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children; it used to eat of his meager fare, and drink from his cup, and lie in his bosom, and it was like a daughter to him. Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was loath to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb, and prepared that for the guest who had come to him." Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man. He said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this deserves to die; he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity."

Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: I anointed you king over Israel, and I rescued you from the hand of Saul; I gave you your master's house, and your master's wives into your bosom, and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would have added as much more. Why have you despised the word of the LORD, to do what is evil in his sight?

You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, for you have despised me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife. Thus says the LORD: I will raise up trouble against you from within your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes, and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this very sun. For you did it secretly; but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun." David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD."

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| Reader | The Word of the Lord. | |
| People | **Thanks be to God.** | |
| Psalm 51:1-13 | | BCP p. 612 |

*(said in unison)*

**1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving- kindness; \***

**in your great compassion blot out my offenses.**

**2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness \***

**and cleanse me from my sin.**

**3 For I know my transgressions, \***

**and my sin is ever before me.**

**4 Against you only have I sinned \***

**and done what is evil in your sight.**

**5 And so you are justified when you speak \***

**and upright in your judgment.**

**6 Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, \***

**a sinner from my mother's womb.**

**7 For behold, you look for truth deep within me, \***

**and will make me understand wisdom secretly.**

**8 Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; \***

**wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.**

**9 Make me hear of joy and gladness, \***

**that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

**10 Hide your face from my sins \***

**and blot out all my iniquities.**

**11 Create in me a clean heart, O God, \***

**and renew a right spirit within me.**

**12 Cast me not away from your presence \***

**and take not your holy Spirit from me.**

**13 Give me the joy of your saving help again \***

**and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

**Second Reading** Ephesians 4:1-16

A reading from Paul’s letter to the Ephesians.

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people."

(When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

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

*The people stand as they are able.*

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| Holy Gospel | John 6:24-35 |

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People **Glory be to thee, O Christ**.

The next day, when the people who remained after the feeding of the five thousand saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, `He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven.

For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

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| Priest | The Gospel of the Lord. |
| People | **Praise be to thee, O Christ.** |

### *The people are seated.*

### Sermon The Rev. Sarah Lamming

The people stand as they are able.

**Nicene Creed**

**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

*Celebrant*

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ’s Church and the world.

After each paragraph of this prayer, the People may make an appropriate response, as directed.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty,

beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers [especially \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_], that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land [especially \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_], that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor [\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and] all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear [especially \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_], beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of [\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and of] all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ’s sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

**Confession of Sin**

*Celebrant*

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

*Celebrant and People*

**Most merciful God,**

**We confess that we have sinned against thee**

**in thought word, and deed,**

**by what we have done,**

**and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved thee with our whole heart;**

**we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,**

**have mercy on us and forgive us;**

**that we may delight in thy will,**

**and walk in thy ways,**

**to the glory of thy Name. Amen.**

*Celebrant*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Celebrant:* Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.  
  
Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and   
I will refresh you.    *Matthew 11:28*

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son,  
to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but  
have everlasting life.    *John 3:16*

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received,  
that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.  
*1 Timothy 1:15*

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus  
Christ the righteous; and he is the perfect offering for our  
sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole  
world.    *1 John 2:1-2*

### Peace

The people stand as they are able.

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| Celebrant | The peace of the Lord be always with you. |
| People | **And with thy spirit**. |

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

### Announcements

### Birthdays and anniversaries

**Holy Communion**

The Celebrant says

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts. *Psalm 96:8*

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord;

People **And of thine own have we given thee. Amen.**

**The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer I**

The people remain standing as able.

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| Celebrant | The Lord be with you. |
| People | **And with thy spirit.** |
| Celebrant | Lift up your hearts. |
| People | **We lift them up unto the Lord.** |
| Celebrant | Let us give thanks unto our Lord God. |
| People | **It is meet and right so to do.** |

The Celebrant proceeds

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Creator of the light and source of life, who hast made us in thine image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Celebrant and People

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:**

**Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.**

**Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.**

**Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ’s holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

The Celebrant then continues

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

People and Celebrant

**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.**

**The Breaking of the Bread**

A period of silence is kept.

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

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

**We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy.**

**Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.**

**Invitation to Communion**

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Gluten-free wafers are available for communion. Indicate your wish for a gluten-free wafer by first extending your hands palms down when at the communion rail. The square wafers are kept in a separate holder and you are invited to take one from this holder.

*The people stand as they are able after communion.*

**Postcommunion Prayer**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

**Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom.**

**And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**

**The Blessing**

The priest blesses the people, saying

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**Dismissal**

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| Celebrant | Let us go forth in the name of Christ. |
| People | **Thanks be to God.** |

**IN TODAY’S SERVICE**

Eucharistic Minister: Spencer Johnson

Lector: Ann Lallande

Altar Guild: Wendy Gargano, Elizabeth Parker, Nikki Charlson

Flower Guild: Richard Hays

*Announcements & Prayers of the People*

*are now provided in a separate handout.*

**A Note on Today’s Readings**

Welcome to our parish. Today we hear the response of the crowd after Jesus had fed the 5,000 people with five loaves and two fish. Then we hear the first part of the discourse from the Gospel of John on Jesus as the bread of life. Starting with bread as a material object and earthly food, Jesus then leads his hearers to an understanding of communion or fellowship with him as food for our spiritual nature. It is that spiritual nourishment which gives eternal life.

