

The Church of St. Paul, Cambria

Morning Prayer and Holy Eucharist

• Proper 28 A • November 19, 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

Into the hands of each of us, O God, you have entrusted all the blessings of nature and grace. Give us the will and wisdom to multiply the gifts your providence has bestowed, and make us industrious and vigilant as we await your Son's return, so that we may rejoice to hear him call us "good and faithful servants" and be blest to enter into the joy of your kingdom. 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 return will be worthy of your kingdom.

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.**

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 123

1 To you I lift up my eyes, * to you enthroned in the heavens.

2 As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, * and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,

3 So our eyes look to the LORD our God, * until he show us his mercy.

4 Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy, * for we have had more than enough of contempt,

5 Too much of the scorn of the indolent rich, * and of the derision of the proud.

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scripture to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson is from Judges (4:1-9)

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, after Ehud died. So the LORD sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years. At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, "The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you, 'Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing

ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand." Barak said to her, "If you will go with me, I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go." And she said, "I will surely go with you; nevertheless, the road on which you are going will not lead to your glory, for the LORD will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman." Then Deborah got up and went with Barak to Kedesh.

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

Canticle 17: The Song of Simeon

Lord, you now have set your servant free * to go in peace as you have promised:
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, *
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:
A light to enlighten the nations, * and the glory of your people Israel.
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 (5:1-11)

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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

Canticle J: **A Song of Judith** *Judith 16:13-16*
I will sing a new song to my God, * for you are great and glorious, wonderful in strength, invincible.

Let the whole creation serve you, * for you spoke and all things came into being.
You sent your breath and it formed them, * no one is able to resist your voice.
Mountains and seas are stirred to their depths, * rocks melt like wax at your presence.
But to those who fear you, * you continue to show mercy.
No sacrifice, however fragrant, can please you, * but whoever fears the Lord shall stand in your sight for ever.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord according to St. Matthew (25:14-30)

Glorify to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw

him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' 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

The day of the Lord is soon upon us, a day not of wrath but of salvation. As children of the light and of the day, let us await the coming of the Lord in prayer on behalf of the human family around the word, saying: O God, for the sake of Christ, have mercy on us.

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

Let us pray for those who are not ready for the coming of the Lord, for the unbelieving, the skeptical, the scorners, that they may be brought to faith and rejoice to confess the name of the Lord. **O God, for the sake of Christ, have mercy on us.**

Let us pray for those who use their lips and lives to proclaim the good news of Christ's return, that they may persist in their zeal, empowered and emboldened through the gifts of your Spirit. **O God, for the sake of Christ, have mercy on us.**

Let us pray for those who, with joy and longing, await the return of the Messiah, that they may not grow weary in well-doing, but witness to the

immediate and everlasting promise of our holy Redeemer. **O God, for the sake of Christ, have mercy on us.**

Let us pray for those whose lives are marked by hunger and need, grief and loneliness, anger and strife, discord and uncertainty, that each may be assured of the grace and mercy of God. **O God, for the sake of Christ, have mercy on us.**

Let us pray for those who suffer affliction of any kind, that God, their constant companion and champion, may grant them healing and hope and life. **O God, for the sake of Christ, have mercy on us.**

Let us pray for those who are prevented from praying with us, the persecuted and their persecutors, that each may be convinced of the good news of Jesus Christ and respond with faith and commitment. **O God, for the sake of Christ, have mercy on us.**

Let us pray for ourselves, that the Spirit will ready us for the return of our Savior and King, that we may enjoy forever the exhilarating life awaiting the faithful in heaven. **O God, for the sake of Christ, have mercy on us.**

Let us pray for those who suffer the consequences of war and violence, especially our young people on the field of battle. **O God, for the sake of Christ, have mercy on us.**

We pray for Jennifer and for all the special needs of our congregation, **O God, for the sake of Christ, have mercy on us.**

Because you are God, you hear our prayers. Because you are merciful, you promise to answer. We commend to you, merciful God, ourselves and those for whom we pray, through the crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

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

Offertory Hymn 511

Prayer over the gifts: Holy God, in this eucharist we renew our baptismal covenant. Help us, through our offering this day, to renounce all things that draw us from your love. 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

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 Father from whom every family in earth and heaven receives its name strengthen you with his Spirit in your inner being so that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith, 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 620

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.