The Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost
A Healing Service

Aug 30, 2026 9:30 AM

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church Yarmouth, ME

A note about St. Bart's Healing Service

Throughout Scripture we read stories of healing and restoration. From Genesis to Revelation, individuals with afflictions of body, mind, and spirit and communities torn apart by greed and hatred are healed by prayer or, in one instance, by Jesus' spit and a little bit of mud (John 9:6). The ministry of healing is one of the oldest offerings of our Judeo-Christian faith and one of the most essential.

In church settings, when we hear the word "healing" we may think of the miracles of Jesus, where, by a touch or a word, Jesus was able to renew sight to the blind, agility to the lame, and life to the dead. Certainly, there are times when we all pray for miracles – for God to drastically intervene and make whole or make well a loved one.

Most often, however, "healing" is not just one experience of becoming well after being sick. It is a myriad of experiences of wholeness and being held, known, and loved just as we are. It is a sense of being buoyed when the waters of life are rough. It's a deep sense of embodiment when life is swirling around us. It's a cry for justice in a world still so deeply oppressed. It's knowing we do not journey through life alone but with God and God's people by our side.

St. Bart's Healing Services are times when we center this ministry of our tradition and make space for all these aspirations for healing. Our prayers, our songs, our silence turn our attention to our healing as individuals and as a community. Lighting candles – the flames of hope, endurance, love, and peace – and anointing – oils that bless the living and those close to death – are centuries-old practices that connect us to God's healing ministry in our midst.

We invite you, this morning, into this space of healing – for you, for those you love, and for our community.

Prelude "O Waly, Waly," by James Biery

Welcome & Announcements *Susan Garrett*

Moment of silence for reflection.

Opening Hymn, #477 All praise to thee *The Hymnal 1982*

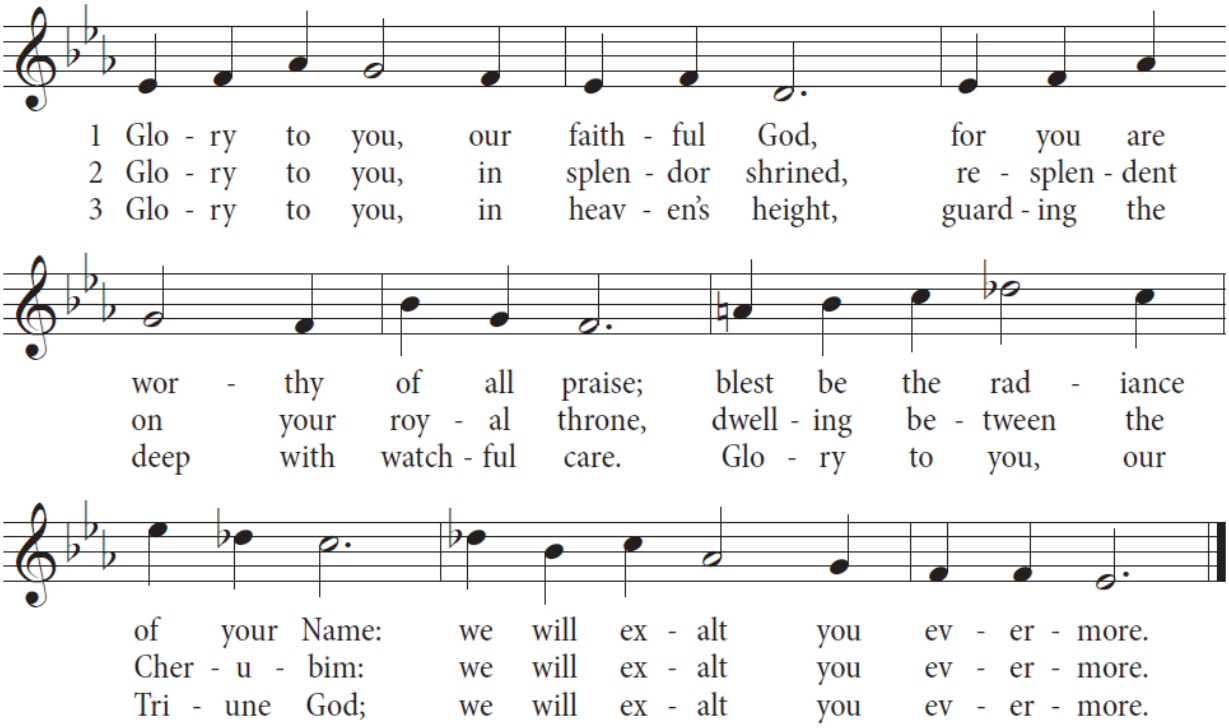
Opening Words *BCP pg. 355*

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.**
Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

Gloria, #112 *Take Up the Song*

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.
Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

People **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

First Lesson: Jeremiah 15:15-21 *Susannah White*

O LORD, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.
In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.
Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart;
for I am called by your name,
O LORD, God of hosts.
I did not sit in the company of merrymakers,
nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.
Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?
Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.

