

Holy Eucharist for Racial Reconciliation and Healing
St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church, St. Paul, MN

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

PRELUDE

Raymond H. Haan

What a friend we have in Jesus

Welcome and Acknowledgement of Indigenous Peoples' Land

Saint John the Evangelist Episcopal Church occupies the ancestral and current homelands of the Dakota people. We also recognize the Ojibwe and Ho-Chunk whose lands were colonized by the United States and are currently occupied by the State of Minnesota.

We condemn the tools of settler colonialism, including genocide and forced assimilation, undertaken in the name of white supremacy that created structures of injustice and inequity that continue to oppress and marginalize Indigenous and underrepresented peoples.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we commit to the work of being reconciled to God, our neighbors, and all of Creation through truth-telling, repentance, and compassionate, restorative relationship-building across all lines of difference.

HYMN #529

McKee

In Christ there is no East or West

Opening Acclamation

Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
Glory to God for ever and ever. Amen.

THE COLLECT

Celebrant

People

Celebrant

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, who created all peoples in your image, we thank you for the wonderful diversity of races and cultures in this world. Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of fellowship, and show us your presence in those

who differ most from us, until our knowledge of your love is made perfect in our love for all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People

Amen.

FIRST READING

Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Reader

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 78:1-4, 12-16

Spoken by all, responsively by whole verse

1 Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

**2 I will open my mouth in a parable; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.**

3 That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.

**4 We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, *
and the wonderful works he has done.**

12 He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, *
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

**13 He split open the sea and let them pass through; *
he made the waters stand up like walls.**

14 He led them with a cloud by day, *
and all the night through with a glow of fire.

**15 He split the hard rocks in the wilderness *
and gave them drink as from the great deep.**

16 He brought streams out of the cliff, *
and the waters gushed out like rivers.

EPISTLE

Philippians 2:1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,

but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death--
even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN #439 What wondrous love is this

Wondrous Love

The Gospel

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, O Christ.**

GOSPEL

Mas Tais / Matthew 21:23-32

23. Yes Xus mus hauv lub Tuam Tsev Teev Ntuj. Thaum nws qhia sawv daws, cov

thawj leej choj thiab pej xeeb cov laus neeg txav los ze Yes Xus, lawv hais rau nws tias: “Koj muaj cai qhov twg los, koj thiaj ua tej ntawd? Leej twg pub cai rau koj ua li ntawd?” 24. Yes Xus teb lawv tias: “Hos ntawm kuv, mas kuv kuj yuav nug nej ib los thiab. Yog nej teb kuv, kuv mam yuav qhia nej tias leej twg pub cai rau kuv ua li ntawd.

25. Zam lub cim ntxuav tuaj qhov twg tuaj? Puas tuaj ntawm Ntuj tuaj los tuaj ntawm neeg tuaj?” Cov thawj leej choj thiab cov laus neeg xav tswv yim hauv siab tias: 26. “Yog peb hais tias 'tuaj ntawm Ntuj tuaj' ; nws yuav nug peb tias: “Yog li, uas cas nej tsis ntseeg nws?” Hos yog peb hais tias "Tuaj ntawm neeg tuaj," peb kuj ntshai tsoom pej xeeb, vim sawv daws saib Zam yog ib tug yaj saub.”

27. Ces lawv teb rau Yes Xus li no: “Peb tsis paub.” Yes Xus teb rau lawv tias: “Kuv kuj ib yam, kuv tsis qhia nej tias kuv tau cai ntawm leej twg los ua tej ntawd.” 28. “Nej sim hais saib, nej xav li cas. Ib tug neeg muaj ob tug tub. Nws hais rau thawj tug tias: “Me tub, hnuv no koj mus ua num tom teb txiv cawv.”

