



Apostles

Anglican Church

The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 16, 2024

Liturgy for the Contemporary Service
The Anglican Church in North America

About Participating in the Eucharist

This altar is God's altar. This is a family table. All baptized Christians are invited to come forward to receive the Sacrament. If you are not baptized you are still invited to the table for prayer.

We believe in something called "the real presence of Christ" which means that we know he is present in communion, but we aren't going to require you to speculate on exactly how he does that.

To receive, come forward to the rail, and kneel to receive unless you are unable. Kneeling or standing, place your hands flat, and in a cruciform shape, palms up. The clergy will place the bread on your palm.

A chalice bearer will follow with a small cup with the wine. At present we are not drinking from the chalice but "intincting" from the small cup. You take the bread between your fingers, and dip it slightly into the wine, before placing it in your mouth.

If you only take the bread and want to by-pass the wine, that is still a valid sacrament. You don't need to wait for the cup to come by but you may remain at the rail as long as you want.

Adults who are not baptized, or who are not going to receive, can come forward to receive a blessing. If you would like to do so, as you are kneeling, cross your arms over your chest, hands by your shoulder and the clergy will pray for you.

Baptized children are welcomed to receive communion, but parents can choose to allow their child to receive. If your children are not baptized, or will not be receiving, they can receive a blessing, by crossing their arms.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

THE BELL

OPENING SONGS

Here I Am to Worship

(Verse 1)

*Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes let me see
Beauty that made
This heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You*

(Chorus)

*So here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
And You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me*

(Verse 2)

*King of all days
Oh so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came
To the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor*

(Bridge)

*And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross*

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure
How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory

Behold the man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no power, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

Minister: Blessed be God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

People: *And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.*

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: *And with your spirit.*

Minister: Let us pray.

O Lord, from whom all good proceeds: Grant us the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may always think those things that are good, and by your merciful guidance may accomplish the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

Ezekiel 31: 1-14

In the eleventh year, in the third month, on the first day of the month, the word of the Lord came to me: Mortal, say to Pharaoh king of Egypt and to his hordes:

Whom are you like in your greatness?

Consider Assyria, a cedar of Lebanon,
with fair branches and forest shade,
and of great height,
its top among the clouds.*

The waters nourished it,
the deep made it grow tall,
making its rivers flow*
around the place where it was planted,
sending forth its streams
to all the trees of the field.

So it towered high
above all the trees of the field;
its boughs grew large
and its branches long,
from abundant water in its shoots.

All the birds of the air
made their nests in its boughs;
under its branches all the animals of the field
gave birth to their young;
and in its shade
all great nations lived.

It was beautiful in its greatness,
in the length of its branches;
for its roots went down

to abundant water.
The cedars in the garden of God could not rival it,
nor the fir trees equal its boughs;
the plane trees were as nothing
compared with its branches;
no tree in the garden of God
was like it in beauty.
I made it beautiful
with its mass of branches,
the envy of all the trees of Eden
that were in the garden of God.

Therefore, thus says the Lord God: Because it* towered high and set its top among the clouds,* and its heart was proud of its height, I gave it into the hand of the prince of the nations; he has dealt with it as its wickedness deserves. I have cast it out. Foreigners from the most terrible of the nations have cut it down and left it. On the mountains and in all the valleys its branches have fallen, and its boughs lie broken in all the watercourses of the land; and all the peoples of the earth went away from its shade and left it.

On its fallen trunk settle
all the birds of the air,
and among its boughs lodge
all the wild animals.

All this is in order that no trees by the waters may grow to lofty height or set their tops among the clouds,* and that no trees that drink water may reach up to them in height. For all of them are handed over to death,
to the world below;
along with all mortals,
with those who go down to the Pit.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God*

Psalm 92

- 1 It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, *
and to sing praises unto your Name, O Most High,
- 2 To tell of your loving-kindness early in the morning, *
and of your faithfulness in the night season,

- 3 Upon an instrument of ten strings and upon the lute, *
with the sound of melody upon the harp.
- 4 For you, LORD, have made me glad by your deeds, *
and I will shout for joy because of your handiwork.
- 5 O LORD, how glorious are your works; *
your thoughts are very deep.
- 6 The dull of heart does not consider this, *
and a fool does not understand it:
- 7 Though the ungodly are as green as the grass, and though all the workers of
wickedness flourish, *
they shall be destroyed for ever; but you, LORD, are the Most High for
evermore.
- 8 For lo, your enemies, O LORD, lo, your enemies shall perish, *
and all the workers of wickedness shall be destroyed.
- 9 But my horn shall be exalted like the horns of wild bulls; *
for I am anointed with fresh oil.
- 10 My eye also shall see its desire upon my enemies, *
and my ear shall hear with joy the end of the wicked who rise up against me.
- 11 The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, *
and shall spread abroad like a cedar in Lebanon.
- 12 Those who are planted in the house of the LORD *
shall flourish in the courts of our God.
- 13 They also shall bring forth fruit in their old age, *
and shall be green and full of sap,
- 14 That they may show how upright the LORD is, *
my rock, in whom there is no unrighteousness.