Therefore, thus says the LORD:
If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.
It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.
And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,
says the LORD.
I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

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

Psalm 26:1-8 *Barbara Barhydt*

Give judgment for me, O GOD,
for I have lived with integrity; *
I have trusted in you and have not faltered.

Test me, O GOD, and try me; *
examine my heart and my mind.

For your love is before my eyes; *
I have walked faithfully with you.

I have not sat with the worthless, *
nor do I consort with the deceitful.

I have hated the company of evildoers; *
I will not sit down with the wicked.

I will wash my hands in innocence, O GOD, *
that I may go in procession round your altar,

Singing aloud a song of thanksgiving *
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

O GOD, I love the house in which you dwell *
and the place where your glory abides.

Second Lesson: Romans 12:9-21 *Susannah White*

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

Gospel Hymn, #675 Take up your cross *The Hymnal 1982*

Holy Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28 *The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson*

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, O God.**

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon *The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson*

Moment of silence for reflection.

Hymn, #593 Lord, make us servants *The Hymnal 1982*

HEALING LITURGY

Celebrant Every quarter, St. Bart's sets apart a Sunday service to focus on our need for healing, both individually and communally. As we move into a time of prayer for the healing of our selves, our loved ones, and our world, let us take a moment to collect our thoughts and prayers.

Silence for reflection.

A Litany of Healing

Leader God our Creator, your will for all people is health and salvation; *Pam Hobson*
People **We praise you and thank you, O God.**

God the Son, you came that we might have life, and might have it more abundantly;
We praise you and thank you, O God.

God the Holy Spirit, you make our bodies the temple of your presence;
We praise you and thank you, O God.

Holy Trinity, one God, in you we live and move and have our being;
We praise you and thank you, O God.

God, grant your healing grace to all who are sick, injured, or in need, that they may be made whole;
Hear us, O Lord of life.

Grant to all who seek your guidance, and to all who are lonely, anxious, or despondent, a knowledge of your will and an awareness of your presence;
Hear us, O Lord of life.

Mend broken relationships, and restore those in emotional distress to soundness of mind and serenity of spirit;
Hear us, O Lord of life.

Bless physicians, nurses, and all others who minister to suffering, granting them wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience;
Hear us, O Lord of life.

We remember those who have called upon us for prayer:
Sasha; Paige; Nathaniel; Haskell; Gregory; Andy; Molly; Nova; Ted; Matt & Shannon; Lem; Hana; Melanie; Susan; Sue; Brooke; Elizabeth; Danny; Lin; Caroline; Ed; Greg; Tom; Diane; Kurt; Joe; Kathy; Laura; Brookie; Judy; Celeste; Jackie, Matt, Phil, Lisa S; Dan'l, Mike, Sarah and Stefan.

And we name before you now, aloud or silently, those who are on our hearts and minds (*pause for intercessions*). That all who are in need of your healing may know your grace.
Hear us, O Lord of life.

Grant to the dying peace and a holy death, and uphold by the grace and consolation of your Holy Spirit those who are bereaved. We pray for those in our community who have recently died. I invite your prayers, either silently or aloud, for those who have passed who you would like to remember (*pause for intercessions*). That all who now abide in the nearer presence of God may rest in peace.
Hear us, O Lord of life.

Restore to wholeness whatever is broken by human sin, in our lives, in our nation, and in the world. We pray, especially, for our fragile earth, that we may be good stewards of your creation;
Hear us, O Lord of life.

Our orange candle is lit in remembrance of victims of gun violence. We pray for all those whose lives and livelihoods have been affected by gun violence in our community and across our nation. God of Justice, help us, your church, to find our voice. Empower us to change this broken world and to protest the needless deaths caused by gun violence.

Give us power to rise above our fear that nothing can be done, and grant us the conviction to advocate for change.
Hear us, O Lord of life.

You are the God who does wonders:
You have declared your power among the peoples.