29. Tus tub ntawd teb tias: “Kuv tsis xav mus.” Tab sis, ib me ntsis, nws khuv xim, ces nws cia li mus ua teb. 30. Leej txiv kuj hais rau lwm tus tub ib yam li rau thawj tug thiab. Tus tub ntawd teb tias: “Huab tais, kuv yuav mus.” Tab sis nws tsis mus.

31. Ob tug tub no, tus twg tau ua raws li leej txiv xav kom ua? Lawv teb tias: “Yog thawj tug.” Yes Xus hais rau lawv tias: “Kuv hais tseeb rau nej, cov sau se thiab cov niam ntiav xub mus hauv Ntuj lub Ceeb Tsheej dua nej. 32. Vim tias, Zam tuaj qhia Txoj Kev ncaj rau nej, tab sis nej tsis ntseeg txog nws. Hos cov sau se, thiab cov niam ntiav ntseeg txog nws. Tab txawm nej pom lawv tus qauv zoo, tom qab no, nej kuj tsis hloov siab los ntseeg txog nws.”

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human

origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

*Gospeller
People*

The Gospel of the Risen One.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Dr. Catherine Meeks, *Executive Director*
Absalom Jones Center for Racial

Healing

THE NICENE CREED

said by all, standing as you are able

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God,
Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the
Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the
Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
Who with the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
Who has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world
to come.
Amen.

A LITANY OF RECONCILIATION

Reader In hope that the arc of history bends toward justice, we lift up our
prayers for racial healing, saying:

All Bind us together, O God of love.

Reader For the Church, that its prophetic voice will challenge us to break
the hopeless cycles of poverty, ignorance, prejudice, and despair which
degrade the sacred dignity of humankind, we pray:

All Bind us together, O God of love.

Reader For our country, that we might celebrate our racial diversity and
the distinctive and rich contributions of every fiber of our cultural
fabric, we pray:

All Bind us together, O God of love.

Reader For wise and decisive action on the part of local and national
leaders, that the sin of racism may be eradicated from our society, we
pray:

All Bind us together, O God of love.

Reader For an end to the subtle racism of economic oppression which permeates our society's structures and resides in many hearts, we pray:

All Bind us together, O God of love.

Reader For our faith communities, that they may not succumb to indifference or accept the status quo, but press on for fundamental change, we pray:

All Bind us together, O God of love.

Reader For the survivors of racial discrimination, that they may be filled with hope for a more just future, healing from wounds received, courage to advocate for change and for peace, and the grace to overcome hatred with love, we pray:

All Bind us together, O God of love.

Reader For those with unearned privilege, that they may have the courage to advocate for change and peace, and become pilgrims with those who live with unearned oppression, that they may have the grace and fortitude to come together in truth-telling, justice-making, and reconciliation, we pray:

All Bind us together, O God of love.

Reader For those who work for racial justice, that they may be sustained in hope, empowered with courage, and filled with the grace to persevere in love, we pray:

All Bind us together, O God of love.

Other intercessions may be offered here, either spoken aloud or in the silence of our hearts.

Celebrant Jesus our brother, You revealed God through your wise words and loving deeds, and we encounter you still today in the faces of those whom society has pushed to the margins. Guide us through the love you revealed, to establish the justice you proclaimed, that all peoples might dwell in harmony and peace, united by that one love that binds us to each other, and to you.

People **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Deacon Coming together as God's family, with confidence let us ask for forgiveness, for God is full of grace and compassion.

All **God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

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

People **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

WELCOME

The Reverend Jered Weber-Johnson, *Rector*

St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

If you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother or sister or sibling has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your neighbor, and then come and offer your gift.

– *Matthew 5:23-24*

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY AND PRESENTATION

OFFERTORY HYMN #516 Come Down, O Love Divine *Down Ampney*

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

Presentation of the Gifts

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord.

