

A Service of Praise and Prayer for Sunday, September 12, 2021

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost



ANGLICAN
DIOCESE OF
NIAGARA

Prelude

WELCOME & TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

GATHERING

Bishop: O Lord open our lips!

All: and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

Bishop: Lead your people to freedom, O God,

All: and banish all darkness from our hearts and minds

THE COLLECT

Bishop: God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit
upon your Church in the burning fire of your love:
grant that your people may be fervent
in the fellowship of the gospel
that, always abiding in you,
they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All: Amen

We sing together... O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing (Common Praise #306)

1. O for a thousand tongues to sing
my dear Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!
2. Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease,
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life and health and peace.
3. He speaks and listening to his voice,
new life the dead receive,
the mournful broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.
4. Hear him, ye deaf, voiceless ones,
your loosened tongues employ;
ye blind behold your saviour come,
and leap ye lame for joy.
5. My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread thro' all the earth abroad
the honors of your name.

CALLED to LIFE
COMPELLED to LOVE

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LITURGY OF THE WORD

A READING: Proverbs 1:20-33

Reader: Wisdom cries out in the street;
in the squares she raises her voice.
At the busiest corner she cries out;
at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:
'How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple?
How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing
and fools hate knowledge?
Give heed to my reproof;
I will pour out my thoughts to you;
I will make my words known to you.
Because I have called and you refused,
have stretched out my hand and no one heeded,
and because you have ignored all my counsel
and would have none of my reproof,
I also will laugh at your calamity;
I will mock when panic strikes you,
when panic strikes you like a storm,
and your calamity comes like a whirlwind,
when distress and anguish come upon you.
Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer;
they will seek me diligently, but will not find me.
Because they hated knowledge
and did not choose the fear of the Lord,
would have none of my counsel,
and despised all my reproof,
therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way
and be sated with their own devices.
For waywardness kills the simple,
and the complacency of fools destroys them;
but those who listen to me will be secure
and will live at ease, without dread of disaster.'

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word,
All: Thanks be to God.

A short silence meditating on the reading is kept.

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THE GOSPEL: Mark 8:27-38

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Saint Mark.

All: **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

One: 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 Christ.

All: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

We sing together... How Clear is our Vocation, Lord (Common Praise #466)

1. How clear is our vocation, Lord,
when once we heed your call:
to live according to your word,
and daily learn, refreshed, restored,
that you are Lord of all,
and will not let us fall.
2. But if, forgetful, we should find
your yoke is hard to bear;
if worldly pressures fray the mind,
and love itself cannot unwind
Its tangled skein of care:
our inward life repair.
3. We marvel how your saints become
in hindrances more sure;
whose joyful virtues put to shame
the casual way we wear your name,
and by our faults obscure
your power to cleanse and cure.
4. In what you give us, Lord, to do,
together or along,
in old routines and ventures new,
may we not cease to look to you,
the cross you hung upon -
all you endeavored done.

THE HOMILY: Bishop Susan Bell

Music is played during a time of reflection.

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INTERCESSIONS

One: Let us pray....

God of Resurrection, our hope and our joy, our comfort and our support,
we make our prayer to you saying, Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

One: Holy God you call us to be built into a spiritual temple,
we pray for your church that we may be built up, in faith, hope and love,
and given courage and boldness to proclaim your Gospel in new and creative ways.
We pray for our parishes, gathering again for the first time in many months,
that we may show our love for you and one another, in the reshaping of our common life,
and in the celebration and joy of our meeting.

Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

One: As Wisdom raises her voice in the streets that all may hear, so we pray for our local schools
and all who gather there to learn and grow, in wisdom and knowledge.
We pray for all those who have returned to school this week
and especially for those who have started in new places;
for staff working to ensure a safe environment and for parents adapting to another change.
We hold before you those children who are most challenged by this time
and the educational support workers, who support them.

Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

One: O Christ who brought healing, by touch and word and even by the hem of your garment,
we pray for all those who are sick, especially for those suffering with COVID-19.
We pray for the healers in their care and for the ongoing distribution of life-saving vaccines.
We lift before you in this moment of silence anyone we know to be in need at this time...

(Silence is kept)

For the relief of pain, and healing in mind, body, and spirit, we pray.

Lord in your mercy.

All: hear our prayer.

One: O God who brought your people out of slavery and suffering,
who led them and provided for them and promised a new land and new life,
we pray for all those who flee violence, persecution, war and terror.
Today we remember especially those continuing to flee Afghanistan
and all those continuing to live in refugee camps many years after fleeing,
waiting with hope for a new life. We pray for their protection and for safe passage,
for the quickening of bureaucracy, and hearts ready to receive them.
May we be deeply aware of our common need and fragility,
and welcome the stranger as Christ among us.

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Lord in your mercy,
All: hear our prayer.

One: God, who in the beginning made heaven and earth,
who stretched out the heavens,
who set the stars in their place, and brought the mountains to birth,
who has made human kind in your image,
in this season of creation, we thank you for this wonderful world of which we are a part,
and through which you bless us so richly with sustenance, beauty and wonder.
We repent of the ways we mistreat your world.
Turn us around to walk a new way in harmony with the earth,
sharing with all living things, the blessings of your provision.

Lord in your mercy,
All: hear our prayer.

One: O Lord our governor, King of Kings, ruler and creator,
we pray for all those who assume the privilege of power and authority,
of leadership and governance.
That they may do so with humility, always seeking what is true and what is right,
and make decisions mindful of the needs of the most vulnerable.
We pray for the upcoming elections here in Canada,
that we may vote with wisdom, mindful of the priority of climate justice,
the relief of poverty and the ongoing pandemic.

Lord in your mercy,
All: hear our prayer.

Bishop: Trusting in the compassion of God, and in the language and version of our choice,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**All: 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,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today 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 for ever. Amen.**

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We Sing Together... Forth in thy Name, O Lord, I Go (Common Praise #467)

1. Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go,
my daily labor to pursue,
thee only, thee, resolved to know
in all I think or speak or do.
2. The task thy wisdom has assigned
O let me cheerfully fulfill;
in all my works thy presence find,
and prove thy good and perfect will.
3. Thee may I set at my right hand,
whose eyes my inmost substance see,
and labor on at thy command
and offer all my work to thee.
4. Help me to bear thy easy yoke,
and ev'ry moment watch and pray,
and still to things eternal look
and hasten to thy glorious day.
5. For thee delightfully employ
what e'er thy bounteous grace hath given,
and run my course with even joy,
and closely walk with thee to heaven.

Closing remarks and announcements.

THE BLESSING

Postlude