With you, O God, is the well of life:
And by your illumination we perceive.

Hear us, O Lord of life:
Heal us, and make us whole.

Blessing Prayer Shawls

Celebrant At this time, we will bless prayer shawls that have been prepared by our St. Bart's knitters and which will be given to members of our community who would like to be wrapped in prayer.

We invite the congregation to say the following Prayer of Blessing together:

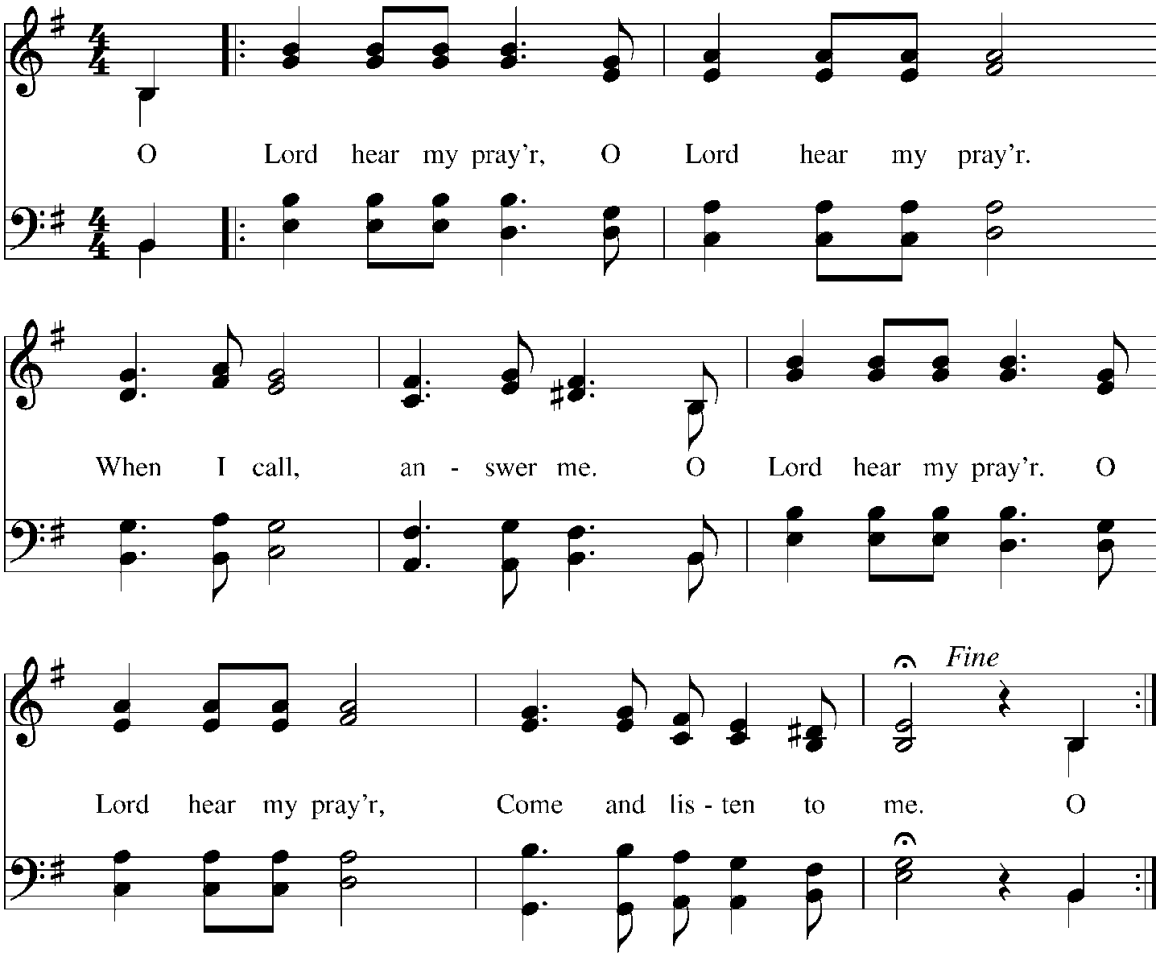
People
May God's grace be upon these shawls
warming, comforting, enfolding and embracing.
May this mantle be a safe haven,
a sacred place of security and well-being,
sustaining and embracing
in good times as well as difficult ones.

May the one who receives these shawls
be cradled in hope, kept in joy,
graced with peace,
and wrapped in love.

