

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Proper 6 | June 13, 2021 at 11am

ST. PAUL'S ON THE GREEN | 60 EAST AVENUE, NORWALK, CONNECTICUT 06851

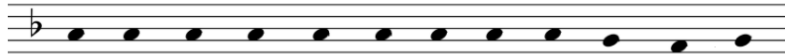
PRELUDE

Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Please stand as the bell sounds. The Celebrant intones

Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.



Glo - ry to God for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

HYMN IN PROCESSION

1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at thy word we are gath - ered all to
 2 All our know - ledge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est dark - ness
 3 Gra - cious Lord, thy - self im - part! Light of Light, from God pro -

hear thee; let our hearts and souls be stirred
 shroud - ed, till thy Spi - rit breaks our night
 ceed - ing, o - pen thou our ears and heart,

now to seek and love and fear thee; by thy teach - ings
 with the beams of truth un - cloud - ed; thou a - lone to
 help us by thy Spi - rit's plead - ing. Hear the cry thy

pure and ho - ly, drawn from earth to love thee sole - ly.
 God canst win us; thou must work all good with - in us.
 Church up - rais - es; hear, and bless our prayers and prais - es.

words: Tobias Clausnitzer (1619–1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1829–1878); alt.
 music: *Liebster Jesu*, melody Johann Rudolph Ahle (1625–1673); alt. *Das grosse Cantional: oder Kirchen-Gesangbuch*, 1687;
 harm. George Herbert Palmer (1846–1926)

The People's responses are in bold.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, at whose bidding the seed will sprout and the shoot grow towards full stature, hear the prayer of your assembled people. Make us trust in your hidden ways, that we may pray with confidence and wait for your kingdom now growing in our midst. We ask 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 LESSON

Ezekiel 17:22-24

Thus says the Lord God:

I myself will take a sprig
from the lofty top of a cedar;
I will set it out.

I will break off a tender one
from the topmost of its young twigs;

I myself will plant it
on a high and lofty mountain.

On the mountain height of Israel
I will plant it,

in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,
and become a noble cedar.

Under it every kind of bird will live;
in the shade of its branches will nest
winged creatures of every kind.

All the trees of the field shall know
that I am the Lord.

I bring low the high tree,
I make high the low tree;

I dry up the green tree
and make the dry tree flourish.

I the Lord have spoken;
I will accomplish it.

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

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL HYMN

1 "Thy king - dom come!" on bend - ed knee the pass - ing a - ges pray;
2 But the slow watch - es of the night not less to God be - long;
3 And lo, al - rea - dy on the hills the flags of dawn ap - pear;
4 the day to whose clear shin - ing light all wrong shall stand re - vealed,
5 when know - ledge, hand in hand with peace, shall walk the earth a - broad;

1 and faith - ful souls have yearned to see on earth that king - dom's day.
2 and for the ev - er - last - ing right the si - lent stars are strong.
3 gird up your loins, ye pro - phet souls, pro - claim the day is near:
4 when jus - tice shall be throned in might, and ev - ery hurt be healed;
5 the day of per - fect right - eous - ness, the prom - ised day of God.

words: Frederick Lucian Hosmer (1840-1929)
music: *St. Flavian*, melody from *Day's Psalter*, 1562; adapt. and harm. Richard Redhead (1820-1901)

THE GOSPEL

Mark 4:26-34

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

Glory to you, O Christ.

Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Daniel Simons

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

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 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

O God of creation, you promise to hear and answer when we pray to you in faith.

With confidence and trust we pray now for the world:

Lead us and every people into ways of justice and peace.

That we may respect one another in freedom and truth.

Awaken in us a sense of wonder for the earth and all that is in it.

Teach us to care creatively for its resources.

Please offer particular intercessions and thanksgivings for the world, silently or aloud.

We pray for the communities in which we live:

God of truth, inspire with your wisdom those whose decisions affect the lives of others,

that all may act with integrity and courage.

Give grace to all whose lives are linked with ours.

May we serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us.

Please offer particular intercessions and thanksgivings for our communities, silently or aloud.

