

ewwSt. James Episcopal Church * Morning Prayer
Worship Leader BC Franson

Processional Hymn 189 “Love’s redeeming work is done”

1. Love's redeeming work is done,
fought the fight, the battle won.
Death in vain forbids him rise;
Christ has opened paradise.
Alleluia.

2. Lives again our glorious King;
where, O death, is now thy sting?
Once he died our souls to save,
where thy victory, O grave?
Alleluia.

3. Soar we now where Christ has led,
following out exalted Head;
made like him, like him we rise,
ours the cross, the grave, the skies.
Alleluia.

Opening Acclamation: Alleluia! Christ is risen

BCP 77

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Confession Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor BCP 79

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

Absolution Prayer

BCP 80

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

The Invitatory and Psalter

BCP 80

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

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: Come let us adore him.

Jubilate

BCP 82

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song. 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. Enter his gates with thanksgiving' go into his courts with praise; give thanks to him and call upon his Name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting' and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

Psalm 98

- ¹ Sing to the Lord a new song, *
for he has done marvelous things.
- ² With his right hand and his holy arm *
has he won for himself the victory.
- ³ The Lord has made known his victory; *
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- ⁴ He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
- ⁵ Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- ⁶ Sing to the Lord with the harp, *
with the harp and the voice of song.
- ⁷ With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before the King, the Lord.
- ⁸ Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.
- ⁹ Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,
when he comes to judge the earth.
- ¹⁰ In righteousness shall he judge the world *
and the peoples with equity.

The Lessons

First Lesson: Acts 10:44-48

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Second Lesson: 1 John 5:1-6

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

Gradual Hymn 769 WLP

I BELIEVE IN GOD ALMIGHTY *A Metrical Apostles' Creed*

Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

ARFON (Major)
Welsh melody

1. I be - lieve in God Al - might - y,
2. I be - lieve that Je - sus suf - fered,
3. I be - lieve in God's own Spir - it,

*Fa - ther of all things that be,
scourged and scorned and cru - ci - fied;
bond - ing all the saints with - in

Mak - er of the earth and heav - ens, keep - er of the
tak - en from the cross, was bur - ied—True Life there had
one Church, cath - o - lic and ho - ly, where for - give - ness

sky and sea. I be - lieve in God's Son, Je - sus,
tru - ly died. I be - lieve that on the third day
frees from sin; in the bod - y's res - ur - rec - tion,

now for us both Lord and Christ, of the Spir - it
Christ was raised up from the grave, then as - cend - ed
for the break - ing of death's chain gives the life that's

and of Mar - y born to bring a - bun - dant life.
to God's right hand. He will come to judge and save.
ev - er - last - ing. This the faith that I have claimed.

*or, Author

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Third Lesson John 15:9-17

⁹As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. ¹²"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Sermon

We hear echoes of Maundy Thursday with John's focus on foot-washing and an astonishing new commandment to love one another as Jesus has loved us. We also hear echoes of Pentecost, with the depiction of an equally astonishing and unexpected outburst of the Holy Spirit amongst Gentiles, who were, up until that moment, considered the quintessential outsiders. As Jesus said one night to Nicodemus, like the wind, the spirit comes from we know not where, and goes we know not where – and it astonishes us right where we are when it comes!

We are still at the Last Supper in John. After washing everyone's feet, Jesus commissions the disciples saying, "You are no longer servants, rather you are my friends." It is possible to mistake this as admission to an exclusive club with new rights and privileges. We are friends of Jesus, too, we might say. Look at us and be jealous, we might think – if not aloud, at least to ourselves. Yet, to do so misses the two-edged sword that is the Word of God – the Word that was with God, the Word that was God, the Word at the beginning.

This friendship with Jesus means to fold us into the Body of Christ, the Christ who comes to dwell among us as one who serves, not one to be served. To serve others with God's steadfast love for all humanity. To seek and serve Christ in all others. We are to serve all, not some, not many, surely not a few, but all others, loving our neighbor as ourselves – as we would like to be served.

It ought to strike us, if it has not already, the astonishing irony of John's story of the Last Supper. Jesus commissions us to be his friends so that his "joy may be in [us], and so [our] joy may be complete," overflowing from our lives into the lives of others – all others. Jesus is filled with joy despite the fact John tells us, "Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end" (John 13:1). And yet he remains filled with joy, commissioning those who wish to follow him to go into the world as those who wish to serve others, not be served by others. Such love for one another, such seeking to

serve Christ in all persons, is the source of the same joy that fills the Risen Christ; this is an astonishing assertion as he steadfastly walks out of that supper, one step at a time, to carry his cross to Calvary, Golgotha, the Place of the Skull.

