

The Church of St. Paul, Cambria

Morning Prayer and Holy Eucharist

• Proper 12 A • July 30, 2023 •

Opening Hymn 652

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

Good and generous God, fountain of all wisdom, in Christ you have revealed your kingdom to us, a treasure hidden in a field, a pearl of great price. Grant us your Spirit's gift of discernment, that we may learn to distinguish rightly between the passing wealth of this present world and the enduring value of your kingdom. As we offer our shortcomings up on the altar of your mercy, assist us to choose the path that honors you.

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.

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:
O 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 105:1-11,45b

1 Give thanks to the LORD and call upon his Name; * make known his deeds among the peoples.

2 Sing to him, sing praises to him, * and speak of all his marvelous works.

3 Glory in his holy Name; * let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

4 Search for the LORD and his strength; * continually seek his face.

5 Remember the marvels he has done, * his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,

6 O offspring of Abraham his servant, * O children of Jacob his chosen.

7 He is the LORD our God; * his judgments prevail in all the world.

8 He has always been mindful of his covenant, * the promise he made for a thousand generations:

9 The covenant he made with Abraham, * the oath that he swore to Isaac,

10 Which he established as a statute for Jacob, * an everlasting covenant for Israel,

11 Saying, "To you will I give the land of Canaan * to be your allotted inheritance." Hallelujah!

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; 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 Genesis (29:15-28)

Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her. Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" Laban said, "This is not done in our country — giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years." Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

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

Canticle A: A Song of 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.
Amen

The **second lesson** is from the Letter of Paul to the Romans (8:26-39)

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes

for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long: we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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 Holy Gospel of our Lord according to St. Matthew (13:31-33,44-52) **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened." "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he

has and buys that field. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

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

With Solomon and the great sages of our lineage, let us now turn our hearts to God and seek true wisdom, saying: O God, hear our prayer.

(As the Spirit moves you, lead one or more of the following petitions.)

For the leaders of religious communities and parishes throughout the earth, as they journey

towards truth and clarity, we pray for God's wisdom: **O God, hear our prayer.**

For governmental officials, caught in the struggle for power and security, locked in a web of deceit and suspicion, we pray for God's wisdom: **O God, hear our prayer.**

For the sick, especially those on our prayer list, for the dying and those with incurable diseases, for those chained by depressions, fear, and addiction, and for those who minister to them, we pray for God's wisdom: **O God, hear our prayer.**

For the youth of our age in their search for the pearl of identity, we pray for God's wisdom: **O God, hear our prayer.**

For all mothers and fathers who awake today without food for their children, we pray for God's wisdom: **O God, hear our prayer.**

For those who seek and never find, for those who travel without purpose, and for those blind to the needs of others, we ask for God's wisdom: **O God, hear our prayer.**

For those who serve as servants of freedom in the armed forces, especially our young people on the field of battle, we ask for God's protection: **O God, hear our prayer.**

We Pray for Jennifer, we ask for God's wisdom: **O God, hear our prayer.**

(Here other intercessions may be offered.)

Astonish us once again, O God, and bring forth from the storeroom of your heart the abundance of wisdom. May all who ask for our prayers know your love, and may we give testimony to your grace in our lives of compassion. In the name of Christ we pray. **Amen.**

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

Offertory Hymn 597

Prayer over the gifts: God of grace, accept all we offer you this day, as we look toward the glory you have promised; this we ask in the name of 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

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. In fulfillment of his true promise, the Holy Spirit came down [on this day] from heaven, lighting upon the disciples, to teach them and to lead them into all truth; uniting peoples of many tongues in the confession of one faith, and giving to your Church the power to serve you as a royal priesthood, and to preach the Gospel to all nations.

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.**

Let the good seed of God's word bear fruit now as we offer the prayer Jesus taught us to say:

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.

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.

Communion of the People

After Communion, the Celebrant says

God of grace, we have received the memorial of the death and resurrection of your Son. May your love, poured into us, bring us to your promises. 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 God of all consolation bless you in every way and grant you peace all the days of your life. May he free you from all anxiety and strengthen your hearts in his love. May he enrich you with his gifts of faith, hope, and love, so that what you do in this life will bring you to the happiness of everlasting life. May almighty God bless you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit now and forever. **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 657

As disciples of the kingdom, good soil bearing fruit in abundance, go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**