

# Ante Communion Service: September 12, 2021, Proper 19B Creation

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*Celebrant* Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

*Celebrant* Gracious God, you reveal your goodness in the beauty and diversity of creation; in the circle dance of earth and air and water; in a universe rich in growth and coherence, distinctiveness and community; and above all in the gift of Jesus Christ, who emptied himself to serve your world. And so we offer thanks and praise to you, one God in three persons: the Author and Source of all, Christ the Incarnate Word, and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*A moment of silence for self-reflection*

*Celebrant* Let us confess our sin against God and God's creation.

*People* **Merciful and sustaining God, we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed. We confess our lack of gratitude for the beauty and bounty of your creation: teach us to see that your earth sustains us and all that lives. We confess that we have taken the abundance of your world for granted: make us urgent now for its protection. Forgive and renew us now through our Savior Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, with whom you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

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

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

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

Creator of All,

We are grateful that from your communion of love you created our planet to be a home for all.

By your Holy Wisdom you made the Earth to bring forth a diversity of living beings that filled the soil, water and air. Each part of creation praises you in their being, and cares for one another from our place in the web of life.

In this Season of Creation, we pray that the breath of your creative Word would move our hearts, as in the waters of our birth and baptism. Give us faith to follow Christ to our just place in the beloved community. Enlighten us with the grace to respond to your covenant and call to care for our common home. In our tilling and keeping, gladden our hearts to know that we participate with your Holy Spirit to renew the face of your Earth, and safeguard a home for all.

In the name of the One who came to proclaim good news to all creation, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Let us pray together: **God of unchangeable power, when you fashioned the world, the morning stars sang together and the host of heaven shouted for joy; open our eyes to the wonders of creation and teach us to use all things for good, to the honor of your glorious name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**First Reading****Isaiah 50:4-9a**

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens--wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 116:1-8***Dilexi, quoniam*

I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, \*

**because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.**

The cords of death entangled me; the grip of the grave took hold of me; \*

**I came to grief and sorrow.**

Then I called upon the Name of the Lord: \*

**"O Lord, I pray you, save my life."**

Gracious is the Lord and righteous; \*

**our God is full of compassion.**

The Lord watches over the innocent; \*

**I was brought very low, and he helped me.**

Turn again to your rest, O my soul, \*

**for the Lord has treated you well.**

For you have rescued my life from death, \*

**my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.**

I will walk in the presence of the Lord \*

**in the land of the living.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. World without end. Amen.**

**Second Reading****James 3:1-12**

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue-- a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God.

From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so.

Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine yield fresh.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Gospel**

**Mark 8:27-38**

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

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." He 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 the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Sermon**

**Hymn**

**Be Thou My Vision**

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart, naught be all else to me, save that thou art  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light  
Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word, I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord  
Thou my great Father, and I thy true son, thou in me dwelling and I with thee one  
Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise, thou mine inheritance, now and always  
Thou and thou only first in my heart, high king of heaven, my treasure thou art  
High king of heaven, my victory won. May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun.  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O ruler of all*

## Nicene Creed

*Said by all.*

**We believe in one God, the Father 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 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 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.**

## Prayers of the People

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need,  
and all of God's creation. In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence*

Creator of earth, sea, and sky, kindle the fire of your Spirit within us that we may be bold to heal and  
defend the earth, and pour your blessing upon all who work for the good of the planet.

*Silence* God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Source of life, heal and redeem the wounds of your creation, and visit the places and people who suffer  
from our indifference, neglect, and greed.

*Silence* God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Lover of all you have made, we thank you for the wondrous diversity of your creatures, and we pray for  
their well-being.

*Silence* God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Giver of all good gifts, awaken us daily to our dependence upon your bounty, and make us always  
thankful for the abundance of your blessings.

*Silence* God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Divine Physician, heal our communities, especially those where neglect, greed, or violence inflict suffering  
upon people and other creatures.

*Silence* God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Comforter of all the earth, sustain the people of this congregation who desire or need your presence and  
help [*especially*].

*Silence* God, Giver of life, **Hear our prayer.**

Rock and refuge of all your creatures, receive into everlasting mercy all those who have died [especially].

*Silence*            God, Giver of life,                            **Hear our prayer.**

Eternal and loving God, we give you thanks for another day on this earth.

We give you thanks for this day to enjoy the compassionate goodness of you, our Creator.

We acknowledge with one mind our respect and gratefulness to all the sacred cycle of life.

Bind us together in the circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and one another. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we pray together:

**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.**

We pray together for Christ's presence:

**My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the bread and wine.**

**I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul.**

**Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.**

*Celebrant:* While we long to receive the sacrament of Christ's Body,

*People:*    **We become the sacrament of Christ's Body.**

*Celebrant:* Let your lives be manna to feed our hunger for communion.

*People:*    **The love we share becomes bread for the world.**

### **Blessing**

May the blessing of Christ's light be on you - light without and light within.

May the blessed sunlight shine on you and warm your heart till it glows.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be in you, among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace and hope and joy to love and serve God's creation. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**