

The Church of St. Paul, Cambria
Morning Prayer and Holy Eucharist
• Proper 27 A • November 12, 2023 •

Opening Hymn 508

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

Your wisdom, O God, comes in search of all who will listen to her voice. Let us hear and heed the word that warns us to increase the store of oil for our lamps, that they may not flicker and go out while we await the Bridegroom's return, but that they may be burning brightly and we may be ready to run out to meet Christ and enter with him into the wedding feast of your Son. Therefore, 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, that our lamps be not hidden by the basket of sin..*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 78:1-7

1 Hear my teaching, O my people; * incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

2 I will open my mouth in a parable; * I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

3 That which we have heard and known, and what our forefathers have told us, * we will not hide from their children.

4 We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, * and the wonderful works he has done.

5 He gave his decrees to Jacob and established a law for Israel, * which he commanded them to teach their children;

6 That the generations to come might know, and the children yet unborn; * that they in their turn might tell it to their children;

7 So that they might put their trust in God, * and not forget the deeds of God, but keep his commandments;

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson Joshua (24:1-3a, 14-25)

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors — Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor — lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. "Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God." But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the LORD!" Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

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

Canticle 11: The Third Song of Isaiah
Arise, shine, for your light has come, * and the
glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.
For behold, darkness covers the land; * deep gloom
enshronds the peoples.
But over you the Lord will rise, * and his glory will
appear upon you.

Nations will stream to your light, * and kings to the
brightness of your dawning.
Your gates will always be open; * by day or night
they will never be shut.
They will call you, The City of the Lord, * The Zion
of the Holy One of Israel.
Violence will no more be heard in your land, * ruin
or destruction within your borders.
You will call your walls, Salvation, * and all your
portals, Praise.
The sun will no more be your light by day; * by
night you will not need the brightness of the
moon.
The Lord will be your everlasting light, * and your
God will be your glory.
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 First Letter of Paul to
the Thessalonians (4:13-18)

But we do not want you to be uninformed,
brothers and sisters, about those who have died,
so that you may not grieve as others do who have
no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and
rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring
with him those who have died. For this we declare
to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are
alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will
by no means precede those who have died. For
the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the
archangel's call and with the sound of God's
trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead
in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who
are left, will be caught up in the clouds together
with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we
will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage
one another with these words.

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

Canticle B: A Song of Pilgrimage *Priusquam
errarem Ecclesiasticus 51:13-16, 20b-22*

Before I ventured forth, even while I was very
young, * I sought wisdom openly in my prayer.
In the forecourts of the temple I asked for her, *
and I will seek her to the end.
From first blossom to early fruit, * she has been the
delight of my heart.
My foot has kept firmly to the true path, *
diligently from my youth have I pursued her.
I inclined my ear a little and received her; * I found
for myself much wisdom and became adept in
her.
To the one who gives me wisdom will I give glory, *
for I have resolved to live according to her way.

From the beginning I gained courage from her, *
therefore I will not be forsaken.

In my inmost being I have been stirred to seek her,
* therefore have I gained a good possession.

As my reward the Almighty has given me the gift of
language,* and with it will I offer praise to God.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord according to St.
Matthew (25:1-13)

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

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

Through baptism, God has made us the people of hope. Our hope is in God and our help comes from God. Since God promises to make all things new, let us offer our cares and concerns to God, saying: O God, who is our hope, hear our prayer.

Gracious Creator, ruler of the universe, we know neither the day nor the hour when the Lord Christ shall return to claim the faithful. Through your saving and sustaining grace, enable us to remain in readiness and to welcome his appearing. **O God, who is our hope, hear our prayer.**

Eternal Creator, author of unity, bind your people together into one holy church. Remove the barriers that separate Christian from Christian, and enable all the baptized to offer common praise to you and common witness to the world. **O God, who is our hope, hear our prayer.**

Merciful Creator, source of all compassion, look with pity upon our world. Help us overcome the ravages of war, disease, hunger, and injustice; give dignity and well-being to all the human family. Visit us with your love; grant us peace; point us to the way that leads to fulfillment and sufficiency for all. **O God, who is our hope, hear our prayer.**

Almighty Creator, protector of all life, we plead with you to grant healing and wholeness to the sick. Lay upon them your hand of mercy; renew and restore them, giving them cause to proclaim and praise your name. **O God, who is our hope, hear our prayer.**

We pray for Jennifer and for all who have requested our prayers, **O God, who is our hope, hear our prayer.**

Divine Creator, perfecter of all life, behold the dying, who no longer await the return of the bridegroom, but rush to meet him through their death. Grant them peace at the last and welcome them into your heavenly dominion. When our last hour shall come, look not on our sins but accept us on the merits of our gracious redeemer, Jesus Christ. **O God, who is our hope, hear our prayer.** Accept the prayers of your people, O God. Assure us anew that you give heed to our cries and that you respond to our petitions according to your divine will. Through Jesus Christ our Savior 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 654 x 2

Prayer over the gifts: Gracious God, your word to us is food indeed. Receive all we offer you this day, and let your loving-kindness be our comfort, for the sake of Jesus Christ, your living Word.
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

Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to the banquet of the Lamb.

Communion of the People

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Gracious God, in this sacrament we have shared the body and blood of Christ. May we who have been nourished by holy things bear witness to his light, and share in his eternal priesthood. 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 Brilliance and Beauty send his boundless light into you, that you may glow with sanctity through your good works, 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 778 WLP

Looking forward to that final Day when God will be all in all, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.