

The Church of St. Paul, Cambria
Morning Prayer and Holy Eucharist
• Proper 20 A • September 24, 2023 •

Opening Hymn 296

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

To the last as to the first, O God, you are generous and more than just, for as high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are your ways above our ways and your thoughts above our thoughts. Open our hearts to the wisdom of your Son, that, without concern for the cost of discipleship or the rewards of our labors, we may grasp how incomparable the honor of working in your vineyard from morning until night. As we prepare to do the work of liturgy—praying, meditating and assisting at the altar—let us acknowledge our failures and ask the Lord for pardon and strength.
Amen.

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.

The Earth is the Lord's for he made it. **Come let us adore him.**

Venite: Psalm 95:1-7

Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout
for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above
all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, and the
heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands have
molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, and
kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God, and we are the people of his
pasture and the sheep of his hand.

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

Psalm 105:1-6,37-45

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.

37 He led out his people with silver and gold; * in
all their tribes there was not one that stumbled.

38 Egypt was glad of their going, * because they
were afraid of them.

39 He spread out a cloud for a covering * and a fire
to give light in the night season.

40 They asked, and quails appeared, * and he
satisfied them with bread from heaven.

41 He opened the rock, and water flowed, * so the
river ran in the dry places.

42. For God remembered his holy word * and
Abraham his servant.

43 So he led forth his people with gladness, * his
chosen with shouts of joy.

44 He gave his people the lands of the nations, *
and they took the fruit of others' toil,

45 That they might keep his statutes * and observe his laws. Hallelujah!

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; 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 Exodus (16:2-15)

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?" And Moses said, "When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him — what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD." Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.'" And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. The LORD spoke to Moses and said, "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'" In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When

the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

Thanks be to God.

Canticle 19: The Song of the Redeemed

O ruler of the universe, Lord God, great deeds are they that you have done, * surpassing human understanding.

Your ways are ways of righteousness and truth, * O King of all the ages.

Who can fail to do you homage, Lord, and sing the praises of your Name? * for you only are the Holy One.

All nations will draw near and fall down before you, * because your just and holy works have been revealed.

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 **second lesson** is from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians (1:21-30)

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well — since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

Thanks be to God.

Canticle 13: A Song of Praise

Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers: * you are worthy of praise; glory to you.

Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name; * we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Glory to you in the splendor of your temple; * on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.

Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim; * we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.
Glory to you, beholding the depths; * in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.
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 Holy Gospel of our Lord according to St. Matthew (20:1-16)

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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

God is a God of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger and rich in mercy, generous and forgiving to all who cry for grace. With confidence, let us turn to our God in prayer, saying: Lord, have mercy. For people throughout the world who are suffering at this very hour from drought and famine, from economic distress and social disruption, from violence and war, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the church throughout the world, that we, together with all our brothers and sisters in Christ, may be effective agents of social transformation and reliable messengers of hope, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For our own country, that its wealth and power might become a force for peace, rather than conflict; a source of hope, rather than discontent; an agent of friendship, rather than enmity, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For our own community, and especially for those among us who are dispirited and broken-hearted, who find no hope or meaning or purpose in life, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For ourselves, that we may have the grace to rejoice with those who rejoice, to weep with those who weep, to grieve for others' losses rather than our own, to be quick to forgive and slow to take offense, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

We pray for Jennifer, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

(Here other intercessions may be offered.)

Lord God, in your presence none of us can boast, and all must ask for mercy; yet your Son has embraced us and called us to share in his labors for the salvation of every man, woman, and child.

Grant us the grace to see what needs to be done and the wisdom and resources to do it, through the same 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 554

Prayer over the gifts: God of power, the glory of your works fills us with wonder and awe. Accept our offering this day, and help us to live in peace and harmony with all your creation, for the sake 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; 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:

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.**

And now as our Savior taught us, we are bold to pray (*sung*):

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

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.**

the Celebrant says the following

They will come from east and west and from north and south to sit at table in the kingdom of God: Blessed are those who are called to the banquet of the Lord.

Communion of the People

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Eternal God, grant to your Church the unity and peace that we have tasted in this eucharist, the fruit of your life-giving Spirit. 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 Father direct your path to himself, showing you how to walk each day in love and peace, 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 693

Eager to proclaim and share God's boundless love, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.