

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

The Reign of Christ

Sunday, November 22, 2020 at 11am

Livestreamed worship available at [facebook.com/stpaulsnorwalk/videos](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsnorwalk/videos).

St. Paul's on the Green | 60 East Avenue, Norwalk, Connecticut 06851

THE GATHERING RITE

Gathering Music *Vater unser im Himmelreich* by Dieterich Buxtehude (c. 1637-1707)

The Opening Acclamation

The people's responses are in bold.

Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

Glory to God for ever and ever. 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.**

Opening Hymn

1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun doth his suc -
5 Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar

1 ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
5 hon - ors to our King; an - gels de - scend with

1 shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
5 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

words: Isaac Watts (1674–1748), alt.
music: *Duke Street*, John Hatton (d. 1793)

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have conferred upon Christ Jesus sovereignty over every age and nation. Direct us, in the love of Christ, to care for the least of his brothers and sisters, that we may be subject to his dominion and receive the inheritance of your kingdom. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Lesson *Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24*

Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

The Response *sung by the choir*

Christ, who knows all his sheep,
will all in safety keep;
he will not lose his blood,
nor intercession:
nor we the purchased good
of his dear Passion.

I know my God is just,
to him I wholly trust:
all that I have and am,
all that I hope for:
all's sure and seen to him
which I grope for.

Lord Jesus, take my spirit,
I trust thy life and merit;
take home this wand'ring sheep,
for thou hast sought it:
this soul in safety keep,
for thou has bought it.

words: Richard Baxter (1615-1691)
music: Eric Thiman (1900-1975)

The Gospel *Matthew 25:14-30*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Christ.

Jesus said, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon *The Rev. Daniel Simons, Priest-in-charge*

A period of reflection follows the sermon.

The Nicene Creed

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, She* is worshipped and glorified. She 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 Holy Spirit is the spirit of Wisdom, the feminine Sophia, and the Hebrew Scripture calls the Spirit "ruah," a feminine word, to describe the feminine aspect of the Godhead, the breath of God.*

***Here "catholic" means universal. It refers to the belief that the message of forgiveness and salvation through Jesus is a "universal" one that the Church proclaims to everyone, everywhere and always.*

The Prayers of the People

Please offer your own petitions silently or aloud during the silences, or via a Facebook comment, which we will read aloud at the end of the prayers. The intercessor says

We pray for peace in the world and for peace in our own land. For what other places of the world shall we pray?

Gracious God, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our leaders in the church and in the world, and for all those who serve the common good, including these we now name.

Gracious God, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our enemies: for those who have wronged us and for those we have wronged, particularly for God's reconciliation in what we now name.

Gracious God, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are sick, hungry, or facing any challenge, including these we now name.

Gracious God, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who have died and for those who mourn them, particularly these we now name.

Gracious God, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the blessings of this life and for God's gifts to us. For what else shall pray?

The online prayers of the people are offered.

Gracious God, **hear our prayer.**

The Celebrant concludes

Hasten, O God, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Please share the peace wherever you are: with a comment posted on Facebook, a bow to those nearby, or some other distanced gesture of peace.

The Announcements *available at stpaulsnorwalk.org/sundaymorning*

GIVING TO ST. PAUL'S

Now more than ever, the work and mission of St. Paul's depend on the generous support of its friends and members.

Please consider making an offering to St. Paul's by credit card. Visit stpaulsnorwalk.org/givebycard, or use the QR code to the right.

For other means of giving, visit stpaulsnorwalk.org/donate.

Thank you for your generous support!



THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

The Offertory

The Altar-Table is prepared for Communion.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

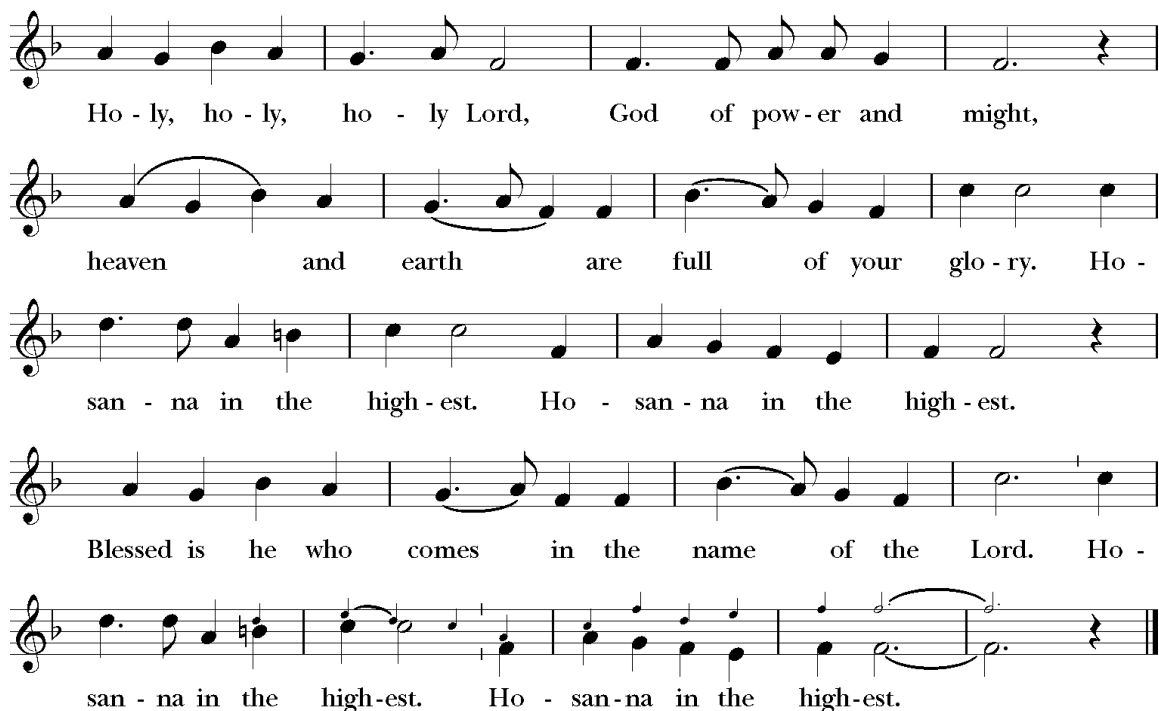
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

