

The Transitus of  
St. Francis of Assisi  
&  
The Holy Eucharist of  
Saints Francis and Clare



Good Shepherd Episcopal  
Church and School

Sunday, October 3, 2021  
5:00pm

# *The Transitus*

By Fr. Jim Kent, OFM Conv.

Transitus is the annual celebration by Franciscans throughout the world of the passing of St. Francis from this life to life with God. It is celebrated the night of October 3, the eve of his feast day. The word "transitus" comes from the Latin, meaning passage or crossing.

There is no one ritual for Transitus, and therefore many expressions have developed for this liturgy. Certain prayers or writings of St. Francis and accounts from his early biographers are common. One of them, "The Life of St. Francis" by Thomas of Celano, recalls how when Francis was dying he asked that the washing of the feet from Gospel of John be read. This Scriptural passing is often included in the Transitus. Since Francis spoke of dying as embracing Sister Death, the ritual is solemn but not sad and inspires the participants to richly live the Gospel until the end of their days.



## *The Tradition of Almond Cookies*

Despite being a very humble man known for his love of poverty and zealous fasting, one of Francis' closest friendships was with a wealthy woman he affectionally called, "Brother Jacoba," whose almond cookies (called *mostaccioli*) were Francis' favorite. As Francis approached death, he asked for Brother Jacoba and that she would bring his beloved cookies and burial garments. It is traditional for Franciscans around the world to eat almond cookies on the evening of October 3rd in honor of Francis' request.

This evening our own almond cookies were lovingly baked by Cathy Hart and will be available for all at the end of the service.

*The people stand as the ministers enter in silence.*

## WELCOME

The Rev. Derek Larson, TSSF

## THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

*Celebrant* Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

*People* **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

*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. **Amen.**

Hymn • 400

*All creatures of our God and King*

All creatures of our God and King,  
Lift up your voices, let us sing:  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Bright burning sun with golden beams,  
Pale silver moon that gently gleams,  
O praise him, O praise him,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Great rushing winds and breezes soft,  
You clouds that ride the heavens aloft,  
O praise him, Alleluia!  
Fair rising morn, with praise rejoice,  
Stars nightly shining, find a voice,  
O praise him, O praise him,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

And even you, most gentle death,  
Waiting to hush our final breath,  
O praise him, Alleluia!  
You lead back home the child of God,  
For Christ our Lord that way has trod:  
O praise him, O praise him,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Let all things their creator bless,  
And worship him in humbleness,  
O praise him, Alleluia!  
Praise God the Father, praise the Son,  
And praise the Spirit, Three in One:  
O praise him, O praise him,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

## THE OPENING COLLECT

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O God, on this day you granted the reward of blessed eternity to our blessed Brother Francis; mercifully grant that we who celebrate with tender devotion the memory of his death may have the joy of sharing in his blessed regard. Through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

*The people sit for the lessons.*

## THE READINGS

### THE FIRST READING

A reading from the biographies of St. Francis by Thomas of Celano and St. Bonaventure.

St. Francis spent the last days before his death in praising the Lord and teaching his companions, whom he loved so much, to praise Christ with him. He himself, in as far as he was able, broke out with the Psalm: I cry to the Lord with my voice; to the Lord I make loud supplication. He likewise invited all creatures to praise God and, with the words he had composed earlier, he exhorted them to love God. Even death itself, considered by all to be so terrible and hateful, was exhorted to give praise, while he himself, going joyfully to meet it, invited it to make its abode with him. "Welcome," he said, "my sister death."

When the hour of his death approached, Francis asked that all of the brothers living with him be called to his death bed and, softening his departure with consoling words, he encouraged them with fatherly affection to love God. He spoke of patience and poverty and of being faithful to the Church, giving precedence to the Holy Gospels before all else. He then stretched his hands over the brothers in the form of a cross, a symbol that he loved so much, and gave his blessings to all followers, both present and absent, in the power and in the name of the Crucified. Then he added: "Remain, my sons, in the fear of the Lord and be with him always. And as temptations and trials beset you, blessed are those who persevere to the end in the life they have chosen. I am on my way to God and I commend you all to His favor." With this sweet admonition, this dearly beloved to God, asked that the book of the Gospels be brought to him and that the passage in the Gospel of St. John, which begins before the Feast of the Passover be read. Finally, when all God's mysteries had been accomplished in him, his holy soul was freed from his body and assumed into the abyss of God's glory, and Francis fell asleep in God.