It's as if, in those final moments with those who are now to be his friends, Jesus has embodied the Psalmist's call: "Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.... Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.... Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, the lands and those who dwell therein. Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, when he comes to judge the earth." Jesus imagines a new world unfolding from the events that are to follow that Last Supper. Jesus imagines his friends will now continue in the midst of God's work: not only the judgment of the world, with all its foibles, problems, and troubles but also the renewal and repair of a broken world, as we become the Body of Christ, bringing his joy of service to others as a new reality for all people! Sing to the Lord a new song, indeed!

If this strikes us as astonishing beyond all knowing and all possibility, today's Word means to remind us that these first friends of Jesus were astonished as well. We hear about Peter, who, prior to the events of today's reading, has had a perplexing vision of what singing to the Lord a new song was to be about. As he is praying, he is hungry. The Lord shows him a vision of all manner of creatures to eat that are not Kosher and says, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat." Peter says three times, "No, I have never eaten such things." We are meant to remember that this is Peter, who had denied even knowing Jesus three times. Peter, whom Jesus asks three times, "Do you love me?" Peter who says, "Yes, Lord, you know I love you." Peter, to whom Jesus says, "Tend my sheep, feed my flock, seek and serve me in all people!"

As Peter emerges from this vision, Cornelius, a centurion, sends men to bring him to his home, where Peter is faced with a house filled with Gentiles, those quintessential outsiders, who want to hear about the Word that had come to dwell among us, with God's steadfast love for all creation. They want to hear of the God to whom even the hills and the rivers and the seas and the lands and all who dwell therein want to sing a new song, a joy-filled song! They long to hear and join the song that declares a renewed world that fears the Lord and desires to enter into his new command to love one another, even as Jesus did, marching toward pain.

Peter begins to speak, and lo and behold! The same spirit that had come upon the disciples in an upper room on Pentecost, that same spirit that turned them into evangelists who could speak about God's steadfast love in Christ Jesus in ways that people from all corners of the earth could understand, that same spirit showed up! Peter begins, "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all."

And then it happens. The Holy Spirit comes upon these quintessential outsiders, and suddenly they, too, are extolling God in ways that anyone could understand! Peter and his Jewish, Christ-following friends of Jesus stare in disbelief. So that's what the vision was all about, he must have been thinking. These are not just words I am speaking. God really, truly does not show any partiality whatsoever! And so, what could they do, but baptize this house filled with Gentiles? They would spend the next few days together, filled with the joy of Jesus, with God's steadfast love for all persons: male and female, Jew and Roman, slave and free. All divisions would need to cease because the repair of the broken world had begun!

God's Word on this day means to ask us: Do we accept Jesus' invitation to become his friends? Do we wish to be served, like the people of this age? Or do we wish to serve? Do we wish to serve even those who are most unlike us, as Peter and the friends of Jesus do? Are we ready to be as astonished as they were that day in the centurion's house to discover that God loves even those most unlike us in every single way? Do we wish to be filled to overflowing with the joy of Jesus, a joy that seeks and serves the Christ in others, all others, no matter what?

Of course, we do! We are those people, like the writer of the First Letter of John, who know the pervasive reality of God's love in Christ Jesus, who, though he was leaving this world to return to the household of God's steadfast love, has made us his friends. We have been made new. We are those people who seek to sing a new song to the Lord our God. We seek to join the chorus of all creation who joyfully sing of the transforming love of God in Christ Jesus. We are those people who have seen and believed the transforming love of God in the death and resurrection of his Son. Alleluia! Christ is Risen! The Lord is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

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The Apostles Creed

BCP 96

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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 and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

Peace

Announcements

Offertory (suspended)

The Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 97

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Suffrage B

BCP98

Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

Govern and uphold them, now and always.

Day by day we bless you;

We praise your Name for ever.

Lord, keep us from all sin today;

Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.

Lord, show us your love and mercy;

For we put our trust in you.

In you, Lord, is our hope.

And we shall never hope in vain.

The Collect of the Day

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Prayers of the People, Form III 387

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

The General Thanksgiving

101

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for your creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen

Recessional Hymn 791 WLP

1. Peace be - fore us, peace be - hind us,
 2. Love be - fore us, love be - hind us,
 3. Light be - fore us, light be - hind us,
 4. Christ be - fore us, Christ be - hind us,

peace un - der our feet. _____ Peace with - in us,
 love un - der our feet. _____ Love with - in us,
 light un - der our feet. _____ Light with - in us,
 Christ un - der our feet. _____ Christ with - in us,

1. 2. 3. 4. 5.

peace o - ver us, let all a - round us be peace. _____
 love o - ver us, let all a - round us be love. _____
 light o - ver us, let all a - round us be light. _____
 Christ o - ver us, let all a - round us be Christ. _____

Go in Peace to love and service the Lord –

Thanks be to God –