After the above prayer is said, the shawls will be placed on the table. As you come forward to light a candle, you are invited to add your own blessing to the shawls through touch or silent prayer.

Celebrant Jesus said: "Come to me all you who are weary and I will give you rest."
At this time, I invite you to light a candle of healing or to sit in quiet reflection.

The congregation is invited forward to light a candle as a symbol of the healing light of Christ illuminating our path. As individuals light candles, we sing…

O Lord hear my prayer *Wonder Love and Praise*

As this time of reflection comes to an end, the service continues with prayer.

Celebrant Let us pray

People Gracious God, we give you thanks for your beloved Jesus Christ, in whom you have shared the beauty and pain of human life. Look with compassion upon all for whom we pray, and strengthen us to be your instruments of healing in the world, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Confession of Sin

Celebrant Grounded in faith and inspired by God's healing grace, let us take a moment of silent reflection to confess our sins to God.

During the silence, you are invited to confess your sins to God in the words and ways that are meaningful to you. You may choose to say the words below from the Book of Common Prayer, or you may simply reflect on your life and the places where things have felt broken, hurtful, and hard; acknowledging where and when you haven't been your best self and how you'd like God's love, peace, and mercy to fill your heart.

Most Merciful God, I confess that I have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what I have done and by what I have left undone. I have not loved you with my whole heart, I have not

loved my neighbors as I love myself. I am truly sorry and I humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on me and forgive me; that I may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

The service continues with the Absolution from the Priest.

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.
People **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Sentence *BCP pg. 376*

Celebrant O Lord our God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power; because you have created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being. (Revelation 4:11)

Offertory Anthem Come My Way, My Truth, My Life by Harold Friedel

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a way as gives us breath,
such a truth as ends all strife, such a life as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:such a light as shows a feast,
such a feast as mends in length, such a strength as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: such a joy as none can move,
such a love as none can part, such a heart as joys in love.

Offertory Prayer

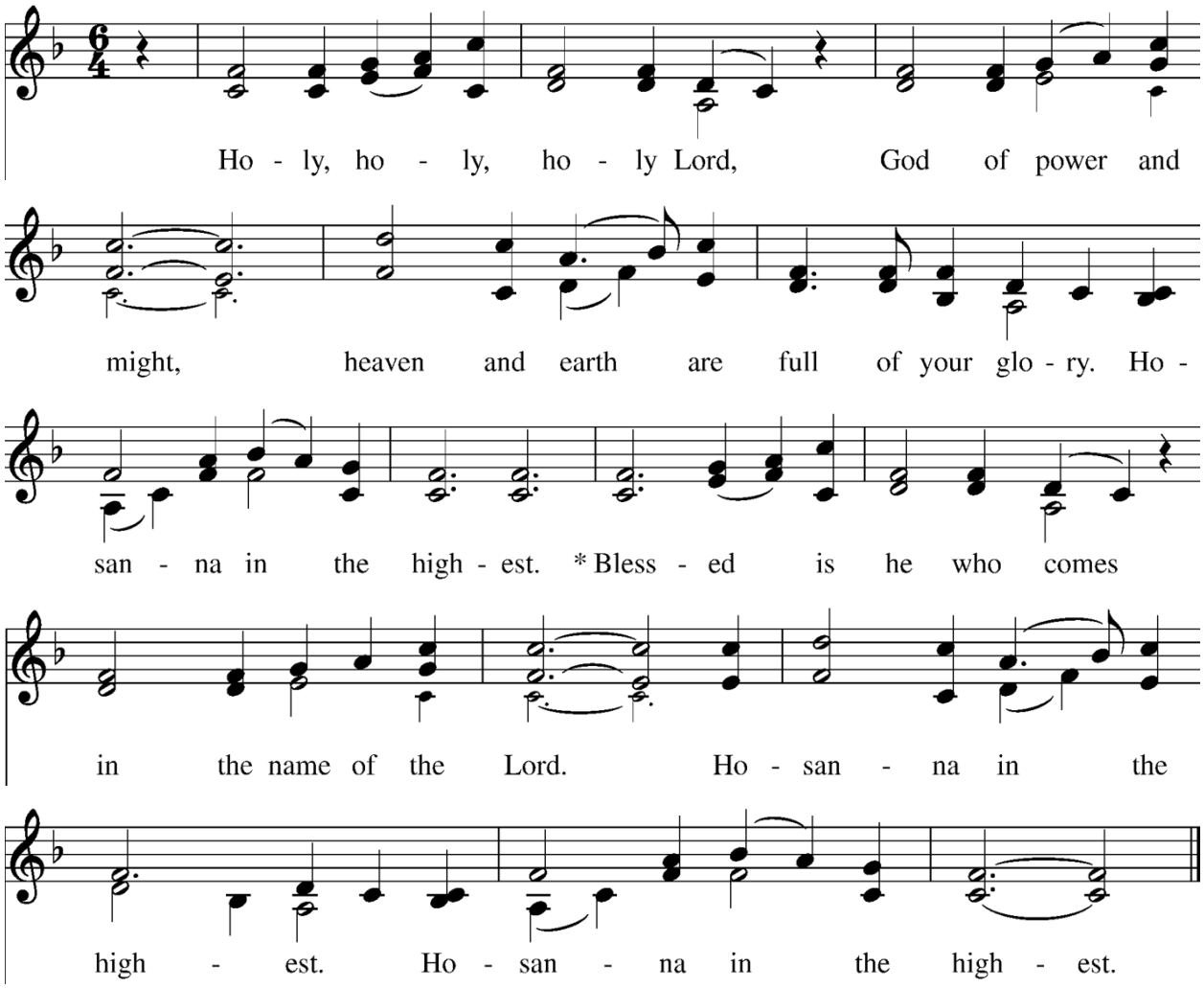
Celebrant Let us pray.
People **All things come from you, O God. And from your wondrous bounty, we offer these gifts. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving *BCP pg. 367*

