



PALMER MEMORIAL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

— HOUSTON, TEXAS —

*Bringing the peace of Jesus
to the whole world*

THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I
8:00 AM
OCTOBER 26, 2025

6221 MAIN STREET | HOUSTON, TEXAS 77030 | 713.529.6196

PALMERCHURCH.ORG

Free parking is available every Sunday across Cambridge Street from the church in the Memorial Hermann Medical Plaza parking garage (6400 Fannin Street), with entrances on both Fannin Street and Main Street. Palmer has purchased this convenient parking and absorbed the cost to provide it to parishioners and guests. Simply bring the ticket you receive when entering the parking garage to the Welcome Table by the front entrance of the church. Then validate your parking ticket by using a machine located on that table. If you do not receive a parking ticket, or happen to misplace your ticket, please notify a parking attendant by pressing the button on the ticket machine as you exit. Upon exiting the parking garage, if the ticket machine indicates that you owe a fee, press the cancel button, and then insert your validated parking ticket into the machine. The gate will go up right away. Again, if you need assistance, please notify a parking attendant by pressing the button on the ticket machine.

OUR MISSION

To know and boldly share the love of Jesus Christ through deep understanding of our relationship with God, ourselves, and our neighbors, in a joyfully engaged and welcoming community, dedicated to thoughtful and focused service, and inspired by worship that renews curiosity about all of creation.

OUR VALUES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Liturgical Excellence

We believe in sharing God's unconditional love in Jesus, which we call grace, with all who come through our church doors. The beauty and power of our liturgy drawn from the Book of Common Prayer and our music drawn from the Anglican choral tradition are the beginning, not the end, of our weekly Christian journey. Like a flourishing tree, they root us in the past, shelter us in the present, and reach out to the future with the strength and confidence of God's promises to all.

Joyful Companionship

We believe spending time together and connecting across the generations fosters our spiritual growth. Palmers accompany each other on our pilgrimage with God, toward God. We are an ever-growing household, for the youngest child and each of us through the end of life, built with grace, love, acceptance, laughter, tears, service, singing, and Jesus as our cornerstone.

Bold Curiosity

We believe the gift of inquiry, curiosity, and profound conversation leads to a greater understanding of our place in God's creation and our relationship with God, ourselves, and our neighbors. Knowing and sharing the love of Jesus is experienced in our worship and also through artistic expression, intellectual generosity, and spiritual teaching.

Spiritual Sanctuary

We believe God loves each of us, no exceptions. As human beings created in God's image, we should have a place where the love of Jesus is made real, a place where we can experience the celebration of who we are and an acceptance of where we are on life's journey. We aspire to be an inclusive community of faith and a beacon of hope for those seeking spiritual refuge.

Loving Service

We believe following Jesus, as we are called to do, involves caring for our neighbors as we care for ourselves, joining in God's mission to connect with and work alongside an extraordinary array of people, institutions, and communities, and bearing witness to the work of the Holy Spirit in the world around us.



Welcome to Palmer!

We are a community of Christians worshipping in the Episcopal tradition, which has its roots in the practices of the ancient Church. We are a congregation that values not only eternal answers but also important questions. You are surrounded by the love of Jesus here this morning. Scan the QR code to the left or visit palmerchurch.org connect to fill out a welcome card or a request for prayer.

RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

If you are a baptized Christian of any tradition, you are invited to receive communion with us after the Breaking of the Bread. The consecrated bread will be placed in your outstretched hands. Those who require either grape juice or gluten-free bread and wine should join in the line on the left side of the church and let the minister of communion know. When the chalice of consecrated wine comes to you, you may sip from the chalice, or carefully dip part of the consecrated bread into the wine, or decline it. Rest assured that you will have made a full communion if you choose to receive the consecrated bread only, with nothing lacking in your experience of God's grace today.

