



PALMER MEMORIAL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

— HOUSTON, TEXAS —

*Bringing the peace of Jesus
to the whole world*

COVENANT SUNDAY
THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I
8:00 AM
NOVEMBER 16, 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.

Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them; that, by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

First Reading

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Reader A reading from the Second Letter to the Thessalonians.

Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labor we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sing to the Lord a new song,
 for he has done marvelous things.
 With his right hand and his holy arm
 has he won for himself the victory.
 The Lord has made known his victory;
 his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel,
 and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
 Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands;
 lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
 Sing to the Lord with the harp,
 with the harp and the voice of song.
 With trumpets and the sound of the horn
 shout with joy before the King, the Lord.
 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it,
 the lands and those who dwell therein.
 Let the rivers clap their hands,
 and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, when he comes to judge the earth.
 In righteousness shall he judge the world
 and the peoples with equity.

Gospel Reading

Luke 21:5-19

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

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, Jesus said, "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down." They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them.

"When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven. "But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls."

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

The Sermon

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

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. On this Covenant Sunday, as we express our gratitude for the blessings we have received from thee, we give thanks for those who will support this congregation, the Body of Christ, through their presence, their prayers, and their financial offerings in the coming year.

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.

Today is Covenant Sunday, when Palmers have been invited not only to worship together but also to bring to the altar their completed estimated giving cards, which is a spiritual practice to indicate their commitment of time, talent, and treasure to this congregation for the next calendar year. In the pew racks are blank cards for 2026 that can be used to make this commitment by those who are not yet on our mailing list or who may have forgotten to bring a completed card with them. Also in the pew racks, for those who turned in their estimated giving cards early, are special gratitude cards to use as an outward sign of having made the same commitment.



On this particular Sunday, those who have brought with them a financial offering for this week are also invited to come forward to place those offerings on the altar. Others are invited to make their financial contributions online at palmerchurch.org/give or by using this QR code.

If what you have to offer God in the coming year, here or elsewhere, is only yourself, then come forward with one of the gratitude cards as an outward sign of that commitment. If you're not able to walk up the stairs, simply ask a neighbor in the pews to take your card or your offering for you. We are here to help each other.

If you're a guest with us today, perhaps visiting us for the first time, or friends with people in our congregation, or just someone who is curious about Jesus, do not be anxious about watching those around you make this commitment. If you belong to another church, allow yourself to be inspired to make a similar commitment to that community of faith. If you've never given much back to God out of your blessings, consider what it would be like to participate in something larger than your own needs, something that is rooted in the love of Jesus Christ and shares that love with the world around you.

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, who by water and the Holy Spirit hast made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth thy glory in all the world.

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.

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

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

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.