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 indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus, #858 (sung) *Wonder, Love, & Praise*



Eucharistic Prayer

Celebrant God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
you have brought us this far along the way.
In times of bitterness you did not abandon us,
but guided us into the path of love and light.
In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity.
The cry of the poor has become your own cry;
our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire.
In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant
to preach good news to the afflicted,

to break bread with the outcast and despised,
and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper,
he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes

People Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection,
we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth
from the bonds of slavery and death.
Come, Lord Jesus!
And let the church say, Amen.
Amen.

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate,
to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom
to pursue love and justice in all the world.
Come, Spirit of freedom!
And let the church say, Amen.
Amen.

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age
that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection
we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son.
Through him, with him, in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father,
now and for ever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

People Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

The Fraction

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Invitation to Holy 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.

Holy Communion

Everyone is welcome to receive communion at St. Bart's! The ushers will invite you forward to stand around the chancel to receive the bread (hands facing upward for bread with gluten, hands facing down will indicate you'd like gluten free bread) and the wine. If you would like to receive a blessing instead, simply come forward and cross your arms at your chest. Please use the side aisles to return to your seat.

During Communion, healing prayers will be offered in the Chapel by members of the Pastoral Care Committee.

Communion Solo "O Waly, Waly" by Benjamin Britten

Communion Hymn, #439 What wondrous love is this *The Hymnal 1982*

Postcommunion Prayer *BCP pg. 365*

Celebrant Let us pray.

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

Celebrant Live without fear: your Creator has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you as a mother. Go in peace to follow the good road and may God's blessing be with you always.

People **Amen.**

Closing Hymn, #379 God is love *The Hymnal 1982*

The Dismissal *BCP Pg. 366*

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude Berceuse, by Gabriel Fauré

Worship Resources

Psalm: The St. Helena Breviary
Litany of Healing: adapted from "A Public Service of Healing" from *Enriching Our Worship* © 2022
Prayers of the People: Sundays and Seasons © 2026
Blessing: Enriching our Worship © 1998

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Celebrant	The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson
Chalice Bearer	Barbara Barhydt, POP Pam Hobson
Nonvested Chalice Bearer	Dennis Fitzgibbons
Prayer Leader	Pam Hobson
Lector	Susannah White
Ushers	Pam Hobson, Pam Waite
Music Director	Dr. Christina Edelen
Musicians	The St. Bart's Choir
	Mike Perfetti, clarinet
Prayers in the Chapel	John Perkins
Altar Guild	Linda and John Perkins
Flower Arranger	Carol Hayes
A/V	Joe Michaud
Bread Baker	Sukie Curtis
Counters	Harriet Davis, Pam Hobson
Lawn Care	Tom Hyndman
VPOW	Susan Garrett
Coffee Hour	Margaret Kimball & Mary Strnad

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Yarmouth, ME
A Congregation of The Episcopal Diocese of Maine

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Jr. Warden:	Ann Donaghy
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