



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

• Proper 21 B • September 29, 2024 •

Opening Hymn 427

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.**

Never, O God, have you deprived your people of the voice of your prophets. Pour forth your Spirit on our assembly and beyond, as you did in days of old. Adorn every person on the face of the earth with your gifts, so that all the peoples of earth may join with us in proclaiming the mighty wonders your love has accomplished. That we might be cleansed and worthy to practice our spiritual gifts, we confess our sins against You 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 forever. Amen.

Psalm 63:1-8 Deus, Deus meus

O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for
you, as in a barren and dry land where
there is no water.

Therefore I have gazed upon you in your
holy place, that I might behold your

power and your glory.
For your loving-kindness is better than life
itself; my lips shall give you praise.
So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up
my hands in your Name.
My soul is content, as with marrow and
fatness, and my mouth praises you with
joyful lips, When I remember you upon
my bed, and meditate on you in the night
watches.
For you have been my helper, and under
the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
My soul clings to you; your right hand holds
me fast.

Psalm 124

- 1 If the LORD had not been on our side, * let Israel now say;
- 2 If the LORD had not been on our side, * when enemies rose up against us;
- 3 Then would they have swallowed us up alive * in their fierce anger toward us;
- 4 Then would the waters have overwhelmed us * and the torrent gone over us;
- 5 Then would the raging waters * have gone right over us.
- 6 Blessed be the LORD! * he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.
- 7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; * the snare is broken, and we have escaped.
- 8 Our help is in the Name of the LORD, * the maker of heaven and earth.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

Collect O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The first lesson is from Esther (7:1-6,9-10;9:20-22)

So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted

you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.” Then Queen Esther answered, “If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me — that is my petition — and the lives of my people — that is my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king.” Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, “Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?” Esther said, “A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!” Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen. Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, “Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman’s house, fifty cubits high.” And the king said, “Hang him on that.” So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated. Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

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 **second lesson** is from **Letter of James (5:13-20)**

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray

over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest. My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner’s soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

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 Jesus Christ according to **St. Mark (9:38-50)**

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

John said to Jesus, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward. “If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of

God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched. For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

Sermon Music

Let us affirm our faith:

We believe in God the Father, infinite in wisdom, power and love, whose mercy is over all his works, and whose will is ever directed to his children's good.

We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of man, the gift of the Father's unfailing grace, the ground of our hope, and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.

We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives, whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ, and find strength and help in time of need.

We believe that this faith should manifest itself in the service of love as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord, to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

We have heard today of the cost of discipleship. That we may be empowered to bear the name of Christ, let us pray for ourselves and for the whole world, saying: Lord, hear our prayer.

(As the Spirit moves you, please take turns reading one or more of the petitions. Please observe a short silence at the indicated times.)

The church of God is fragmented; we need the healing of the Holy Spirit. (Silence) Let us pray for the Church. **Lord, hear our prayer**

The world cries out for an increase of justice and for an end to war. (Silence) Let us pray for the world. **Lord, hear our prayer**

Our country is striving for equality and a better life for all its citizens. (Silence) Let us pray for our nation. **Lord, hear our prayer**

Our community seeks a better sense of its gifts and more wisdom into its problems. (Silence) Let us pray for our community. **Lord, hear our prayer**

We know many people who are sick and suffering, who have public hurt or private pain. (Silence) Let us pray for all in need. **Lord, hear our prayer**

Our young people risk their lives near and far in the military, and they are experiencing loneliness and fear. (Silence) Let us pray for their safety. **Lord, hear our prayer**

Most of our Jewish and Muslim brothers and sisters share our desires for peace and justice. May we strengthen each other through prayer and good deeds. (Silence) Let us pray for our companions on our spiritual journeys. **Lord, hear our prayer**

(Here other intercessions may be offered.)

Our lives have been enriched by the lives of all those who have gone before us in the faith. (Silence) Let us pray for grace to be disciples. **Lord, hear our prayer**

We are thirsty, O merciful God; give us a cup of water to drink. Hear our prayers and answer our cries of need through your Son, Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

Offertory Hymn 488

Prayer over the gifts Eternal God, in Jesus Christ we behold your glory. Receive the offering of your people gathered before you, and open our hearts and mouths to praise your great salvation, the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving (EP 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 God 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;

For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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, full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself...

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father,...

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.**

With trust in God whose providence nourishes and sustains us, we pray 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

The Breaking of the Bread

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.** Behold the living bread come down from heaven: Those who eat of it will never die. Behold the cup of eternal life: Those who drink of it will live forever.

Communion of the People

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Father in heaven, strengthen the unity of your Church, so that we who have been fed with holy things may fulfil your will in the world.

Let us pray. **Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. 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 spiritual and grounded in faith. Therefore, we commit ourselves to the spiritual reality that Christ is present with us wherever we are. **Amen.**

Blessing:

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.** *Greet one another in the Lord's name.*

Announcements

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 423

Dismissal:

Seeking to follow the Teacher who came not to be served but to serve, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.