

A St. Luke's Service of Spiritual Communion (Visual Holy Eucharist)
September 20, 2020

Prelude Hymns

Hymn LEVAS 72 Just a closer walk with thee

Aonymous

I am weak but thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long As I walk, let me walk close to thee.

Just a closer walk with thee, Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to thee, Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

Hymn WLP 757 Will you come and follow me

from the Iona Community

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my Name be known?
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave your self behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the pris'ner free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen?
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the 'You' you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Christ, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show,
thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me?

Hymn 690 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah

William Williams (1717-1791); tr. Peter Williams (1722-1796), alt.

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand;
bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through;
strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side;
songs of praises, I will ever give to thee.

The Word of God

A time of silent meditation with music

Celebrant Blessed be God: holy, glorious and undivided Trinity.

People And blessed be God's reign, now and forever. Amen.

All 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.

Celebrant Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,

People Have mercy on us.

Celebrant Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,

People Have mercy on us.

Celebrant Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,

People Have mercy on us.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant God be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray

The Celebrant says the Collect.

Grant us, O God, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

The Old Testament is read

A reading from Jonah (3:10—4:11)

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.” But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

Here ends the reading.

The Psalm is said by all

Psalm 145:1-8

- 1 I will exalt you, O holy God, *
and bless your Name for ever and ever.
- 2 Every day will I bless you *
and praise your Name for ever and ever.
- 3 Great are you, O God, and greatly to be praised; *
there is no end to your greatness.
- 4 One generation shall praise your works to another *
and shall declare your power.
- 5 I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty *
and all your marvelous works.
- 6 They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts, *
and I will tell of your greatness.
- 7 They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; *
they shall sing of your righteous deeds.
- 8 You are gracious and full of compassion, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.

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The Epistle is read

A Reading from Philippians (1:21-30)

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well-- since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Here ends the reading.

The Holy Gospel is read with this introduction and conclusion

The Gospel Matthew 20:1-16

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, O Christ.

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Celebrant The Gospel of our Savior.

People Praise to you, O Christ.

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
he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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 Form II

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world;
for our Bishops, Sam and Anne; for this virtual gathering;
and for all ministers and people.

Pray for the Church.

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations;
and for the well-being of all people.

Pray for justice and peace.

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry,
the oppressed, those in prison, those connected to the
Foster system and all on our parish prayer list.

Pray for those in any need or trouble.

I ask your prayers for all who seek God,
or a deeper knowledge of God.
Pray that they may find and be found by God.

I ask your prayers for the departed [especially ____].
Pray for those who have died.

I ask your prayers and thanksgivings...

Praise God in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.
Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth:
Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to
do your will; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Confession of Sin

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor

All 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.

Celebrant God, who is both power and love,
forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by the Holy Spirit,
and raise you to new life in Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.
People And also with you.

Peace, Salaam, Shalom

Peace, Salaam, Shalom

Peace, Salaam, Shalom

Peace, Salaam, Shalom

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The Holy Communion

Celebrant Do good, be rich in good works, generous and ready to share,
thus store up for yourselves the treasures of a good foundation for the future,
so that you may take hold of a life that really is life. *1 Tim 6:18-18 adapted*

During this time of virtual worship, when we gather for communion it is a "spiritual communion."

As Episcopalians, we believe when we desire communion but we are not able to partake because of extreme circumstances, that all the benefits of Communion are received even though the Sacrament is not consumed with our mouths. (BCP 457)

The Great Thanksgiving

Enriching our Worship, Eucharistic Prayer 1

Celebrant God be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to our God.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one Body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life. Therefore, joining with angels and archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we say:

All Holy, holy, holy One, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blest is the one who comes in the name of our God.
Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant 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. Do this for the remembrance of me."

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 many, for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Celebrant 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 all your children,
that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come,
we may praise your Name forever.
Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
to you be honor, glory, and praise, forever and ever. AMEN

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Lord's Prayer

All Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant The gifts of God for the People of God.

Act of Reception, said by all

In union, blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, and remembering particularly all members of St. Luke's, I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death and resurrection, for the means of grace and hope of glory.

And particularly for the blessings given me... [*share your blessings*],

I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and since I cannot at the time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.

(from St. Augustine's Prayerbook, permission by Forward Movement.)

A Time of Silent Reverence

A time of silence or meditative music

Postcommunion Prayer

All 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.

Blessing

May God,
the Source of all life,
the Incarnate Word,
and the Holy Spirit,
bless you, now and forever. Amen.

Dismissal

Celebrant Let us bless the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Hymn 541 Come, labor on

Jane Laurie Borthwick (1813-1897), alt.

Come, labor on. Who dares stand idle on the harvest plain,
while all around us waves the golden grain? And to each servant does the Master say,
'Go work today.'

Come, labor on. Away with gloomy doubts and faithless fear!
No arm so weak but may do service here: by feeblest agents may our God fulfill
his righteous will.

Come, labor on. No time for rest, till glows the western sky,
till the long shadows o'er our pathway lie, and a glad sound comes with the setting sun,
'Servants, well done.'

Sermon

We are grateful to the Order of St. Helena who have adapted this material for use.