RECEIVING A BLESSING

If you are not a baptized Christian, or your Christian tradition does not allow you to receive communion with us, we encourage you to come forward at the time of communion to receive a blessing. Simply cross your arms over your chest as someone approaches with the bread, and that person will know to give you a blessing instead of communion. In this way, everyone can participate in this part of the service.

RECEIVING PRAYER

If you would like someone to pray for you, members of the Order of St. Luke will be available for that in the narthex (i.e., the entryway near the front doors of the church) during the administration of communion.

SEEKING BAPTISM

If you have never been baptized and desire to be immersed in grace and forgiveness as a follower of Jesus, please speak with a member of the clergy listed below or someone at the Welcome Table after this hour of worship. It would be a joy to baptize you as a Christian here at Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church.

MEDICAL CENTER GUESTS

If you or a family member are here for care at the Texas Medical Center, please let us know how we can support you while you are in Houston by stopping at the Welcome Table by the front doors of the church or contacting Suzie Dennis at sdennis@palmerchurch.org.

CARING FOR THE WELLNESS OF OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

We strongly encourage everyone to be up to date on vaccinations and boosters. Masking is optional.

CLERGY AND LITURGICAL CHURCH STAFF

The Rev'd Neil Alan Willard, *Rector*

The Rev'd Allen M. Juneke, *Associate Rector*

The Rev'd Katherine Tuttle, *Director of Parish Life and Membership*

The Rev'd Mary Reddick, *Deacon*

The Rev'd Beth Anne Nelson, *The Diocese of Texas Missioner to Rice University*

Roger Hutchison, *Director of Children's and Youth Ministries*

Dr. Brady Knapp, *Director of Music*

Ken Cowan, *Organist and Artist-in-Residence*

Laura Smith, *Associate Organist*

David Ashley White, *Composer-in-Residence*

Courtney Daniell-Knapp, *Children's Choirs*

THE WORD OF GOD

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

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

The Celebrant says

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.**

Celebrant Glory be to God on high,

People **and on earth peace, good will towards all. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, give unto us the increase of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain that which thou dost promise, make us to love that which thou dost command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

First Reading

Joel 2:23-32

Reader A reading from the Book of Joel.

O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before. The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame. Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit.

I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved; for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 65

You are to be praised, O God, in Zion;
to you shall vows be performed in Jerusalem.
To you that hear prayer shall all flesh come,
because of their transgressions.
Our sins are stronger than we are,
but you will blot them out.
Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there!
they will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple.
Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation,
O Hope of all the ends of the earth and of the seas that are far away.
You make fast the mountains by your power;
they are girded about with might.
You still the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.
Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs;
you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.
You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous;
the river of God is full of water.
You prepare the grain,
for so you provide for the earth.
You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.
You crown the year with your goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.
May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,
and the hills be clothed with joy.
May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain;
let them shout for joy and sing.

Gospel Reading

Luke 18:9-14

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Jesus told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

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

The Sermon

The Rev'd Neil Alan Willard, *Rector*

The Nicene Creed

Celebrant We believe in one God,
People 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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.

The Prayers of the People

The person appointed says

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

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all people: 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, 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 Donald, President of the United States; Greg, Governor of Texas; and John, Mayor of Houston; 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 all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity, especially patients and those who care for them across the street in the Texas Medical Center, and those whom we name now with our lips or in our hearts.

Silence

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, especially those whom we name now with our lips or in our hearts.

Silence

We beseech thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of the Blessed Virgin Mary 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

The Deacon says

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Those who are able may kneel, and silence is kept.

Celebrant Almighty God,

People Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

maker of all things, judge of all people:

We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness,

which we from time to time most grievously have committed,

by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty,

provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us.

We do earnestly repent,

and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings;

the remembrance of them is grievous unto us,

the burden of them is intolerable.

Have mercy upon us,

have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;

for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,

forgive us all that is past;

and grant that we may ever hereafter

serve and please thee in newness of life,

to the honor and glory of thy Name;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Priest stands and says

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.

