



Morning Prayer and Holy Eucharist at the Church of St. Paul, Cambria

• The Second Sunday of Christmas Year C • January 5, 2025 •

Opening Hymn 117

Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
**And blessed be God's 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

What love you have bestowed upon us, O good and gracious God, in letting us be called your children and in giving us your Son, Jesus to live as a child among us. Let all who seek the face of Christ find him, not only here, in the house of prayer, but in the households, large and small where your love is revealed. Help us to reveal your love in us as we confess our sins to you and to each other.

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.

Alleluia! To us a child is born:
Come let us adore him. Alleluia!

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.

Jubilate: Psalm 100

1 Be joyful in the LORD, all you lands;* serve the LORD with gladness and come before his presence with a song.

2 Know this: The LORD himself is God;* he himself has made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

3 Enter his gates with thanksgiving: go into his courts with praise;* give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

4 For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting;* and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

Psalm Psalm 84:1-8

1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts!
*My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

2 The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; * by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! * they will always be praising you.

4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! * whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, * for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

6 They will climb from height to height, *and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

7 Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; *hearken, O God of Jacob.

8 Behold our defender, O God; *and look upon the face of your Anointed.

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

The First Lesson is from *Jeremiah (31:7-14)*

Thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together, a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will

let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church
Thanks be to God.

Canticle R: A Song of True Motherhood
- Julian of Norwich

God chose to be our mother in all things * and so made the foundation of his work, most humbly and most pure, in the Virgin's womb. God, the perfect wisdom of all, * arrayed himself in this humble place. Christ came in our poor flesh * to share a mother's care. Our mothers bear us for pain and for death; * our true mother, Jesus, bears us for joy and endless life. Christ carried us within him in love and travail, * until the full time of his passion. And when all was completed and he had carried us so for joy, * still all this could not satisfy the power of his wonderful love. All that we owe is redeemed in truly loving God, * for the love of Christ works in us; Christ is the one whom we love.

The **second lesson** is from Letter to the Ephesians (1:3-6, 15-19a)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundations of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember

you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church
Thanks be to God.

Canticle L: A Song of Christ's Humility

-Philippians 2:6-11

Though in the form of God, * Christ Jesus did not cling to equality with God,
But emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, * and was born in human likeness.
Being found in human form, he humbled himself * and became obedient to death, even death on a cross.
Therefore, God has highly exalted him * and given him the name above every name,
That at the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow, * in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, * to the glory of God the Father.

The Holy **Gospel** of our Lord according to St. Matthew (2:1-12)

Glorify to you, Lord Christ.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they

were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

Here follows an affirmation of faith

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

In the birth of Jesus Christ among the poor of the earth, God has promised to comfort all peoples and to give gladness in exchange for sorrow. Assured by this promise, let us pray for all the earth and all its peoples, saying: Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

For the homeless and the hungry, that they may find refuge: Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

For the blind and all the physically disadvantaged, that they may find courage and acceptance: Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

For the cities of the earth, that they may be places of wisdom and justice: Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

For national leaders, courts, and the legislatures, that they may protect the weak and serve in humility: Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

For an end to war and conflict: Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

For the holy church of God, that it may be made one, merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

For this assembly, that we may treasure in our hearts the word spoken in our midst: Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

For the sick, the suffering, and the grieving, for those we name before you in our hearts, and for those who will die this day: Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the recently departed, and we give thanks for their time and devotion to you while here on earth: Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

Please add your petitions here.

Joining in thanksgiving with Mary, the mother of God, with all those who heard and touched the coming of the word among us, with all angels, and with all the people of God, we commend these prayers and all of this longing world to you, O God, through your son 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 114

Prayer over the gifts:

Source of love and life, receive all we offer you this day, and through the coming of your Son, help us to see in others him who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving B

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.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

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, for the good-

ness and love which you have made known to...

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 Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing:

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-

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

Behold the Lord who has come into our world. Blessed are those who are called to the banquet of the Lamb.

Communion of the People

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Light eternal, you have nourished us in the mystery of the body and blood of your Son. By your grace keep us ever faithful to your world, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Let us pray. **Almighty and ever-living 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.**

Blessing

May Christ the Prince of Peace give you his peace, and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and

Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.** *(New Zealand Prayer Book)*

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 124

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God.