Last Sunday we heard the story of David’s adultery with Bathsheba and his murder of her husband. The prophet Nathan comes and, in a parable about a rich man stealing a poor man’s only lamb, induces David to confess. David repents, but the damage is done. His household will be in turmoil from that time forward. Sin can be forgiven, but its damage continues to work through those around the sinner.

In today’s reading from Ephesians, one of the Pauline tradition’s strongest themes is introduced. We are in unity with God and with all people through our baptism. Baptism has joined us together into one life as the body of Christ—the same body which we receive in Holy Communion.

The Christian Gospel takes as its basis the nature of human life in this world and sees our life as being shot through with signs of the fuller life that is ours in Christ. Ours is not a religion of the spirit alone, nor is it solely a means of dealing with material life in this world. As bread and wine are revealed in the liturgy to be instruments of God’s presence in us, so all of life is revealed as the sacrament of God in the world; we remember that we are (in the words of St. Augustine) “...means of grace and vehicles of the eternal charity.”

From The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year. Copyright © 2007 by Michael W. Merriman. Church Publishing Incorporated, New York.

***Sunday School News:***

***It’s time to register for the fall!***

Parents are asked to register their children now for the children and youth program at St. Margaret’s Church this fall. Registration forms are available in the narthex of the church and in the church office. You can also register online at our website ([www.st-margarets.org](http://www.st-margarets.org)) under the “Quick Links” section on the homepage. We are excited that the formation program will be in the new building!

If you have gifts you would like to share in teaching, leading Children’s Chapel, or working with youth, please give the Rev. Sarah Lamming a call or send her an email ([sarah@st-margarets.org](mailto:sarah@st-margarets.org)). At the moment, we are really looking for two extra adults to help with the Sparks 4th& 5th grades.

For Godly Play (Preschool – 1st grade) we have a team of adults being coordinated by Dalyn Huntley; they include Gwen Davis, Phil Meeder, Tommy Bowers, Allison Mayer and Ruth Harmon.

Sparks 2nd & 3rd grade the teachers are Doreen Campbell, Tammy Anderson and Lisa Body.

Sparks 4th & 5th grade the teachers are Tracy Blamphin and another parishioner who will hopefully step forward soon.

Rite 13 the leaders are Julie and Kurt Svendsen, Catherine Kelly and Veronica Ackerman.

J2A the leaders are Anne Thomas, Margaret Kaii Ziegler, Douglas Castonguay and Evan Head

YAC the leaders are Jeff and Alice Conover.

Sunday School will start with a meet the teachers and explore the new formation space on **September 13th and the first class on September 20th**. Formation time will remain 10:15 until 11:00 a.m. The nursery will be remaining in the old day school and will continue throughout the summer. Children’s Chapel will start back up on September 13th. We are hoping that the two new children and youth ministers will start some time this month.

A Note from Rev. Sarah

There is one book I have read more times than any other in the past four years while I have been serving at St. Margaret’s. I have read it in the nursery; I have read it in the Day School; I have read it in the stroller services; and I have read it to my nieces and nephew. It was one of my favorite books when I was a child: “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” by Eric Carle.

The book starts one Sunday morning with a tiny young caterpillar that is hungry. Throughout the book, this little creature eats a variety of foods, and it grows… and grows… and grows.  Towards the end, the caterpillar is no longer little. It is time for it to transition and transform into a butterfly.

Over the past four years, I too have experienced a variety of adventures, shared a variety of pastoral situations, and tasted a variety of flavors.  I have experienced sacred and blessed memories during pilgrimages to the Grand Tetons and Maine. I have partaken in joyous and happy moments at graduations, weddings, and pageants. I have cradled tears and honored the times when families have let me into their pain, brokenness, and mourning.

As the very hungry caterpillar did in the book, I am now entering into a time of transition, not unlike being in a cocoon. This time will involve necessary separation from the ministry I have been doing here and from the parish community itself. The caterpillar had to leave behind all that it knew—its familiar surroundings and ways of being—in order for the transformation to happen. I, too, will be leaving behind what I have known at St. Margaret’s.  Loss is always hard, but even in the midst of grief there are new beginnings. As the new children and youth ministers arrive, I hope that you will welcome them, so they too can grow and develop, as I have done.

I would like to thank the community, the staff, the Day School, and especially the children and youth for all that you have given me and all the ways you have supported me over my time here. And I pray that in time, on the other side of this cocoon, I will be transformed into something new for another community.

Sarah

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