

THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023 | 5:00 PM | THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

Holy Eucharist in the Celtic Tradition



This liturgy is adapted from "A Celtic Liturgy for Every Season" by Elizabeth Grover.

The people's response is in bold.

PRELUDE

OPENING WORDS

The God of love is with us.

The Spirit of love is in us.

Blessed is the Holy Spirit, the breath of God.

Let the winds and all creation praise you.

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

We will light a light in the name of our Creator -

God who breathes life into all creation,

We will light a light in the name of our Redeemer -

Jesus who teaches us of the love that flows in all.

We will light a light in the name of our Inspiration -

The Holy Spirit who enlightens our thinking, strengthens our will, and renews us.

OPENING PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, to you our hearts are open and our inmost desires known. We cannot hide our most intimate secrets from you. Be present at all times in our thoughts and hearts and purify them with your Holy Spirit, so that we may love you with the love of the Spirit and praise your name with humility and joy; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

God breathes life into creation. Let us praise the God of all breath, of all creation!

O God, our strength

We praise you for your power.

O God, our Shield.

We praise you for your protection

O God, our Comfort

We praise you for your solace.

O God, our Inspiration

We praise you for your renewal

O God, our Life,

We praise you for your grace.

O God of all,

We praise you for your love.

Glory to the God of all! Glory forever! Amen.

FIRST LESSON

GENESIS 50:15-21

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSE

On Thy Wondrous Works I Will Meditate

By Mary Oliver

4.

How many mysteries have you seen in your
lifetime? How many nets pulled
full over the boat's side, each silver body
ready or not falling into
submission? How many roses in early summer
uncurling above the pale sands then

falling back in unfathomable
willingness? And what can you say? Glory
to the rose and the leaf, to the seed, to the
silver fish. Glory to time and the wild fields,
and to joy. And to grief's shock and torpor, its near swoon.

GOSPEL SONG

Only sung when a musician is present.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. The

Word of the Lord lasts for ev - er. What is the Word that is liv - ing? It is

brought to us - through his Son Je - sus Christ.

THE GOSPEL

MATTHEW 18:21-35

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE HOMILY

There will be a pause for silent reflection immediately following the homily.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

- Celebrant* We now pray for the needs of all people throughout the world, remembering that we are God's people and the hand of love on earth. Let us pray.
- Intercessor* Blessed are you, O God, for your life giving breath at the heart of creation from which all joy and gladness came forth;
- People* **For the breath of life; for the heavens and earth, and all things molded from the dust.**
- Intercessor* As we give thanks for the gift of this life and for the comfort we receive in your holy presence, we pray for those places in our world and our lives where there is no joy or comfort;
- People* **For communities in ruins and war-torn people and nations; for those held captive physically or emotionally;**
- Intercessor* For those who are weary or weakened by troubles;
- People* **And those who are dying and frightened;**
- Intercessor* For the sick and the suffering, especially those we now name.
For the departed and those who mourn.
<Pause for additional prayers.>
We ask your comfort and your holy presence, Lord,
- People* **For all people, for our loved ones and for ourselves.**
- Intercessor* We pray to you, O Holy Spirit, that we may know your love within us and in the world, and that our lives may be a witness to that love and to your glory.

SHARING THE PEACE

God makes peace within us.

Let us claim it.

God makes peace between us.

Let us share it.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY

We encourage you to give your offering electronically today through our CoR App. (Search Redeemer Cincy in your app store.) Or you may choose to give online via our secure online system located here:

<https://redeemercincy.tpsdb.com/Give/offering> *There are also two collection spots in the narthex (look for the Give Here signs) where you may deposit your offering safely.*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 God thanks and praise.

We offer you praise and hearts lifted high, O God. You breathe into us your Spirit, and by the blowing of the gentle breeze, you remind us of the constancy of your loving presence. Your glory is in the breath of each created thing, and through your creation we see the holiness and wonder of your being, And so with all the hosts of heaven and earth, with the wind that howls and the gentle breeze that soothes, we join in the praises of your unending greatness:

Celebrant and People

Spoken unless a musician is present.

The musical score is written in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, heav'n and earth are filled with your glo - ry, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est". The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some phrases held over from the previous staff.

Blessed are you, O God, for the great day of salvation prepared from the beginning of the world, when Christ, though rejected on earth, will be seen by all to be chosen and precious in your sight. We bless you for Christ who carried sin's destructive powers to the cross that all people might be set free. Through Christ you inspire in us the hope that earth's forces of darkness will be scattered, and angels of glory and principalities of light will bring a new heaven and a new earth.

Just as the prophets of Israel had spoken of the sufferings that would be His, so Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and having blessed it, He broke the bread, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take, eat; this is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took wine, and having given thanks for it, he gave the cup to his disciples, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Remembering his eternal self-giving, we proclaim the mystery of Christ among us. Made one with him and one with each other, we offer these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy living sacrifice

Sanctify us with your Holy Spirit, O God, and sanctify this bread and this wine, that they may be the body and blood of Jesus Christ, and through them we may be made stronger again with the strength that only you supply. May our inner selves be nourished that in the outward things of life we may follow the way of Christ and grow more and more into salvation; through Christ, by whom, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty God, world without end. **AMEN.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now say,
**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 forever. Amen**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Bread of heaven is broken for the life of the world.
The Cup of love is shared with all who seek God. Amen.

