

# The Church of St. Paul, Cambria

## Morning Prayer and Holy Eucharist

• First Epiphany, The Baptism of our Lord, Year B • January 7, 2024 •

### Opening Hymn 124

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

Lord our God, O Holy One of Israel, to the waters you call all those who thirst, to the feast of your covenant you invite all the nations. As once at the Jordan your Spirit tore open the heavens, and your voice proclaimed Jesus your well-beloved Son, so now call us by name, your beloved sons and daughters; lead us by your Spirit through the water and blood, that our love for you may strengthen us to obey your commandments, and our love for one another be the victory that forever conquers the world.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**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 Lord has shown forth his glory: Come let us adore him.

### *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 29

- 1 Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, \* ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- 2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his Name; \* worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.
- 3 The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; \* the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
- 4 The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; \* the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.
- 5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; \* the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- 6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, \* and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.
- 7 The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire; the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; \* the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- 8 The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe \* and strips the forests bare.
- 9 And in the temple of the LORD \* all are crying, "Glory!"
- 10 The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; \* the LORD sits enthroned as King for evermore.
- 11 The LORD shall give strength to his people; \* the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.

*The Celebrant says to the people*  
The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Let us pray.

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The first reading is from the Book of Genesis (1:1-5)

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God**

### **Canticle 12: The Song of Creation**

Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord, \* praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, you angels and all powers of the Lord, \* O heavens and all waters above the heavens.

Sun and moon and stars of the sky, glorify the Lord, \* praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, every shower of rain and fall or dew, \* all winds, and fire and heat.

Winter and summer, glorify the Lord, \* praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O chill and cold, \* drops of dew and flakes of snow.

Frost and cloud, ice and sleet, glorify the Lord, \* praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O nights and days, \* O shining light and enfolding dark.

Storm clouds and thunderbolts, glorify the Lord, \* praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Let us glorify the Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, \* praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, \* praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

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

The **second reading** is from the Book of Acts (19:1-7)

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became

believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied — altogether there were about twelve of them.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God**

Canticle A: **A Song of Wisdom** *Sapientia liberavit Wisdom 10:15-19, 20b-21*

Wisdom freed from a nation of oppressors \* a holy people and a blameless race.

She entered the soul of a servant of the Lord, \* withstood dread rulers with wonders and signs. To the saints she gave the reward of their labors, \* and led them by a marvelous way; She was their shelter by day \* and a blaze of stars by night.

She brought them across the Red Sea, \* she led them through mighty waters;

But their enemies she swallowed in the waves \* and spewed them out from the depths of the abyss.

And then, Lord, the righteous sang hymns to your Name, \* and praised with one voice your protecting hand;

For Wisdom opened the mouths of the mute, \* and gave speech to the tongues of a new-born people.

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

**The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ** according to St. Mark (1:4-11)

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the

Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

### The Sermon

#### **Affirmation of Faith (New Zealand BCP)**

**You, O God, are supreme and holy.**

**You create our world and give us life.**

**Your purpose overarches everything we do. You have always been with us.**

**You are God.**

**You, O God, are infinitely generous, Good beyond all measure.**

**You came to us before we came to you. You have revealed and proved your love for us in Jesus Christ, who lived and died and rose again.**

**You are with us now.**

**You are God.**

**You, O God, are Holy Spirit.**

**You empower us to be your gospel in the world.**

**You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.**

**You are our God. We worship you.**

### The Prayers of the People

In the waters of baptism, we were called to be God's children and to minister to one another. Let us therefore pray for ourselves, for one another, and for all those in need of our prayers, saying: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

*(As the Spirit moves you, please read one or more of the following petitions.)*

Let us pray for the church, that it may stand fast in the one faith to which it has been called. (Silence.) Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the world, that our conflicts may cease and that peace may reign in this new year. (Silence.) Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for all Christians who have been baptized into the one family of faith, that our lives reflect the forgiveness and love which was first shown us. (Silence.) Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for all who are blind to the injustices of our world, that their eyes may be opened and that they may work for an end to oppression and injustice. (Silence.) Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the sick: \_\_\_\_\_, that their sickness may be turned to health and that they may once again join us in our work and worship. (Silence.) Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*(Here other intercessions may be offered.)*

Let us pray for the well being and safety of all those who serve in the armed forces of our nation, and those who put their lives on the line as first responders in times of crises, especially those related to members of our congregation. (Silence.) Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the faithful who have gone before us, that we may follow the example of their lives and be reunited with them in the joy of everlasting life. (Silence.) Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*(Here other intercessions may be offered.)*

Omniscient God, you know our thoughts and needs better than we ourselves. Accept the prayers which we now offer, and strengthen us to do your will, 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 571**

*Prayer over the gifts:* Loving God, before the world began you called us. Make holy all we offer you this day, and strengthen us in that calling. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

### The Great Thanksgiving A

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 sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. 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 knee as they are able.*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love . . . Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, . . .

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.**

Let us pray for the coming of the kingdom as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

Behold the true Light of the world, the Beloved of God, anointed by the Spirit. Blessed are those who are called to the banquet of the Lamb.

### **Communion of the People**

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Gracious God, lover of all, by this sacrament you make us one family in Christ your Son, one in the sharing of his body and blood, one in the communion of his Spirit. Help us to grow in love for one another and come to the full maturity of the Body of 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.

### **The Blessings**

Lord, send your light upon your family, infuse them with your grace that they may always do what is right in your sight.

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 120**

Enlightened by Christ and anointed by the Spirit, go now in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**