*Lector*            Here ends the lesson.

### PSALM 142

- 1     I cry to the Lord with my voice;\*  
      to the Lord I make loud supplication.
- 2     I pour out my complaint before him\*  
      and tell him all my trouble.
- 3     When my spirit languishes within me, you know my path;\*  
      in the way wherein I walk they have hidden a trap for me.
- 4     I look to my right hand and find no one who knows me;\*  
      I have no place to flee to, and no one cares for me.
- 5     I cry out to you, O Lord;\*  
      I say, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living."
- 6     Listen to my cry for help, for I have been brought very low;\*  
      save me from those who pursue me, for they are too strong for me.
- 7     Bring me out of prison, that I may give thanks to your Name;\*  
      when you have dealt bountifully with me, the righteous will gather around

**Jesu, Jesu,  
fill us with your love,  
show us how to serve  
the neighbors we have from you.**

Neighbors are rich and poor,  
Neighbors are black and white,  
Neighbors are nearby and far away.

Kneels at the feet of his friends,  
Silently washes their feet,  
Master who acts as a slave to them.

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

JOHN 13:1-17, 31b-35

*Priest*            The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.  
*People*            **Glory to you Lord Christ.**

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord--and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

"Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

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

## HOMILY

The Rev. Derek Larson, TSSF

*A moment of quiet reflection will follow the homily.*

**LITANY OF SAINTS FRANCIS AND CLARE** (*From the Devotional Companion of the Third Order,  
Society of St. Francis (TSSF)*)

*During the Litany, the bell tolls 44 times for the 44 years of Francis' life.*

*Litanist* God the Father,  
**People** **Have mercy on us.**

*Litanist* God the Son,  
**People** **Have mercy on us.**

*Litanist* God the Holy Spirit,  
**People** **Have mercy on us.**

*Litanist* Holy Trinity, One God.  
**People** **Have mercy on us.**

*Litanist* We humbly pray that you will hear us, O Lord, and that you will send peace to the whole world which you have reconciled to yourself by the ministry of your Son, Jesus.

*Litanist* That you will guide all in civil authority to establish justice and maintain it for all people.  
**People** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Litanist* That you will heal the divisions of your visible Church, that all may be one.  
**People** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Litanist* That you will grant to your people forgiveness of our sins, and give us grace to amend our lives.  
**People** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Litanist* That you will lead all members of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church and the whole Church throughout the world in their vocations and ministries to serve you in a true and Godly life.  
**People** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Litanist* That you will raise up able ministers for your Church, that the Gospel may be known to all people.  
**People** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Litanist* That you will inspire all bishops, priests, and deacons with your love, that they may hunger for truth and thirst after righteousness; that you will fill them with compassion and move them to care for your people.  
**People** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Litanist* That you will bless our siblings who seek to serve you in the Third Order, Society of Saint Francis, and will give them grace to persevere.  
**People** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Litanist* That you will bless their families and communities and adorn them with all Christian virtue.  
**People** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Litanist* That by the indwelling of your Holy Spirit you will sustain those you have called to the life of the Gospels in the way of Saint Francis, and encourage them to persevere to the end.  
**People** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Litanist* Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.  
(Intercessions may be offered here)

*Litanist* Lord, in your mercy.  
*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Litanist* That we, with the blessed Virgin, Saints Francis and Clare, Saints Louis and Elizabeth, Patrons of the Third Order, and all the saints who have served you in the past, may be gathered into your unending Dominion.  
*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Celebrant* Lord have mercy.  
*People* **Christ have mercy.**  
*Celebrant* Lord have mercy.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.  
Lord God, you are always pleased to show yourself to those who are childlike and humble of heart; help us to follow the example of blessed Father Francis, to look upon the wisdom of this world as foolishness, and to set our minds only on Jesus Christ, and him crucified, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all praise forever. Amen.