THE SHARING OF A HOLY MEAL

COMMUNION MUSIC

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray.

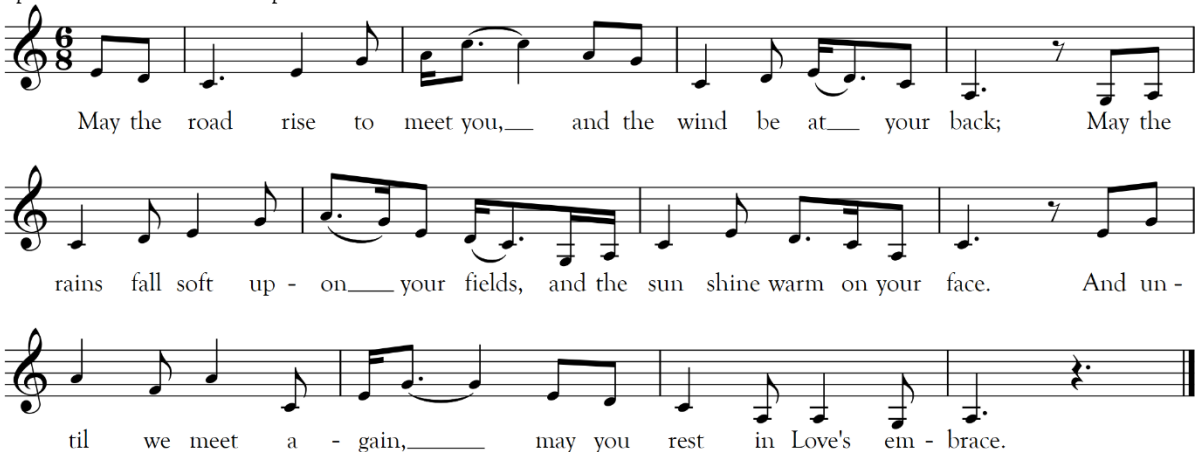
O God, in love you have called us to be your people and in love you have given us this bread and wine; may this holy meal refresh us as a gentle and steady breeze, that renewed in your Holy Spirit, we may go forth into the world to serve your people; in the name of God, who is Love. Amen.

Lord of all light, as we go forth into the world, we extinguish the lights that here represent the presence of the Holy in our midst.

But we will carry the light in our hearts and we pray that as we go about our work in the world, we will shine with the love of God. Amen.

CELTIC BENEDICTION

Spoken unless a musician is present.



May the road rise to meet you, and the wind be at your back; May the rains fall soft upon your fields, and the sun shine warm on your face. And until we meet again, may you rest in Love's embrace.

THE BLESSING

The power and peace of the Presence protect you.

The grace and goodness of the saints inspire you.

The good and gracious God go with you and keep you always.

And the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with you now and for ever.

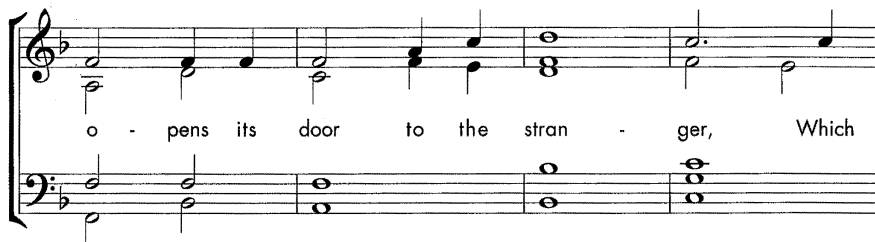
Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

'Love is the welcome ...'vs. 1&2



Love is the wel - come that comes from the heart And



o - pens its door to the stran - ger, Which



makes of its house a rest - ing - place for all, For the



sake of the babe in the man - ger.

Words © Kathy Galloway.

2. Love is the struggle for justice and peace
that the cause of the weak may inherit,
and the wretched of the earth,
see a new day brought to birth
in the strength of the gentle in spirit.

THE DISMISSAL

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

When a musician is present.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

Celebrant & Preacher The Rev. Joyce Keeshin
Lector Nico Rumboll
Lay Reader Keira Hassel
Intercessor Andrea Rogers
Celtic Guild Pam Popp
Bread Guild Cheryl Fast
Altar Guild Kelli Wisecup, Patricia Kovach, Lisa Senter, Ivan Delgado
Flower Guild Blake Gustafson, Vicky Carroll, Christy Borneman
Musicians Jack Copley

IN THANKSGIVING & MEMORY

The flowers that beautify our worship spaces are given to the glory of God in memory of Alvin & Martha Knoll and William & Ethel Lynch by Pat Knoll



VISION STATEMENT

We have a vision of a worshipping community
that **knows Jesus and grows in love:**

- **United** in relationships of holy connection and communion;
- **Growing** with people of every age, race, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic situation, and political persuasion;
- **Inspired** by our understanding of why we are Christian, why we are Episcopalian, why Redeemer matters to us;
- **Sent** into the world, rooted and grounded in love, to serve all people with humility, compassion, and faithfulness.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

