

Holy Eucharist at St Paul's Episcopal Church
All Saint's Sunday, Proper 26A, November 5, 2023

Opening Hymn 238

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

FIRST READING: Ecclesiasticus 44:1-10,13-14

Let us now praise famous men, and our fathers in their generations. The LORD apportioned to them great glory, his majesty from the beginning. There were those who ruled in their kingdoms, and were men renowned for their power, giving counsel by their understanding, and proclaiming prophecies; leaders of the people in their deliberations and in understanding of learning for the people, wise in their words of instruction; those who composed musical tunes, and set forth verses in writing; rich men furnished with resources, living peaceably in their habitations--all these were honored in their generations, and were the glory of their times. There are some of them who have left a name, so that men declare their praise. And there are some who have no memorial, who have perished as though they had not lived; they have become as though they had not been born, and so have their children after them. But these were men of mercy, whose righteous deeds have not been forgotten. Their posterity will continue for ever, and their glory will not be blotted out. Their bodies were buried in peace, and their name lives to all generations.

Collect for All Saints

O Almighty God, who have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship, in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those indescribable joys which you have prepared for those who truly love you: through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

A LITANY OF ALL THE SAINTS

God, we remember those Saints who have gone before us;

We lament their passing,

And honor their legacy.

We give thanks for all we have learned from them.

Those who followed the Way of Christ faithfully,

We follow their example.

Those who made mistakes along the way,

We learn from their experience.

Those who made progress for peace,

We continue their work.

Those who lived simply and quietly,

We are enlightened by them.

Those who gained honor and distinction without pride,

We are humbled by them.

Those who were martyred for their faith,

We commend them to your care.

They have finished their work on earth,

And it lives on,

Reverberating into our lives now

As the work of Christ lives on.

May the peace of Christ continue to inspire us

To good works, humility, simplicity and peacemaking,

As those foremothers and forefathers were inspired by him

To live in grace and love.

Amen

The service continues with the Gloria in excelsis

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray: Almighty and merciful God, it is only by your gift that your faithful people offer you true and laudable service: Grant that we may run without stumbling to obtain your heavenly promises; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

The first reading is from the Book of Joshua (3:7-17)

The LORD said to Joshua, "This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, so that they may know that I will be with you as I was with Moses. You are the one who shall command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, 'When you come to the edge of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan.'" Joshua then said to the Israelites, "Draw near and hear the words of the LORD your God." Joshua said, "By this you shall know that among you is the living God who without fail will drive out from before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites, and Jebusites: the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is going to pass before you into the Jordan. So now select twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. When the soles of the feet of the priests who bear the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan flowing from above shall be cut off; they shall stand in a single heap." When the people set out from their tents to cross over the Jordan, the priests bearing the ark of the covenant were in front of the people. Now the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest. So when those who bore the ark had come to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests bearing the ark were dipped in the edge of the water, the waters flowing from above stood still, rising up in a single heap far off at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan, while those flowing toward the sea of the Arabah, the Dead Sea, were wholly cut off. Then the people crossed over opposite Jericho. While all Israel were crossing over on dry ground, the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan, until the entire nation finished crossing over the Jordan.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 107:1-7,33-37

- 1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, * and his mercy endures for ever.
- 2 Let all those whom the LORD has redeemed proclaim * that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.
- 3 He gathered them out of the lands; * from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

- 4 Some wandered in desert wastes; * they found no way to a city where they might dwell.
- 5 They were hungry and thirsty; * their spirits languished within them.
- 6 Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, * and he delivered them from their distress.
- 7 He put their feet on a straight path * to go to a city where they might dwell.
- 33 The LORD changed rivers into deserts, * and water-springs into thirsty ground,
- 34 A fruitful land into salt flats, * because of the wickedness of those who dwell there.
- 35 He changed deserts into pools of water * and dry land into water-springs.
- 36 He settled the hungry there, * and they founded a city to dwell in.
- 37 They sowed fields, and planted vineyards, * and brought in a fruitful harvest.

The second reading is from the First Letter to the Thessalonians (2:9-13)

You remember our labor and toil, brothers and sisters; we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. You are witnesses, and God also, how pure, upright, and blameless our conduct was toward you believers. As you know, we dealt with each one of you like a father with his children, urging and encouraging you and pleading that you lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory. We also constantly give thanks to God for this, that when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word but as what it really is, God's word, which is also at work in you believers.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (23:1-12)

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat; therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they

make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. They love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have people call them rabbi. But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father — the one in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. The greatest among you will be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed

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

In confidence that our prayers will be heard and answered, let us address God with boldness and in trust, praying that God's will may be done here and throughout the world, saying: In your mercy, O God, hear our prayer.

We pray for the baptized everywhere and for those preparing for holy baptism, that they may be strong, resolute and faithful as they await the coming of the resurrected Christ. **In your mercy, O God, hear our prayer.**

We pray for the church throughout the world, that it may fulfill its holy task, drawing all people into the family of the redeemed and showing the world the way to peace and justice. **In your mercy, O God, hear our prayer.**

We pray for the leaders of all the nations of the world, that they may renounce war and all which makes for war, giving priority to peace and to that which makes for peace. **In your mercy, O God, hear our prayer.**

We pray for the hungry, the homeless, those who are denied dignity, and those who have no hope, that human compassion will improve their condition and that national compassion will remove the causes of their suffering. **In your mercy, O God, hear our prayer.**

We pray for the sick; for the hospitalized; for those in childbirth; and for all who suffer in mind or body, that they may be granted wholeness and health. **In your mercy, O God, hear our prayer.**

(Here other intercessions may be offered.)

For those who departed this life in faith and in the fear of God, that they may join the innumerable throng of holy ones gathered before the throne and the Lamb, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Holy God, mighty God, immortal God, adored by angels and praised by the saints, receive the prayers of your holy church, and grant them in accordance with your gracious will, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Celebrant may begin the Offertory with:

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

Offertory Hymn: 711

Prayer over the gifts: Gracious and righteous Lord, we are united in the love of Jesus Christ, accept all we offer you this day, and bring us, with all your faithful people who have gone before us, into his eternal glory: who is Lord, now and for ever. **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:

Celebrant and People sing from Blue Hymnal

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.

Holy and gracious Father: . . .

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.

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

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily

bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Jesus, Lamb of God, **have mercy on us.**

Jesus, bearer of our sins, **have mercy on us.**

Jesus, redeemer of the world, **give us your peace.**

Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to the banquet of the Lamb.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

God of love, may the death and resurrection of Christ, which we celebrate in this eucharist, bring us, with the faithful departed, into the peace of your eternal home. Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

May the God of Justice and Mercy grace you with a full measure of his love, and may it flow through you to those around you, 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.

Closing hymn. 232

Sent to proclaim God's kingdom with power and to serve others with humility, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.