We give thanks and praise to you, almighty God, for the gift of a world full of wonder, and for our life which comes from you. You created us to love you with all our heart, and to love each other as ourselves, but we rebel against you by the evil that we do. In Jesus, your Son, you bring healing to our world and gather us into one great family. Therefore, with all who serve you on earth and in heaven, we praise your wonderful name, as we sing:

Sanctus and Benedictus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

setting: A Community Mass, Richard Proulx (1937-2010)
© 1971, 1977 GIA Publications, Inc.
OneLicense.net License #A-709109

The Celebrant continues

We give you thanks and praise, loving Father, because in sending Jesus, your Son, you showed us the extent of your love. He cared for the poor and the hungry. He suffered with the sick and the rejected.

Betrayed and forsaken, he did not strike back but overcame hatred with love. On the cross he defeated the power of sin and death. By raising him from the dead you show us the power of your love to bring new life to all your people.

On the night before he gave up his life for us, Jesus, at supper with his friends, took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "Take this, all of you, and eat it: this is my body which is given for you. Do this in memory of me."

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is the cup of my blood, shed for you and for all, so that sins may be forgiven." Do this in memory of me."

Gracious God, with this bread and wine we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus, and we offer ourselves to you in him. Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that we may know the presence of Jesus in the breaking of the bread, and share in his undying life.

Loving God, you give us even now a foretaste of that life beyond the grave where all are gathered together around your table. We sing your praise, almighty Father, through Jesus, the Risen One, in the power of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant
 As our Sa - vior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Celebrant and People
 Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name,
 your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in hea - ven.
 Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.
 For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.
 Save us from the time of tri - al, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.
 For the king - dom, the power, and the glo - ry are yours,
 now and for ev - er. A - men.

setting: *Ambrosian Chant*, adapt. Mason Martens
 © 1985 Church Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.
 OneLicense.net License #A-709109

The Breaking of the Bread

The disciples knew the Lord Jesus
 in the breaking of the bread.

—Luke 24:35

This is the bo - dy of Christ, - bro - ken that we may be whole, this cup, as
 pro - mised by God, true to God's word, cra - dles the Lord: food for the good of the soul.

music and words: John L. Bell (b. 1949)
 music and words © 1998 GIA / Iona Community / WGRG. All rights reserved.
 OneLicense.net License #A-709109

The Communion

During a period of silent reflection the Celebrant prays the following

God of love and grace, of justice and peace, we give you thanks that in the Sacrament of the altar you assure us of your presence within us and within the body of Christ, the faithful through all the generations; grant that we who witness anew these holy mysteries may be moved by your indwelling Spirit ever more fully to embody your holy and life-giving presence, reshaping in your likeness the world around us, until we are gathered at last into the fullness of your glorious and eternal presence; through Christ our Risen Lord. **Amen.**

— Bennet Brockman, alt.

Behold what you are.

May we become what we receive.

— St. Augustine

The Prayer After Communion

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

— Enriching Our Worship

THE SENDING RITE

The Blessing and Dismissal

The Wisdom of God, the Love of God, and the Grace of God, strengthen you to be Christ's hands and heart in the world, in the name of the Holy Trinity. **Amen.**

— Celtic blessing

Go in peace to love and serve Christ in all places and all people.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude *Andante-Moderato* by F.J. Kunkel (1808-1880)

THE WORSHIP IS OVER. THE SERVICE BEGINS.

[Click here](#) to join in small group conversation and catching up on Zoom!

St. Paul's on the Green
The Rev. Daniel Simons, *Priest-in-charge*
60 East Avenue, Norwalk, Connecticut 06851
stpaulsnorwalk.org | info@stpaulsnorwalk.org