

EUCCHARISTIC LITURGY

THANKSGIVING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD



MAY 2, 2021

6:00 PM

St. John's Episcopal Church

Four Fountain Square

Larchmont, NY

THE MINISTRY OF WORD AND PRAYER

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Officiant Grace and peace to you from God.

People God fill you with truth and joy.

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People The Lord bless you.

Officiant This is the day which the Lord has made.

People Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Officiant Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may truly love you, and worthily praise your holy name; through our Saviour Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

All Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Officiant Hear the teaching of Christ: a new commandment I give to you, that you love one another as I have loved you.

***People* Spirit of God, search our hearts.**

Officiant God has promised forgiveness to all who truly repent, turn to Christ in faith and are themselves forgiving.

In silence, we call to mind our sins.

Silence.

Officiant Let us confess our sins.

***All* Merciful God,
We have sinned
in what we have thought and said,
in the wrong we have done
and in the good we have not done.
We have sinned in ignorance:
we have sinned in weakness:
we have sinned through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry.
We repent and turn to you.
Forgive us, for our Saviour Christ's sake,
and renew our lives to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Officiant Through the cross of Christ, God have mercy on you, pardon you, and set you free. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. God strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in life eternal.

***People* Amen.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Officiant The Lord be with you.

***People* And also with you.**

Officiant

Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All

Amen.

Silence may follow each reading.

READING: ACTS 8:26-40

Reader

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.”

The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good

news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 22:24-30

The psalm is read responsively by the half verse.

- 24 **My praise is of him in the great assembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.**
- 25 **The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: *
"May your heart live for ever!"**
- 26 **All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.**
- 27 **For kingship belongs to the Lord; *
he rules over the nations.**
- 28 **To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before him.**
- 29 **My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him; *
they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.**
- 30 **They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.**

GOSPEL: JOHN 15:1-8

Officiant ✠ The Holy Gospel according to John.

People **Praise and glory to God.**

Jesus said to his disciples, “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

This is the Gospel of Christ.

People **Praise to Christ, the Word.**

SERMON

The Rev. Lisa P. Mason

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

All **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:
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became fully human.
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.
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
and 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.

Officiant Let us pray for the Church and for the world, giving thanks for God's
goodness.

Periods of silence may be kept.

Reader Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear when we pray in the name
of your Son. Therefore in confidence and trust we pray for the Church:
(*Silence*)

Reader Father, enliven the Church for its mission that we may be salt of the earth and light to the world. *(Silence)*

Reader Breathe fresh life into your people. Give us power to reveal Christ in word and action. *(Silence)*

People **We pray for the world:**

Reader Creator of all, lead us and every people into ways of justice and peace. That we may respect one another in freedom and truth. *(Silence)*

Reader Awaken in us a sense of wonder for the earth and all that is in it. Teach us to care creatively for its resources. *(Silence)*

People **We pray for the community:**

Reader God of truth, inspire with your wisdom those whose decisions affect the lives of others that all may act with integrity and courage. *(Silence)*

Reader Give grace to all whose lives are linked with ours. May we serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us. *(Silence)*

People **We pray for those in need:**

Reader God of hope, comfort and restore all who suffer in body, mind or spirit, especially Ann, April, Bernadette, Betsy, Blanche, Bob, Brian, Caitlin, Carol, Carolyn, Clementine, Collette, Dotty Lee, Ellen, George, Harold, James, Jmel, Laura, Lynn, Matt, Orlo, Patricia, Peggy, Randy, Robert, Sandy, Sara Lee, Sheila, and Tom. *(Silence)*

Reader Make us willing agents of your compassion. Strengthen us as we share in making people whole. *(Silence)*

People **We remember those who have died, and those who mourn.**

Reader We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in the faith of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone. *(Silence)*

Reader Father, into your hands we commend them. Give comfort to those who mourn. *(Silence)*

Reader Bring them peace in their time of loss. We praise you for all your saints who have entered your eternal glory.

Reader May their example inspire and encourage us. We pray for ourselves and our ministries: *(Silence)*

Reader Lord, you have called us to serve you.

People Grant that we may walk in your presence:
your love in our hearts,
your truth in our minds,
your strength in our wills;
until, at the end of our journey,
we know the joy of our homecoming
and the welcome of your embrace,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE PEACE

Rev. Lisa The Peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Lisa shares brief announcements.

THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

The offerings of the people are presented.

Officiant Blessed are you, God of all creation; through your goodness we have these gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom.

People Blessed be God for ever.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Officiant God's Spirit is with us. Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Officiant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to offer thanks and praise.

Officiant It is right indeed, it is our joy and our salvation, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise through Christ your only Son.

You are the source of all life and goodness; through your eternal Word you have created all things from the beginning and formed us in your own image; male and female you created us. When we sinned and turned away you called us back to yourself and gave your Son to share our human nature. By his death on the cross, he made the one perfect sacrifice for the sin of the world and freed us from the bondage of sin. You raised him to life triumphant over death; you exalted him in glory. In him you have made us a holy people by sending upon us your holy and life-giving Spirit.

Therefore with the faithful who rest in him, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

**All 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.

Officiant All glory and thanksgiving to you, holy Father; on the night before he died your Son, Jesus Christ, took bread; when he had given you thanks, he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said: Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup; when he had given you thanks, he gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you, for this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins; do this as often as you drink it, to remember me.

All **Glory to you, Lord Christ;**
your death we show forth;
your resurrection we proclaim;
your coming we await;
Amen! Come Lord Jesus.

Officiant Therefore loving God, recalling your great goodness to us in Christ, his suffering and death, his resurrection and ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate our redemption with this bread of life and this cup of salvation. Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving which we offer through Christ our great high priest.

Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine which we receive may be to us the body and blood of Christ, and that we, filled with the Spirit's grace and power, may be renewed for the service of your kingdom.

United in Christ with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, O God, in songs of everlasting praise.

All **Blessing, honour and glory be yours, here and everywhere, now and for ever. Amen.**

Officiant As Christ teaches us, we pray

All **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 for ever. Amen.**

The Officiant breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is observed.

Officiant We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

***All* We who are many are one body, for we all share the one bread.**

Officiant Draw near and receive the body and blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ in remembrance that he died for us. Let us feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

The presiding priest and people receive communion.

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Officiant Almighty God, giver of all good things, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the precious body and blood of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. We thank you for your love and care in assuring us of your gift of eternal life and uniting us with the blessed company of all faithful people.

***All* Therefore, everliving God,
keep us steadfast in your holy fellowship.
And now we offer ourselves, all that we have and are,
to serve you faithfully in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be all honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

THE DISMISSAL

Officiant Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace.

***People* Amen. We go in the name of Christ.**