The Peace

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And with thy spirit.

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

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Celebrant begins the Offertory with this bidding or a sentence of Scripture.

Let us with gladness bring unto the Lord the first of the fruit of everything God hath given us.

Those who have brought with them an offering are invited to place it in the offering plate that will be passed in the pews. Others are invited to make their financial contributions online at palmerchurch.org/give or by using this QR code.



The Great Thanksgiving

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.**

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, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for 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 to thee, he broke 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 this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, 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, we thy people do celebrate and make, 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; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church, may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we, in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

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

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

<i>Celebrant</i>	Our Father,
<i>People</i>	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

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

The Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

When Eucharistic Visitors take communion to the shut-in and infirm:

Celebrant In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

People **We, who are many, are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.**

After communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

The people kneel or stand.

Celebrant Almighty and everliving God,

People **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 Priest gives the blessing.

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.**

The Deacon dismisses the people with these words

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

TOGETHER, WE PRAY

Please pray for these people:

Polly Allen	Michael Gamboa	Bill Robertson
James Armstrong	Brandon Hertz	Don Robinson
Georgia Barton	Patricia Hinojosa	The Ross Family
Kim Bavousett	Courtney, Peter, & Graham Holcomb	Roxane Short
Roger Beebe	Holman Family	The Smith Family
Viola Cleo Bradshaw	Steve Howard	Mary Sommers
Brown Family	Connie Hulin	Linda Sylvan
Jack Browns	James Hunter	Bill Tilney
Leigh Anderson Burdette	Linda Ittner	The Toranzo Family
Cynthia Candler and family	Jacob Isbell	Eleanor Viebig
Carlos	Roy Knapp, Jr.	Fran Wallis
Jeff Carowitz	Sumi Kobayashi	Daniel Allen White
Katie Courtney	The Landry Family	David Ashley White
Mike Collins	Jim Lober	Randy William
Dan Cromack	Jo Lyday	Lewis Williams
Carlo Del Frate	Shirley Matthews	Arnold Willis
Maria De Nazare	Don May	Ruth Wilkes
Dan and Cathy Dodge	The Rev'd Liz Parker	Marie Woodward
Scott Follmar	Patricia Lynn Paxton	Audrey Worthing
David Furr	Jane Richardson	Donna Yacoe

Names remain on the list for two Sundays unless the request is renewed by contacting one of the coordinators of our Pastoral Care Ministry: Ruth Davies at rmmdavies@cebridge.net for Palmers or Suzie Dennis at sdennis@palmerchurch.org for non-Palmers.

Please pray for expectant households or families with newborns:

Riley Hutchison and David Ramirez

Those expecting a child by birth or adoption are encouraged to contact
Roger Hutchison at rwhutchison@palmerchurch.org.

Please pray for those in the armed forces:

Evan Adams	Jarrett Johnson	Adam Salvati
Nathan Adam	Christopher Kent	Alex Swartz
Michael Anderson	James King	Matthew Van Arsdale
Gaston Baza	Mike Martinez	Ashley Waddle
Travis Chambers	Nate Miller	Alex Walker
Owen Green	Andrew Nesom	Taylor Wilby
John Harrison	Harrison Power	
Connor Hurt	Jim Rosenbach	

Please pray for our congregation's five-year strategic plan called *Come. Be. Palmer.*

God of grace and glory, you are faithful from one generation to another: Grant to us, as Palmers, the courage to know and boldly share the love of Jesus Christ, that our own hearts and the world around us may be changed and reflect more and more your great mercy and compassion; through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

For more information visit palmerchurch.org/strategicplan

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glord of God and in celebration of Heather and Richard Avant's 32nd wedding anniversary and their sons Donald and Christopher's 30th birthday by Richard Avant.

If you would like to make a special flower dedication please visit palmerchurch.org/give/flowerfund or fill out a flower envelope located in the narthex or bell tower entrance.