**All: *Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the
beginning is now and will be forever. Amen.***

2 Corinthians 5:1-10

5 For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling— 3 if indeed, when we have taken it off we will not be found naked. 4 For while we are still in this tent, we groan under our burden, because we wish not to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. 5 He who has prepared us for this very thing is God,

who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. 6 So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord— 7for we walk by faith, not by sight. 8Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 9So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. 10For all of us must appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel (*congregation standing*)

**In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My comforter, my all in all
Here in the love of Christ I stand**

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Mark 4:26-34

26 He also said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, 27and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. 28The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. 29But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.'

30 He also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? 31It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; 32yet 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.'

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

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

**There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ**

THE SERMON

THE NICENE CREED *(congregation standing)*

***We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, visible and invisible.***

***We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten 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 from the Holy Spirit and 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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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 *(congregation standing or kneeling)*

Let us pray for the Church and for the world, saying, "hear our prayer."

For the peace of the whole world, and for the well-being and unity of the people of God.

Reader: Lord, in your mercy:

People: *Hear our prayer.*

For Foley, our Archbishop, and Mark, our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people of our Diocese and Congregation. We pray for the election of a new Archbishop, for his family and for his diocese.

Father, we ask that you continue to bless our search process for a new rector. Raise up for us, we pray, a priest and pastor who will boldly proclaim your Gospel, faithfully administer your sacraments, and serve your people with love and compassion, that we may be a home for spiritual orphans and seekers.

Reader: Lord, in your mercy:

People: *Hear our prayer.*

For all those who proclaim the Gospel at home and abroad; and for all who teach and disciple others.

Reader: Lord, in your mercy:

People: *Hear our prayer.*

For our brothers and sisters in Christ who are persecuted for their faith.

Reader: Lord, in your mercy:

People: *Hear our prayer.*

For our nation, for those in authority, and for all in public service especially Joe, our president, Andy, our governor, and Linda, our mayor.

Reader: Lord, in your mercy:

People: *Hear our prayer.*

For all those who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity

Reader: Lord, in your mercy:

People: *Hear our prayer.*

For all those who have departed this life in the certain hope of the resurrection, in thanksgiving let us pray.

Reader: Lord, in your mercy:

People: *Hear our prayer.*

Heavenly Father, grant these our prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION OF SIN

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, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who sincerely repent and with true faith turn to him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE *(congregation standing)*

Minister: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: *And with your spirit.*

Minister: Let us greet one another and share the peace of Christ.

THE OFFERTORY

The Doxology *(congregation standing)*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen.*

THE SURSUM CORDA

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And with your spirit.*

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: *We lift them up to the Lord.*

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

It is right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

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:

THE SANCTUS

***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.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and when we had sinned against you and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent your only Son Jesus Christ into the world for our salvation. By the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary he became flesh and dwelt among us. In obedience to your will, he stretched out his arms upon the Cross and offered himself once for all, that by his suffering and death we might be saved. By his resurrection he broke the bonds of death, trampling Hell and Satan under his feet. As our great high priest, he ascended to your right hand in glory, that we might come with confidence before the throne of grace.

On the night that he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this is my Body, which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, Jesus took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "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: Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Word and Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Sanctify us also, that we may worthily receive this holy Sacrament, and be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us and we in him. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us with all your saints into the joy of your heavenly kingdom, where we shall see our Lord face to face.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your Name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

And 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 FRACTION

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: *Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

THE MINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

he gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

THE PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Dear Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to possess you within my soul. And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you, together with all your faithful people gathered around every altar of your Church, and I embrace you with all the affections of my soul. Never permit me to be separated from you. **Amen.**

THE PRAYER OF CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

Heavenly Father,

***We thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.***

***And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.***

***To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.***

THE BLESSING

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

THE RECESSIONAL *(congregation standing)*

CLOSING SONG

Good Good Father

Verse 1)

***I've heard a thousand stories of what they think You're like
But I've heard the tender whisper of love in the dead of night
And You tell me that You're pleased
And that I'm never alone***

(Chorus)

***You're a good, good Father
It's who You are, It's who You are, It's who You are
And I'm loved by You
It's who I am, It's who I am, It's who I am***

(Verse 2)

***And I've seen many searching for answers far and wide
But I know we're all searching for answers only You provide
'Cause You know just what we need
Before we say a word***

(Bridge)

***You are perfect in all of Your ways
You are perfect in all of Your ways
You are perfect in all of Your ways to us***

(Verse 3)

***This is love so undeniable I, I can hardly speak
Peace so unexplainable I, I can hardly think
As You call me deeper still
As You call me deeper still
As You call me deeper still into love, love, love***

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

People: ***Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!***