*Officiant* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept*

*Celebrant and People*  
**Most loving and merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you and your creation.  
We confess our false claim to wealth and power and wisdom.  
We confess our shame of the Gospel and of our dependence upon you.  
Help us to know ourselves as neither more nor less than we are in your sight.  
Enlighten the darkness of our hearts, and give us, O Lord,  
true faith, certain hope, and perfect charity. Amen.**

*Celebrant*  
The God of infinite love have mercy on you, by the humble passion of our Lord Jesus Christ forgive you all your sins, and by the power of the Holy Spirit lead you into all grace and truth. Amen.

*Officiant* The Peace of Christ be always with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**

*All may greet one another in the name of the Lord. Please observe social distancing.*

## THE OFFERTORY

*Celebrant* Prepare to look upon the humility of God. Pour out your hearts before the Lord of the Universe. Humble yourselves that God might exalt you. Hold back nothing of yourselves for yourselves, that the Lord may receive your all who gave his all to you.

*Musical Interlude followed by the congregation standing and singing:*

Then sings my soul, my savior God to thee  
How great thou art, How great thou art  
Then sings my soul, my savior God to thee  
How great thou art, How great thou art

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

*The Eucharistic Prayer of Saints Francis and Clare*

*(From the Devotional Companion of the Third Order, Society of St. Francis)*

*The people remain standing.*

*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 our thanks and praise.**

*The Celebrant proceeds*

All Powerful, Most High, Supreme Good Lord, we praise and thank you for bringing light to the darkness of our lives. By your Word at creation you brought forth our brother sun and sister moon, and your loving gaze looked upon all that you had made to find it very good. But by sin the world was blinded; by sin we lost our way. Then through your Son you revealed the light of your love. As one of us, you walked among us. Unite us this day to your Son, that we may shine with your glory to the world; by your light help us see and become the light.

Rejoicing in the splendor of your radiance, countless throngs of angels and archangels give you unceasing praise. Joining with them and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we praise your name saying

*Celebrant and People*

**Holy, Holy, Holy, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*The Celebrant proceeds*

You are worthy, O God, to be worshipped and praised by all that you have made. For you loved the world so much that you gave your only Son, so that all might find new life in him. By your Holy Spirit, you anointed Jesus to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim freedom for prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, and to release those who are oppressed. Healing the sick, feeding the hungry, and feasting with sinners your Son proclaimed the Kingdom of God was at hand. Living among us Jesus revealed your glory, full of grace and truth. Yet the world rejected him, opposing his mission and witness.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."



After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

In all humility, Christ then accepted betrayal and death upon a cross for our redemption. Therefore, O Lord, you raised him from the dead and gave to Jesus the name above all other names, so that all might be humbled to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord of all.

Almighty God, as we celebrate this memorial of our redemption, we praise you for your love and mercy revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Remembering his death, rejoicing in his resurrection, we offer all we have and all we are to you.

As we await the return of Christ in glory, let your Holy Spirit come upon this bread and wine and upon us, that we may be filled with your power and grace through the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

*People and Celebrant*     **Unite us to your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who brings us out of darkness into the wonderful light.**

*The Celebrant continues*

All this we ask through our Savior Jesus Christ, by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **AMEN.**

And now as our Savior Christ has 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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

*Celebrant*     We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

*People*     **We who are many are one body for we all share in the one bread.**

*The Celebrant says the following*

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.

## DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

*All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion.*

**Lord, make me an instrument of peace, an instrument of peace.**

Where there is hatred, let me sow love.  
Where there is darkness, let me sow light.  
For in the giving, we shall receive,  
And in the dying we're given life.