We pray for the Church:

Spirit of truth, enliven the Church for its mission

that we may be salt of the earth and light to the world.

Breathe fresh life into your people.

Give us power to reveal Christ in word and action.

Please offer particular intercessions and thanksgivings for the Church, silently or aloud.

We pray for those in need:

God of hope, comfort and restore all who suffer in body, mind or spirit.

May they know the power of your healing love.

Make us willing agents of your compassion.

Strengthen us as we share in making people whole.

Please offer particular intercessions and thanksgivings for those in need, silently or aloud.

We remember those who have died and those who mourn:

Give comfort, O God, to those who grieve.

Bring them peace in their time of loss.

We give thanks for the faithful in every generation.

May their example inspire our witness in our own day.

Please offer particular intercessions and thanksgivings for those we remember in love, silently or aloud.

We pray for ourselves and our ministries.

Please offer other specific thanksgivings and concerns of this congregation, silently or aloud.

The Celebrant offers a concluding prayer.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Please share the peace with a distanced gesture to those nearby.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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/support.

Thank you for your generous support!



THE OFFERTORY

The Altar-Table is prepared with gifts of bread and wine for Communion. During this time, give thanks for all the ways God blesses you, and consider ways you can extend that blessing to others. Learn more ways to give in the "Giving to St. Paul's" box above.

ANTHEM AT THE OFFERTORY *sung by the choir*

Lord, we shall walk in peace.
We shall walk through the valley in peace, if Jesus himself shall lead us.
There will be no trials there, if Jesus himself shall lead us.

words and music: African-American spiritual, arr. Undine Smith More (1904-1989)

HYMN AT THE OFFERTORY

1 God moves in a mys - te - rious way his won - ders to per - form:
2 Deep in un - fath - om - a - ble mines, with nev - er - fail - ing skill,
3 Ye fear - ful saints, fresh cour - age take; the clouds ye so much dread
4 Judge not the Lord by fee - ble sense, but trust him for his grace;
5 His pur - pos - es will ri - pen fast, un - fold - ing ev - ery hour:

1 he plants his foot - steps in the sea, and rides up - on the storm.
2 he trea - sures up his bright de - signs, and works his sov - ereign will.
3 are big with mer - cy, and shall break in bless - ings on your head.
4 be - hind a frown - ing prov - i - dence he hides a smil - ing face.
5 the bud may have a bit - ter taste, but sweet will be the flower.

6 Blind unbelief is sure to err, God is his own interpreter,
and scan his work in vain; and he will make it plain.

words: William Cowper (1731-1800)

music: *London New*, melody from *The Psalms of David in Prose and Meeter*, 1635; harm. John Playford (1623-1686)

The Celebrant continues

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation.

Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come in glory.

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and 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 (1933-1991)
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The Celebrant breaks the bread and invites the People to communion, saying

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

The gifts of God for the people of God. Draw near in faith.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to him and nev-er be hun-gry.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in him and you will not thirst.

words: John 6, adapt. Robert J. Batastini (b. 1942) and the Taizé community
 music: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)
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THE COMMUNION

Follow the directions of the ushers to receive Communion. For those who live locally and worship weekly online and wish to receive the consecrated bread and wine, please contact the parish administrator for more information.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

sung by the choir

The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
 The Lord lift up the light of his gracious countenance upon you, and give you peace.
 Amen.

words: Numbers 6:24-26
 music: John Rutter (b. 1945)

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE BLESSING

— St. Claire of Assisi

Live without fear: your Creator has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you as a mother. Go in peace to follow the good road, and may the God of peace, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you now and always. **Amen.**

HYMN IN PROCESSION



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will be

God. For his gifts to ev - ery na - tion,
done. In the help we give our neigh - bor,

thanks be to God. For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing,
God's will be done. In our world - wide task of car - ing

si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing, fu - ture needs in
for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing, in the har - vests

earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
we are shar - ing, God's will be done.

words: Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)
music: *East Aclam*, Francis Jackson (b. 1917)
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music © 1960 Francis Jackson
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THE DISMISSAL

Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Now Thank We All our God by Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

THE WORSHIP IS OVER. THE SERVICE BEGINS.

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