People **And of thine own have we given thee.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Sursum Corda

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Presider: It is truly right, and good and joyful,
to give you thanks, all-holy God,
source of life and fountain of mercy.
You have filled us and all creation
with your blessing and fed us with your constant love;

you have reconciled us across every line of difference and have redeemed us in Jesus Christ, knitting us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining Angels and Archangels
and with the faithful of every generation,
we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

Presider & People

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Presider: Blessed are you,
gracious God,
creator of the universe and giver of life.
You formed us in your own image,
all races and genders and cultures and languages,
and called us to dwell in your infinite love.
You gave the world into our care
that we might be your faithful stewards
and show forth your bountiful grace.
But we failed to honor your image
in one another and in ourselves;
we would not see your goodness in the diverse world around us;
and so we violated your creation,
abused one another,
and rejected your love.
Yet you never ceased to care for us,
and prepared the way of reconciliation
and salvation for all people.
Through Abraham and Sarah and Hagar

you called us into covenant with you.
You delivered us from slavery,
sustained us in the wilderness,
and raised up prophets
to renew your promise of salvation.
Then, in the fullness of time,
you sent your eternal Word,
made mortal flesh in Jesus.
Born into the human family,
and dwelling among us,
Jesus revealed your glory.
Giving himself freely to death on the cross,
he triumphed over evil,
opening the way of freedom and life.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Presider is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died for us,
Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread,
and having given thanks to you,
broke it,
and gave it to his friends,
and said: "Take, eat:
This is my Body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending,
Jesus took the cup of wine,
and again having given thanks,
gave it to them,
and said: "Drink this, all of you:
This is my Blood of the new Covenant,
which is poured out for you and for all

for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Presider and People

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

The Presider continues

Remembering Christ’s death and resurrection,
we now present to you from your creation
this bread and this wine.
By your Holy Spirit may they be for us
the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. +
Grant that we who share these gifts
may be filled with the Holy Spirit
and live as Christ’s Body in the world. +
Bring us into the everlasting heritage
of all your children,
that with Fannie Lou Hamer, Ida B. Wells,
Howard Thurman, Vincent Harding, John the Evangelist,
and all your saints,
past, present, and yet to come,
we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
to you be honor, glory, and praise,
for ever and ever.

All AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer: A NEW ZEALAND PRAYER BOOK

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and
come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

We are the body of Christ, the broken body and the blood poured out;
We behold who we are, let us become one with the One we receive.

Distribution of Holy Communion (*All are welcome at Christ's table*)

HYMN #507

Praise the spirit in creation

David Hurd

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.
Almighty Father, we thank you for feeding us with the holy food of
the Body and Blood of your Son, and for uniting us through him
in the fellowship of your Holy Spirit. We thank you for giving us
the ministry of reconciliation, and for inspiring us to seek Christ
in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves, and to respect the

dignity of every human being. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world, committing ourselves to racial healing, justice, and reconciliation; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Blessing

Celebrant May the blessing of the God of Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar; and of Jesus Christ born of our sister Mary; and of the Holy Spirit, who broods over the world as mother over her children, be upon you and remain with you always.

People Amen.

The Dismissal

Deacon We are all made in the image and likeness of our Beloved Creator. Let us go forth into the world to love and serve Christ in every person, rejoicing in the healing power of the Spirit.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE
André Thomas

I Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray

| ASSISTING IN THE SERVICE | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Celebrant | The Right Reverend Craig Loya |
| Preacher | Dr. Catherine Meeks |
| Archdeacon Turnham | The Venerable Rena |
| Deacon | The Reverend May Thao |
| Director of Music | Richard Gray |
| Cantor | Krista Palmquist |

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Crucifer | The Reverend Tom Sinning |
| Acolytes | The Reverend Anna Ostenso Moore, The Reverend Craig Lemming |
| Readers | Bonnie Gustafson, The Reverend Tom Sinning, Edwin Swaray |
| Chalice Bearers | The Reverend Devon Anderson, Heidi Kim |
| Paten | The Reverend Jackie Bernachi |
| Ushers | Neal Thao, Kelsey Schuster |