

The Church of St. Paul, Cambria

Morning Prayer and Holy Eucharist

• Proper 21 A • October 1, 2023 •

Opening Hymn 648

Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever.
Amen.

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.**

Penitential Rite

Fair and just are your ways, God and master of the vineyard, for you leave us free to pledge our obedience in words that prove empty, or prove our commitment by deeds done in love. Help us fulfill our baptismal covenant, and let us gladly love your world and work side by side with those of any creed who strive for peace and for justice. Now in humility let us prepare our hearts and minds to hear and celebrate our Lord's supper by acknowledging our failures and shortcomings and asking God for mercy and hope.

Silence may be kept. Minister and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

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. Amen.

Lord, open our lips
And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Earth is the Lord's for he made it. **Come let us adore him.**

Venite: Psalm 95:1-7

Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout

for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

1 Hear my teaching, O my people; * incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

2 I will open my mouth in a parable; * I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

3 That which we have heard and known, and what our forefathers have told us, * we will not hide from their children.

4 We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, * and the wonderful works he has done.

12 He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, * in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

13 He split open the sea and let them pass through; * he made the waters stand up like walls.

14 He led them with a cloud by day, * and all the night through with a glow of fire.

15 He split the hard rocks in the wilderness * and gave them drink as from the great deep.

16 He brought streams out of the cliff, * and the waters gushed out like rivers.

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson

The first lesson is from Exodus (17:1-7)

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

Thanks be to God.

Canticle H: **A Song of Hosea** *Hosea 6:1-3*

Come, let us return to our God, * who has torn us and will heal us.

God has struck us and will bind up our wounds, * after two days revive us,

On the third day restore us, * that in God's presence we may live.

Let us humble ourselves, let us strive to know the Lord, * whose justice dawns like morning light, its dawning as sure as the sunrise.

God's justice will come to us like a shower, * like spring rains that water the earth

The **second lesson** is from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians (2:1-13)

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as

something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

Thanks be to God.

Canticle S: **A Song of Our True Nature** *Julian of Norwich*

Christ revealed our frailty and our falling, * our trespasses and our humiliations.

Christ also revealed his blessed power, * his blessed wisdom and love.

He protects us as tenderly and as sweetly when we are in greatest need; * he raises us in spirit and turns everything to glory and joy without ending.

God is the ground and the substance, the very essence of nature; * God is the true father and mother of natures.

We are all bound to God by nature, * and we are all bound to God by grace.

And this grace is for all the world, * because it is our precious mother, Christ.

For this fair nature was prepared by Christ for the honor and nobility of all, * and for the joy and bliss of salvation.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord according to St. Matthew (21:23-32)

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am

doing these things. "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

Here follows the Nicene Creed, all standing

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

God is a father to those who obey God's word and to those who ignore it. With great humility, then, and with great confidence, let us confide to God the hopes and needs, the pains and the labors of the whole world, saying: Lord, hear our prayer. *(As the Spirit moves you, read one or more of the following petitions.)*

For all in this world who do not know Christ as the faithful Son who did the will of his Father and

revealed to us his Father's kindness, that God's love may be known among them, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the churches of the world, that they might prove in their collective witness and action the obedience to God that they profess, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all peoples who claim God as their father: for our Jewish and Islamic brothers and sisters, that they may be at peace with us and rejoice with us to do their Father's will, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For this country, that our unity might be strengthened by genuine commitment to God's will and by faithful obedience to God's word, especially his call to peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For traitors and prostitutes, for drug-peddlers and con artist, for all who live in the underworld of our nation or outside the pale of respectability, that they might continue to be the special object of God's love, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For ourselves, that we might be delivered from all illusion of superiority, from all pretense of righteousness, from all arrogance and hardness of heart, and that we might know the meaning of compassion, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who suffer the consequences of war, for the "boots on the ground", for the innocents in homes, for those who support, and those who experience loss and calamity, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who have requested our prayers. We pray for Jennifer, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

(Here other intercessions may be offered.)

God, you are a God of mercy, a God who does not deal with us according to our sins nor make your love contingent on our good behavior. Be merciful to your people everywhere, and hear our prayers for those who are in need. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

Offertory Hymn 529

Prayer over the gifts: Eternal God, in Jesus Christ we behold your glory. Receive the offering of your people gathered before you, and open our hearts and mouths to praise your great salvation, the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth

For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

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

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel.

We give thanks to you, O God,

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now as our Savior taught us, we are bold to pray (*sung*):

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 forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Then may be sung or said

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

We, being many, are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

the Celebrant says the following

They will come from east and west and from north and south to sit at table in the kingdom of God: Blessed are those who are called to the banquet of the Lord.

Communion of the People

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Eternal God, grant to your Church the unity and peace that we have tasted in this eucharist, the fruit of your life-giving Spirit. Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most

precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Knowing that all of our community cannot share the Eucharist in person, we affirm that the true mystical communion of Christ and His Church is a bond of spirit and heart, grounded in faith. Therefore, we commit ourselves to this deep bond of the Spirit in union with Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

May the Father direct your path to himself, showing you how to walk each day in love and peace, and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Announcements

Anniversary/Thanksgiving Prayer

We give you thanks, O God, for your many blessings: for our days of celebration, for the love that surrounds us, for your healing presence in our lives. Keep us in your care, we pray, and help us to live as truly thankful people. **Amen.**

Closing hymn 686

Eager to proclaim and share God's boundless love, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.