

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH KILLEEN, TEXAS

OCTOBER 4, 2020



THE BLESSING OF OUR PETS

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KILLEEN, TEXAS
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1 All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voices, let us sing:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Bright burning sun with golden beams,
Pale silver moon that gently gleams,
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4 Dear mother earth, you day by day
unfold your blessings on our way;
O praise him, Alleluia!
All flowers and fruits that in you grow,
let them his glory also show:
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

7 Let all things their creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness,
O praise him, Alleluia!
Praise God the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One:
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Celebrant: The Spirit of the Lord is with us.

People: **And with all creation.**

Celebrant: Let us praise our Creator.

People: **We give thanks for the wonderful earth.**

Celebrant: Let us sing a song of praise with the whole creation.

People: **Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.**

Celebrant: Almighty God, who knows our hearts, our fears, our joys, and our deepest needs, breathe your life into us. Let us recognize your nearness, that we might be filled with your peace. Let us love you and one another better. **Amen.**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray:

The Collect of the Day

BCP 234

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear, than we are to pray, and to give us more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid. Give us those good things, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior, that we need in these days. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the LORD God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die." Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin."

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

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

Psalm 19 - *Caeli enarrant*

BCP 606

- 1 The heavens declare the glory of God, *
and the firmament shows his handiwork.
- 2 One day tells its tale to another, *
and one night imparts knowledge to another.
- 3 Although they have no words or language, *
and their voices are not heard,
- 4 Their sound has gone out into all lands, *
and their message to the ends of the world.
- 7 The law of the LORD perfect
and revives the soul; *
the testimony of the LORD sure
and gives wisdom to the innocent.
- 8 The statutes of the LORD are just
and rejoice the heart; *
the commandment of the LORD clear
and gives light to the eyes.
- 11 By them also is your servant enlightened, *
and in keeping them there is great reward.
- 12 Who can tell how often he offends? *
cleanse me from my secret faults.
- 13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;

let them not get dominion over me; *
then shall I be whole and sound,
and innocent of a great offense.

14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my
heart be acceptable in your sight, *
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

The Second Lesson

Philippians 3:4b-14

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

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

1 Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
O Thou of God and man the Son;
thee will I cherish, thee will I honor,
thou, my soul's glory, joy and crown.

2 Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
robed in the blooming garb of spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
who makes the woeful heart to sing.

At the Gospel reading:

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

People: ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

The Gospel

Matthew 21:33-46

Jesus said, "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.'" So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:

 'The stone that the builders rejected

 has become the cornerstone;

 this was the Lord's doing,

 and it is amazing in our eyes'?

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a

the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped 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

Leader: For this gathering today.

People: ***Lord, we thank you.***

Leader: For family, for friends, and for all who show us how to live.

People: ***Lord, we thank you.***

Leader: For our pets, and all the animals you have made to brighten our world

People: ***Lord, we thank you.***

Leader: For each day in this world and the promise of the next.

People: ***Lord, we thank you.***

Leader: Lord, we pray for all who are suffering through loneliness, or pain, or fear.

People: ***Let them know you are near.***

Leader: We thank you for your open arms, receiving all those we have lost.

People: ***Comfort us Lord, for we miss them.***

Leader: O God, we know you will not allow the love which exists between your creatures to perish: We pray for those animals who have died.

At this time, you may speak of your losses, joys, concerns, and hopes, either aloud or in the silence of your heart. (silence)

People: ***Comfort those who mourn, including those who have lost a beloved pet.***

Leader: Hear us Lord, heal us, keep us in your peace. ***Amen.***

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

BCP 360

Silence may be kept.

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Absolution

BCP 360

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

(shared by waving, smiling, peace signs, etc., from one's pew)

Newcomers/Birthdays/Anniversaries/Deployments

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

BCP 377

Celebrant: Offer to God, as you can, a sacrifice of Thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High. *Psalm 50:14*

Offertory Hymn

Piano

(The Priest prepares the Table)

Eucharistic Prayer C

BCP 369

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

The Celebrant proceeds:

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command, all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

The Sanctus (said)

***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.

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, 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."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you:

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 for the remembrance of me.”

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

***We celebrate his death and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming.***

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. ***Amen.***

A brief silence is kept.

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

**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.**

Breaking of the Bread

BCP 364

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

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Celebrant: The 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.

A brief silence is kept.

The Dismissal

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

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

Postlude

Organ

Pet Blessing



Please join us outside with your pets at 12:00 Noon for the Blessing of the Animals service.

**Treats will be available for humans and pets.
Your pet will receive a St. Francis medal for their collar.**

All music used under OneLicense permit #A-720720



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All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own we have given Thee.

Our service today is adapted from The Book of Common Prayer.
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