

Ante Communion Service: September 26, 2021, Proper 21B 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.**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the Creator, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our holy house, and for all who offer their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia. Worthy is Christ the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and blessing, and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing, and honor, and glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God. For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.

Let us pray together: **O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

First Reading **Numbers 11:4-6,10-16,24-29**

The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, "If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at."

Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the Lord became very angry, and Moses was displeased. So Moses said to the Lord, "Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child,' to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors? Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, 'Give us meat to eat!' I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once—if I have found favor in your sight—and do not let me see my misery."

So the Lord said to Moses, "Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you."

So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, "My lord Moses, stop them!" But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 19:7-14 *Caeli enarrant*

The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; *
the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.
The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; *
the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.
The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever; *
the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, *
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.
By them also is your servant enlightened, *
and in keeping them there is great reward.

Who can tell how often he offends? *

cleanse me from my secret faults.

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.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, *

O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

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 5:13-20

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Mark 9:38-50

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

"If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

"For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

*All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all;
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all.*

*Ye chosen seed of Israel's race, ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail Him who saves you by His grace, and crown Him Lord of all;
Hail Him who saves you by His grace, and crown Him Lord of all.*

*Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe, on this terrestrial ball,
To Him all majesty ascribe, and crown Him Lord of all;
To Him all majesty ascribe, and crown Him Lord of all.*

*O that with yonder sacred throng we at His feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song, and praise Him Lord of all;
We'll join the everlasting song, and praise Him Lord of all.*

Apostles' Creed**Said by all.**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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.