

## Ante Communion Service: September 4, 2022: Proper 18C

*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* Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*A moment of silence for self-reflection*

*Celebrant* Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*People* **Gracious God, have mercy on us.  
We confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors  
as ourselves, we have not loved Creation with the love of the Creator.  
We are truly sorry, and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways  
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

*Celebrant* Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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

Let us pray: **Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

### **First Reading                      Deuteronomy 30:15-20**

Moses said to all Israel the words which the Lord commanded him, "See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Psalm 1**

*Beatus vir qui non abiit*

1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, \*  
**nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!**

2 Their delight is in the law of the Lord, \*  
**and they meditate on his law day and night.**

3 They are like trees planted by streams of water,  
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; \*  
**everything they do shall prosper.**

4 It is not so with the wicked; \*  
**they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, \*  
**nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.**

6 For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, \*  
**but the way of the wicked is doomed.**

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**

**Philemon 1-21**

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,  
To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to  
the church in your house:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints  
and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you  
perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement  
from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather  
appeal to you on the basis of love-- and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ  
Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my  
imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am  
sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of  
service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without  
your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is  
the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, no longer as  
a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother-- especially to me but how much more to you, both in  
the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any  
way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will  
repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit  
from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you,  
knowing that you will do even more than I say.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## Gospel

### Luke 14:25-33

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

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## Sermon

### Hymn

#### Jesus Draw Me Ever Nearer

1. *Jesus draw me ever nearer as I labor through the storm.  
You have called me to this passage, and I'll follow, though I'm worn.*

*Refrain: May this journey bring a blessing, may I rise on wings of faith;  
And at the end of my heart's testing, with Your likeness let me wake.*

2. *Jesus guide me through the tempest; keep my spirit staid and sure.  
When the midnight meets the morning, let me love You even more. Refrain*
3. *Let the treasures of the trial form within me as I go -  
And at the end of this long passage, let me leave them at Your throne. Refrain*

## 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

*Celebrant* 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*

For this community, the nation, and the world;  
**For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

For the peace and unity of the world;  
**That a spirit of respect may grow among nations and peoples.**

For the just and proper use of your creation;  
**For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

For all bishops and other ministers;  
**For all who serve God in his Church.**

For all who love and trust in God, that divisions may cease;  
**And that all may be one, as you and the Father are one.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble; especially those suffering in Ukraine,  
**For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.  
*Silence. The People may add their own petitions.*

Hear us, Lord;  
**For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. *Silence.*  
We will exalt you, O God our King;  
**And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.  
*Silence.* Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them.  
**May they rest in your peace eternally.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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 Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world;

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 the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!**

***The Lord Bless You and Keep You [Lutkin]***

*Acapeldridge*

*The Lord bless you and keep you.*

*The Lord lift his countenance upon you and give you peace.*

*The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.*

*Amen....*