

The Church of St. Paul, Cambria

Morning Prayer and Holy Eucharist

• Proper 11 A • July 23, 2023 •

Opening Hymn 460

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

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." *Mark 12:29-31*

The Deacon or Celebrant then says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:

O come, let us adore him.

Psalm 67:1-5 Deus misereatur

O God, be merciful to us and bless us,
show us the light of your countenance and come to us.

Let your ways be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all
the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for
you judge the peoples with equity and
guide all the nations upon earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all
the peoples praise you.

Psalm 139:1-12,23-24

1 LORD, you have searched me out and known me;
* you know my sitting down and my rising up; you
discern my thoughts from afar.

2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places *
and are acquainted with all my ways.

3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, * but you,
O LORD, know it altogether.

4 You press upon me behind and before * and lay
your hand upon me.

5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; * it is
so high that I cannot attain to it.

6 Where can I go then from your Spirit? * where
can I flee from your presence?

7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; * if I make
the grave my bed, you are there also.

8 If I take the wings of the morning * and dwell in
the uttermost parts of the sea,

9 Even there your hand will lead me * and your
right hand hold me fast.

10 If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, * and
the light around me turn to night,"

11 Darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright
as the day; * darkness and light to you are both
alike.

22 Search me out, O God, and know my heart; * try
me and know my restless thoughts.

23 Look well whether there be any wickedness in
me * and lead me in the way that is everlasting.

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son 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 Genesis (28:10-19a)

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place — and I did not know it!" And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.

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

Canticle G: **A Song of Ezekiel** *Ezekiel 36:24-28*

I will take you from among all nations; * and gather you from all lands to bring you home.
I will sprinkle clean water upon you; * and purify you from false gods and uncleanness.
A new heart I will give you * and a new spirit put within you.
I will take the stone heart from your chest * and give you a heart of flesh.
I will help you walk in my laws * and cherish my commandments and do them.
You shall be my people, * and I will be your God.

The **Second lesson** is from the Letter of Paul to the Romans (8:12-25)

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh — for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ — if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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

Canticle F: **A Song of Lamentation** *Lamentations 1:12,16; 3:19,22-24,26*

Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? * Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow,
Which was brought upon me, * inflicted by God's fierce anger.

For these things I weep; my eyes flow with tears, *
for a comforter is far from me, one to revive my courage.

Remember my affliction and my bitterness, *
wormwood and gall!

The steadfast love of God never ceases, * God's mercies never end.

They are new every morning; * great is your faithfulness.

"God is my portion," says my soul, * "therefore will I hope in God."

It is good that we should wait quietly * for the coming of God's salvation.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew (13:24-30, 36-43)

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'" Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

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

As we reach out our thoughts and our energies beyond the walls of this gathering space, hoping that God's reign may be the deepest desire of every human heart, let us pray, saying: In the Spirit we plead, hear us, O God.

O God, may your dominion grasp us and ravish the hearts of all who claim Christ as Lord. In the Spirit we plead, **hear us, O God.**

O God, make your justice grow in our land, that the victims of this age will find shelter in its branches. In the Spirit we plead, **hear us, O God.**

To you, Abba, we raise our eyes in hope. Inspire those whose decisions influence the lives of others, that they may discern wisely and act compassionately. In the Spirit we plead, **hear us, O God.**

O God, imaginative Creator, bless artists, poets, and writers with the creative touch of your word. Make them avenues of your vision. In the Spirit we plead, **hear us, O God.**

O God, we pray for all the oppressed, all the needy, all in terror, all the sick. Give health and peace to all. In the Spirit we plead, **hear us, O God.**

O God, we pray for our young people in harms way, and all people under threat of war's terrors. Protect and preserve those who serve in the military and all who suffer the consequences of war. In the Spirit we plead, **hear us, O God.**

We pray for Jennifer. In the Spirit we plead, **hear us, O God.**

(Here other intercessions may be offered.)

O God, we pray for the dead. On the last day gather us all into your heavenly realm. In the Spirit we plead, **hear us, O God.**

O Master of might and merciful Judge, in our weakness we turn to you for help. Hear us, and come to our rescue. You have promised to hear our prayers if we raise them in the name of Jesus, and so we do. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

The Peace

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Then all may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

*The Celebrant may begin the **Offertory** with the following sentence*

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

Offertory Hymn 602

Prayer over the gifts: O God, accept our praise and thanksgiving. Help us in all we do to offer ourselves as a true and living sacrifice; through Jesus Christ the 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. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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

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.**

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, and the power, and the glory, or ever and ever. 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.**

Then the celebrant and people pray together.

We do not presume to come to your holy table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your great mercy. We are not worthy even to gather the crumbs from under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the body of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation or other suitable words.

Behold the gifts prepared by the Teacher who ate with sinners: draw near to the banquet of mercy, partake of the feast of forgiveness.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

O God, as we are strengthened in these holy mysteries, may our lives be a continual offering, holy and acceptable in your sight. 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.**

The God of all grace who called you to eternal glory in Christ Jesus, restore establish and strengthen you in the faith, and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Closing hymn 482

As disciples of the kingdom, good soil bearing fruit in abundance, go in peace to live and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.