

# Ante Communion Service: September 19, 2021, Proper 20B 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: **Grant us, Lord, 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 Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**First Reading****Wisdom of Solomon 1:16-2:1, 12-22**

The ungodly by their words and deeds summoned death; considering him a friend, they pined away and made a covenant with him, because they are fit to belong to his company. For they reasoned unsoundly, saying to themselves, "Short and sorrowful is our life, and there is no remedy when a life comes to its end, and no one has been known to return from Hades. Let us lie in wait for the righteous man, because he is inconvenient to us and opposes our actions; he reproaches us for sins against the law, and accuses us of sins against our training. He professes to have knowledge of God, and calls himself a child of the Lord. He became to us a reproof of our thoughts; the very sight of him is a burden to us, because his manner of life is unlike that of others, and his ways are strange. We are considered by him as something base, and he avoids our ways as unclean; he calls the last end of the righteous happy, and boasts that God is his father. Let us see if his words are true, and let us test what will happen at the end of his life; for if the righteous man is God's child, he will help him, and will deliver him from the hand of his adversaries. Let us test him with insult and torture, so that we may find out how gentle he is, and make trial of his forbearance. Let us condemn him to a shameful death, for, according to what he says, he will be protected." Thus they reasoned, but they were led astray, for their wickedness blinded them, and they did not know the secret purposes of God, nor hoped for the wages of holiness, nor discerned the prize for blameless souls.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 54**

*Deus, in nomine*

Save me, O God, by your Name; \*  
**in your might, defend my cause.**

Hear my prayer, O God; \*  
**give ear to the words of my mouth.**

For the arrogant have risen up against me, and the ruthless have sought my life, \*  
**those who have no regard for God.**

Behold, God is my helper; \*  
**it is the Lord who sustains my life.**

Render evil to those who spy on me; \*  
**in your faithfulness, destroy them.**

I will offer you a freewill sacrifice \*  
**and praise your Name, O Lord, for it is good.**

For you have rescued me from every trouble, \*  
**and my eye has seen the ruin of my foes.**

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 3:13-4:3, 7-8a**

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and

good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace. Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel**

**Mark 9:30-37**

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

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus and his disciples passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Sermon**

**Hymn**

**Take my life and let it be**

*Saint Michael's Singers*

*Take my life and let it be, consecrated, Lord, to thee.  
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in endless praise.  
Take my hands and let them move, at the impulse of thy love.  
Take my feet and let them be, swift and beautiful for thee.  
Take my voice and let me sing, always, only, for my King.  
Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee.  
Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.  
Take my intellect and use every power as thou shalt choose.  
Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.  
Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store.  
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.*

## 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.**