

Laurence the Deacon

10 August 2022

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Greeting

Presider

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Kyrie

Lord, in your love you invite us to be your friends:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, in your joy you choose us to go out and bear fruit:

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, in your power you send us to be your faithful witnesses:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Collect of the Day

Presider

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you called your holy deacon Laurence to minister the riches of Christ, and for the sake of Christ's name gladly to pour forth his life. Grant to us who keep his feast such faithfulness in our service to one another and such joy in bearing witness to you, that the world may be stirred to open its heart and attend to your word of salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The First Reading: Colossians 1.24-29

Reader

A reading from the letter to the Colossians.

I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil and struggle with all the energy that he powerfully inspires within me.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

The Psalm of the Day: Psalm 69.29-34

Psalmist

The afflicted shall see and be glad.

The afflicted shall see and be glad.

²⁹ As for me, I am afflicted and in pain; *
your help, O God, will lift me up on high.

³⁰ I will praise the name of God in song; *
I will proclaim your greatness with thanksgiving.

The afflicted shall see and be glad.

³¹ This will please the Lord more than an offering of oxen, *
more than bullocks with horns and hoofs.

³² The afflicted shall see and be glad; *
you who seek God, your heart shall live.

The afflicted shall see and be glad.

³³ For the Lord listens to the needy *
and does not despise the prisoners.

³⁴ Let the heavens and the earth praise the Lord, *
the seas and all that moves in them.

The afflicted shall see and be glad.

The Gospel: Mark 8.34-38

Deacon

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

The Gospel of Christ.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sermon

THE PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

Intercessions, Petitions and Thanksgivings

Leader of the Prayers

Let us pray.

Loving God, our source and our final home, we give you thanks for the gifts of life on earth, for our human bodies and all you have created. In your great mercy, **hear us, O God.**

Merciful God, by the wounds of your Son we are healed. Bring your saving health to all people. In your great mercy, **hear us, O God.**

Holy God, your Spirit came upon us in the waters of baptism and brought us into the communion of saints. Renew in us the grace of baptism, by which we share in Christ's death and resurrection. In your great mercy, **hear us, O God.**

Mighty God, your Son Jesus brought healing and wholeness to all. Bring your healing presence now to all who are sick or in pain. Grant hope to all who are discouraged or in despair. In your great mercy, **hear us, O God.**

Compassionate God, the strength of those who suffer, bring hope and peace to all who are in mental, physical or spiritual distress. In your great mercy, **hear us, O God.**

Almighty God, source of human knowledge, give skill, wisdom and compassion to all who provide medical care. In your great mercy, **hear us, O God.**

Loving God, our creator and redeemer, give gentleness and courage to family members, friends and caregivers of those who suffer. In your great mercy, **hear us, O God.**

Gracious God, we hold before you those personal intercessions, petitions and thanksgivings that are in our hearts and minds. *(Other petitions may be offered, including particular needs and requests for healing.)* In your great mercy, **hear us, O God.**

God of great and abundant mercy, with your presence sustain all for whom we pray. Drive away their suffering, give them firm hope, and strengthen their trust in you; through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

The Exchange of the Peace

Presider

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Prayer over the Gifts

Presider

Let us pray.

Gracious Lord, your blessed martyr Laurence cherished the riches of your Church in the lives of the poor and needy. Regard your own gifts in us, that we may be worthy to share in the one oblation by which your Son redeemed the world from its sorrow. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; you are glorified in the assembly of your saint. All your martyrs bless you and praise you, confessing before the powers of this world the great name of your only Son. Therefore we join our voices with theirs, and with all who have served you in every age, to proclaim the glory of your name.

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.

O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation, hear us as we praise, call us to your table, grant us your life.

When the world was a formless void, you formed order and beauty. When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child. When the Israelites were enslaved, you led them to freedom. Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath, and the psalmists cried out for healing, and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother. He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression, he wept over the city. With infinite love, he granted the people your life.

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

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his death, we cry out Amen. Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen. Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen.

O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal. O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself. O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one. O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

O God most majestic, O God most motherly, O God our strength and our song, you show us a vision of a tree of life with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations. Grant us such life, the life of the Father to the Son, the life of the Spirit of our risen Saviour, life in you, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Presider

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray:

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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Presider

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

We, being many, are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Dear friends in Christ, God bids you welcome to this table. Here we are strengthened for the journey. Here strangers become friends and the seeker finds God's wisdom speaking to them. See who you are and become what you see.

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

The Communion

If you are not physically receiving Communion, then offer this prayer.

In union, O God, with all your faithful people gathered wherever the eucharist is celebrated this day, I offer you praise and thanksgiving for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption given to us through the life, death and resurrection of Christ, and for the means of grace and the hope of glory. I pray you come into my heart, my soul and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you. May I serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your promised reign of justice and peace; through Christ and in the unity of the Spirit.

Amen.

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE COMMUNITY

The Prayer after Communion

Presider

Let us pray.

Kindle in your Church, O God, the Spirit whom blessed Laurence served, that we may love what he loved and hasten to follow the example of his faithful daring; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Doxology

Glory to God, whose power working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Deacon

Go in peace to love and serve the God of the poor.
Thanks be to God.