THE HOLY EUCHARIST

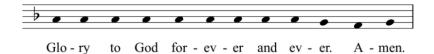
October 17, 2021 at 11am | Ordinary Time, Proper 27

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

Prelude

Special Music by Rosemary Dellinger

OPENING ACCLAMATION Please stand as the bell sounds. The Celebrant intones: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.







THE OPENING COLLECT

Collect for Purity

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.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



setting: William Mathias (1934-1992) © 1976 Oxford University Press OneLicense.net License #A-709109

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

God, our provider, you are the orphan's hope and the widow's bread. Strengthen our faith, that with simplicity of heart we may come to trust in you alone and hold back nothing in serving you. 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 LESSON 1 Kings 17:8-16

The word of the Lord came to Elijah, saying, "Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you." So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink." As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." But she said, "As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die." Elijah said to her, "Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. For thus says the Lord the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the Lord sends rain on the earth." She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by Elijah.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God.

Because you have made the Lord your refuge, * and the Most High your habitation, There shall no evil happen to you, * neither shall any plague come near your dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over you, * to keep you in all your ways. They shall bear you in their hands, * lest you dash your foot against a stone. You shall tread upon the lion and adder; * you shall trample the young lion and the serpent under your feet. Because he is bound to me in love, therefore will I deliver him; * I will protect him, because he knows my Name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; * I am with him in trouble; I will rescue him and bring him to honor. With long life will I satisfy him, * and show him my salvation.

John Goss

THE EPISTLE

Hebrews 9:24-28

Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own; for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL HYMN



Words: Robert Robinson (1735-1790), alt.
Nettleton, melody from A Repository of Sacred Music, Part II, 1813; harm. Gerre Hancock (b. 1934)

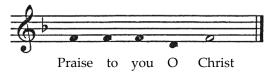
THE GOSPEL Mark 12:38-44

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



As Jesus taught, he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation." He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

The Gospel of the Lord.



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.

*Holy Spirit in biblical languages is a feminine-gendered word, and we use the feminine pronoun here to highlight that aspect of God's fullness.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray now to God, who hears our prayers even before we ask.

Loving God, the widow of Zarephath, with a handful of flour and a drop of oil fed the prophet Elijah before her child and herself. Teach us the joy of hospitality which welcomes friend and stranger, neighbor and enemy, and so finds You feasting among us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

God of Abundance, the widow of Jerusalem, with two small coins offered to you her love, her worship and all she had. Teach us the joy of giving freely, which counts nothing as ours by right, but willingly shares and so finds you sharing with us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

God of Resurrection, you son, Christ Jesus offered himself to show the fullness of your love for us. Teach us the joy of giving ourselves to you, so that we yearn for your presence, long for your salvation, and so find you living in us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

God of Mercy, it is ever your will that we love and work and pray for those who are in need of bread and of shelter, of healing and of wholeness. Hear the prayers we make for those of our world— those of our community, and those of our family who are in need. We lift before you now in the silence of our hearts and with the words of our lips.

Particular names may be offered aloud or in silence.

We pray to you, O Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer.

The Celebrant prays a concluding collect.

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!



ANTHEM AT THE OFFERTORY

In the midst of pain, I choose love
In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain,
I await the sun again, I choose love.
In the midst of war, I choose peace.
In the midst of war, hate and anger keeping score,
I will seek the good once more, I chose peace.
When my world falls down, I will rise.
When my world falls down, explanations can't be found,
I will climb to holy ground,
I will rise.

words: Lindy Thompson music: Marc Miller

HYMN AT THE OFFERTORY

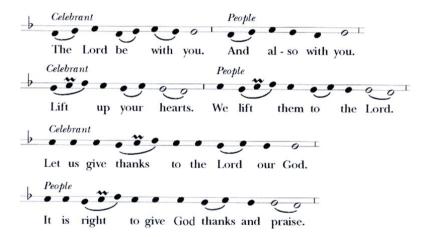


Words: Frank von Christierson (1900-1996), alt.

Music: Forest Green, English melody; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

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THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world, You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wonderous are you. Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; and so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:



The Celebrant continues

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all. Your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise.

Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the New Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Dying, you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Christ Jesus, come in glory!

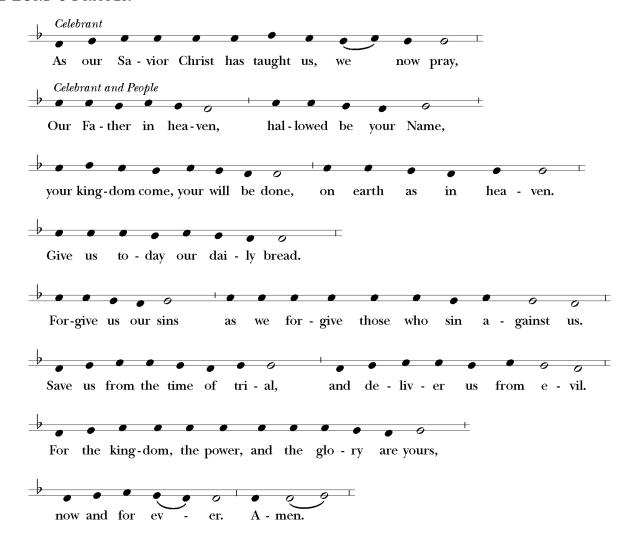
Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice, and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and creator in voices of unending praise. Blessed are you, now and forever.



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THE LORD'S PRAYER



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The Celebrant breaks the bread and invites the People to communion, saying

God of promise, you have prepared a banquet for us.

Happy are those who are called to the Supper of the Lamb.



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

Everyone is welcome to receive the bread and wine of Communion at St. Paul's. Please follow the direction of the ushers. Healing prayer is available in the side aisles for those wishing to pray with someone for any need in their lives.

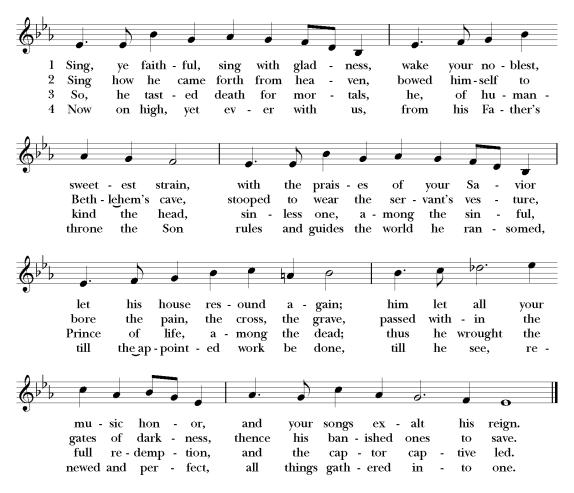
THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

Life is short, and we do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind; and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

HYMN IN PROCESSION



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Music: *Finnian*, Christopher Dearnley (b. 1930)
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THE DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in the name of Christ to love and to serve.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Sortie in G Minor - L.J.A. Lefébure-Wély

THE WORSHIP IS OVER. THE SERVICE BEGINS.

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The Reverend Daniel Simons, Priest in Charge
Will Doreza, Interim Director of Music
Marsha Dunn, Parish Administrator