Where there is sorrow, let me sow hope.  
Where there is doubt, let me sow faith.  
Where there is injury, Your pardon give,  
You're consolation to those in pain.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

**Most High and Supreme Eternal God, through the mystery of your presence you give us joy.  
We thank you for giving us a taste of your heavenly kingdom,  
in the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
And now, O Lord, make us instruments of your peace;  
as we make our way in the world, help us sow your pardon, love and renewal.  
Empower us by your Holy Spirit to love mercy, to do justice, and to walk humbly with our God,  
following the examples of Francis, Clare, Louis, and Elizabeth,  
who with all your saints magnify your holy Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Celebrant gives a blessing*

Hymn (Hymnal LEVAS II) • 191

*His Eye is On the Sparrow*

Why should I feel discouraged,  
Why should the shadows come,  
Why should my heart be lonely,  
And long for heav'n and home;  
When Jesus is my portion?  
My constant friend is He:

**His eye is on the sparrow,  
And I know He watches me (2x)  
I sing because I'm happy,  
I sing because I'm free;  
For His eye is on the sparrow,  
And I know He watches me.**

"Let not your heart be troubled,"  
His tender word I hear,  
And resting on His goodness,  
I lose my doubts and fears;  
Though by the path He leadeth,  
But one step I may see;

When ever I am tempted,  
Whenever clouds arise,  
When songs give place to sighing,  
When hope within me dies,  
I draw the closer to Him,  
From care He sets me free;

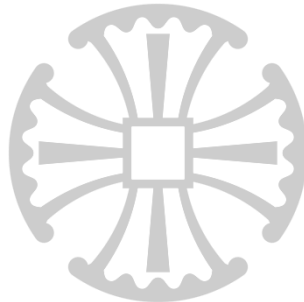
*Celebrant* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
*People* Thanks be to God.

## MISSION

We exist to be a beacon of faith, hope, and love.

## VISION

We are called to be a vibrant spiritual and educational community resource, radiating God's love for everyone, everywhere.



## WE HAVE A PLACE FOR YOU

Welcome to Good Shepherd Episcopal Church and School. We are glad you decided to join us for worship this evening. Please take a moment to fill out the Communication Card located on the table at the back of the church and place it in the Offering Plate after the service.

## OUR BRIDGE

2021 is a year of transition. We are moving from a pre-pandemic place to another new and different world. To get us there, we are called to reevaluate our goals and plans, which have been dramatically shifted by the events of 2020. We are still the same church. Our mission and vision have not changed. We are simply moving ahead together as a community, and we are called to recognize that the most effective way to do God's work in the world is to adapt. As we cross over into the new place God is preparing for us, this is our BRIDGE.

**B**uild Relationships  
**R**eevaluate Priorities  
**I**magine Change  
**D**evelop Disciples  
**G**row Leaders  
**E**ngage Community

## OUR STAFF

The Very Rev. Dr. Douglas F. Scharf, *Rector*  
The Rev. Derek Larson, *Assistant Rector*  
Merike Seely, *Parish Administrator*  
Timm C. Johnson-Reynolds, *Music Director*  
Heather Vaughn, *Acting Head of School*  
Jo Wood, *Director of Hospitality*  
David Dixon, *Youth and Family Minister*  
Julie Brown, *Office Coordinator*  
Debbie White, *Assistant Choir Coordinator*  
Letty Anderson, *Business Manager*  
Beth Long, *Thrift Store Manager*  
Erik Pariseleti, *Technology Coordinator*  
Evelyn Seely, *Digital Media Assistant*  
Deven King, *Facilities Assistant*  
Ann Ballard, *Volunteer Office Assistant*  
Mary Lou Crifasi, *Volunteer Office Assistant*

## OUR VESTRY

Heather Graham, *Senior Warden*  
Mike Howard, *Junior Warden*  
Mark Chittum, *Clerk*  
Mike Greene, *Treasurer*  
  
Beth Bohnsack  
Beverley Cunningham  
Gwen Gouéry  
Kathy Hawken  
Steve Pollard  
Tracy Smith  
Rob Taylor  
Matt Ulman

## TODAY'S SERVANT LEADERS

**Celebrant**     The Rev. Derek Larson, TSSF  
**Assisting Priest**     The Very Rev. Dr. Douglas Scharf  
**Acolyte**     Heather Graham  
**Reader**     Kathy Hawken  
**Usher**     Tracy, Megan, and Emily Smith  
**Altar Guild**     Jeanne Couillard  
**Musicians**     David Dixon, Debbie White  
**Baker**     Cathy Hart



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