

The Church of St. Paul, Cambria

Morning Prayer and Holy Eucharist

• Proper 25 A • October 29, 2023 •

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

In love you created all things, O good and compassionate God, and to those whom society most neglects or ignores, you extend your special protection. Drive from our hearts the idols this world worships, money and power, privilege and prestige, that we may be free to serve you alone, and, by loving our neighbor as ourselves, may make your Son's new commandment of love the law that governs every aspect of our lives. So now, as we prepare our hearts and minds to hear God's word and celebrate Christ's eucharist, let us acknowledge our failures and ask the Lord for pardon and strength.

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.**

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 90:1-6,13-17

1 Lord, you have been our refuge * from one generation to another.

2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, * from age to age you are God.

3 You turn us back to the dust and say, * "Go back, O child of earth."

4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past * and like a watch in the night.

5 You sweep us away like a dream; * we fade away suddenly like the grass.

6 In the morning it is green and flourishes; * in the evening it is dried up and withered.

13 Return, O LORD; how long will you tarry? * be gracious to your servants.

14 Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning; * so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

15 Make us glad by the measure of the days that you afflicted us * and the years in which we suffered adversity.

16 Show your servants your works * and your splendor to their children.

17 May the graciousness of the LORD our God be upon us; * prosper the work of our hands; prosper our handiwork.

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson

Deuteronomy (34:1-12))

Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the LORD showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, the Negeb, and the Plain — that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees — as far as Zoar. The LORD said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants’; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.” Then Moses, the servant of the LORD, died there in the land of Moab, at the LORD’s command. He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigor had not abated. The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended. Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the LORD had commanded Moses. Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face. He was unequalled for all the signs and wonders that the LORD sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

Thanks be to God.

Canticle 10: The Second Song of Isaiah

Seek the Lord while he wills to be found; * call upon him when he draws near.
Let the wicked forsake their ways * and the evil ones their thoughts;

And let them turn to the Lord and he will have compassion, * and to our God, for he will richly pardon.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, * or your ways my ways, says the Lord.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, * so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as rain and snow fall from the heavens * and return not again, but water the earth, Bringing forth life and giving growth, * seed for sowing and bread for eating,

So is my word that goes forth from my mouth; * it will not return to me empty;

But it will accomplish that which I have purposed, * and prosper in that for which I sent it.

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 lesson** is from the Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians (2:1-8)

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

Thanks be to God.

Canticle D: A Song of the Wilderness *Isaiah 35:1-7,10*

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, * the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

It shall blossom abundantly, * and rejoice with joy and singing.

They shall see the glory of the Lord, * the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weary hands, * and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to the anxious, "Be strong, do not fear! * Here is your God, coming with judgment to save you."
Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, * and the ears of the deaf be unstopped.
Then shall the lame leap like a deer, * and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness * and streams in the desert;
The burning sand shall become a pool * and the thirsty ground, springs of water.
The ransomed of God shall return with singing, * with everlasting joy upon their heads.
Joy and gladness shall be theirs, * and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord according to St. Matthew (22:34-46)

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet"'? If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions. 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

Pondering the two great commandments of the law, let us pray together, saying: O Lord of love, hear our prayer.

That the church throughout the world may love you with all its heart and soul and mind, and may exemplify your love in all its life, O Lord of love, **hear our prayer.**

That our country, in all its foreign and domestic policies, may care for aliens and immigrants, the indigent and the oppressed, all victims of economic exploitation, and all poorer and smaller nations, O Lord of love, **hear our prayer.**

That the leaders of the churches, with insight and fidelity, may practice love and compassion for all in need, for all who live in misery, and for all outcasts of society, O Lord of love, **hear our prayer.**

That like the Thessalonians, our community may live in the faith and joy of the Holy Spirit, O Lord of love, **hear our prayer.**

That the wealth of our land may enable us to live in just stewardship of the earth's goods, in care for our natural resources, and in compassion for the needy, O Lord of love, **hear our prayer.**

That the waste of war will be no more, especially the waste of human innocence and dignity, and that there will be peace for real. O Lord of love, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who have requested our prayers. *(Here other intercessions may be offered.)*

We pray for Jennifer, O Lord of love, **hear our prayer.**

O God, you care for the widow and the orphan, and you hear the cry of the poor. Listen also to our cry; change our hearts of stone into hearts of flesh with which to love you in truth and for your sake to show compassion on all your creatures. We ask this in the name of 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*

Prayer over the gifts: God of constant love, you have guided your people in all times and ages. May we who offer you our praise today always be ready to follow where you lead; we ask this 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

For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world.

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

God our guide, you have fed us with bread from heaven as you fed the people of Israel. May we who have been inwardly nourished be ready to follow you all our days. 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 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 Justice and Mercy grace you with a full measure of his love, and may it flow through you to those around you, 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.**

Sent to proclaim God's kingdom with power and to serve others with humility, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.