



## Morning Prayer and Holy Eucharist at the Church of St. Paul, Cambria

• The 5th Sunday of Easter • April 28, 2024 •

### Opening Hymn 212

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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 Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

As a vinegrower, O God, you have grafted us onto Christ, that we may abide as living branches joined to the true vine. Bestow on us the comforting presence of your Holy Spirit, so that, loving one another with a love that is sincere, we may become the firstfruits of a humanity made new. Now, prepare us to bear a rich harvest of holiness and peace, as we confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**Most merciful God, 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 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.**

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

Lord, open our lips

**And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### Jubilate: Psalm 100

1 Be joyful in the LORD, all you lands; serve the LORD with gladness and come before his presence with a song.

2 Know this: The LORD himself is God; he himself has made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

3 Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise; give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

4 For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

### Psalm 22:24-30

24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; \* I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: \* "May your heart live for ever!"

26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, \* and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

27 For kingship belongs to the LORD; \* he rules over the nations.

28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; \* all who go down to the dust fall before him.

29 My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; \* they shall be known as the LORD'S for ever.

30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn \* the saving deeds that he has done.

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

**Collects:** Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The first lesson is from the Acts of the Apostles (8:26-40)

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and

like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

**Thanks be to God.**

**Canticle 11:** The Third Song of Isaiah

Arise, shine, for your light has come, \* and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.

For behold, darkness covers the land; \* deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.

But over you the Lord will rise, \* and his glory will appear upon you.

Nations will stream to your light, \* and kings to the brightness of your dawning.

Your gates will always be open; \* by day or night they will never be shut.

They will call you, The City of the Lord, \* The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

Violence will no more be heard in your land, \* ruin or destruction within your borders.

You will call your walls, Salvation, \* and all your portals, Praise.

The sun will no more be your light by day; \* by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.

The Lord will be your everlasting light, \* and your God will be your glory.

Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \* as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever will be. Amen.

The second lesson is from the First Letter of John (4:7-21)

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us

so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

**Thanks be to God.**

**Canticle 19: The Song of the Redeemed**

O ruler of the universe, Lord God, great deeds are they that you have done, \* surpassing human understanding.

Your ways are ways of righteousness and truth, \* O King of all the ages.

Who can fail to do you homage, Lord, and sing the praises of your Name? \* for you only are the Holy One.

All nations will draw near and fall down before you, \* because your just and holy works have been revealed.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \* as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John (15:1-8)

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit,

because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine,  
he did not cling to equality with God,  
but made himself nothing.  
Taking the form of a slave,  
he was born in human likeness.  
He humbled himself  
and was obedient to death,  
even the death of the cross.  
Therefore God has raised him on high,  
and given him the name above every name:  
that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bow,  
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

*cf Philippians 2.6-11*

### The Sermon

Sermon Music

### The Prayers of the People

Let us join through prayer with everything that lives. Let us acknowledge to God the one life we share, saying: O God, who makes us one, hear our prayer.

O God, your Holy Spirit is alive in all the earth. Your Spirit that moved and shaped land and sea, trees and beasts still moves and shapes us into creation. Through Christ we know your one Holy Spirit, for you are God of all. That all the world may know your Spirit, we pray: O God, who makes us one, **hear our prayer.**

Open your world before our eyes, so that we see far and near. Show us newly what lives around us, over and behind and within. Give us the mind of Christ. O God, who makes us one, **hear our prayer.**

Bring us to one another, that we may hear and understand each other. Bring trust and sympathy between the peoples of the world. Make all

nations one household with many rooms. O God, who makes us one, **hear our prayer.**

Heal us who are sick. Cheer us who are guilty. Love us who are alone. Join us who are distant. Call all the world to yourself. O God, who makes us one, **hear our prayer.**

Bind the wounds, physical, mental, and spiritual of those who are victims of evil or war, especially the people of Ukraine, Gaza, Somalia, Congo and many more. O God, who makes us one, **hear our prayer.**

Enliven the church with the Spirit of Christ. Through us give your loving Spirit to a world in need of comfort. Make our many gifts one offering for the world. O God, who makes us one, **hear our prayer.**

Sustain those who serve our nation in the military, especially those who are far from home and in mortal danger. Bring them home safe and sound. O God, who makes us one, **hear our prayer.**

May all the children of Abraham, Christians, Jews, and Muslims, through their prayers and deeds grow close to the heart of the Most High. O God, who makes us one, **hear our prayer.**

*(Here other intercessions may be offered.)*

*Celebrant concludes*

O God, keep our minds inside your love, for we are many parts and need to be one. We beg for this unity which only your Spirit can give, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Offertory:** Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:2

### **Offertory Hymn 491**

**Prayer over the gifts:** Gracious God, you show us your way and give us your divine life. May everything we do be directed by the knowledge of your truth. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord. **Amen.**

### The Great Thanksgiving (EP B)

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 him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life. Therefore we praise

you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn 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.**

*The people stand or kneel.*

We give thanks to you, O God, . . . .

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,**

**We proclaim his resurrection,**

**We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise . . . .

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

Because in Christ we have received the Spirit of adoption, as sons and daughters of God, we dare to pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory, are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, is risen, alleluia! and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving. Blessed are those who are called to the banquet of the Lamb.

### **Communion of the People**

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. May we who are partakers of his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save.

Let us pray. **Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Knowing that all of our community cannot share the Eucharist in person, we affirm that the true mystical communion of Christ and His Church is a bond of spirit and heart, grounded in faith. Therefore, we commit ourselves to this deep bond of the Spirit in union with Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Blessing:**

The God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

### **The Peace**

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

*Greet one another in the Lord's name.*

### **Announcements**

*Thanksgiving Prayer:* We give you thanks, O God, for your many blessings: for our days of celebration, for the love that surrounds us, for your healing presence in our lives. Keep us in your care, we pray, and help us to live as truly thankful people. Amen.

### **Closing Hymn 180**

### **Dismissal:**

Alleluia, alleluia! Go forth and bear witness to Christ, who is gloriously risen from the dead!

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