



Sunday October 1, 2023

Processional

What wondrous love is this

(H 439)

1. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul, to lay aside his crown for my soul.

2. To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to God and to the Lamb, I will sing. To God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM, while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing, while millions join the theme I will sing.

3. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free I'll sing and joyful be, and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on.

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Glory to God (S 280)

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Reading from the book of Ezekiel.

18:1-4,25-32

The word of the Lord came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the

children's teeth are set on edge"? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 25:1-8

1. To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; ***let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**
2. Let none who look to you be put to shame; ***let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.**
3. Show me your ways, O Lord, ***and teach me your paths.**
4. Lead me in your truth and teach me, ***for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.**
5. Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, ***for they are from everlasting.**
6. Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; ***remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.**
7. Gracious and upright is the Lord; ***therefore he teaches sinners in his way.**
8. He guides the humble in doing right ***and teaches his way to the lowly.**

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Philippi.

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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Hymn

Rock of ages, cleft for me

(H 685 v.1)

Rock of ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee; let the water and the blood from thy wounded side that flowed, be of sin the double cure, cleanse me from its guilt and power.

Clergy: **The Holy Gospel according to Matthew**

21:23-32

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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.

Clergy: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

The Reverend Rick O'Brien

Nicene Creed

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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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.

Prayers of the People

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.**

Celebrant: O Holy God, we ask you to hear our prayers as you breathe your life-giving Spirit into the congregations of Grace and Epiphany, calling us to join together in mission for the spreading of the Gospel: Show us the people to whom we should go and the path we should travel; help us to understand the deep longings of their hearts, and enable us to feed them through the living presence of Jesus Christ our Savior, in whose power we set forth and in whose Name we pray. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins to God.

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.**

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

Offertory **Christians, we have met to worship** **Mark Hayes**
Kathy Steinbrenner, Roger Pan, Pianists

Presentation of Offering

I have decided to follow Jesus; I have decided to follow Jesus; I have decided to follow Jesus; No turning back, no turning back. Amen.

The Holy Communion

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 our 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. For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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:

Santo, santo, santo [Holy, holy, holy] (WLP 785)
Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you! My heart is glad to say the words you are holy, Lord.

Santo, santo, santo, mi corazon te adora! Mi corazon te sabe decir: santo eres Señor.

Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you! My heart is glad to say the words you are holy, Lord.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

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, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

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, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion Hymn Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness (H 339)

1. Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness, leave the gloomy haunts of sadness, come into the daylight's splendor, there with joy thy praises render unto him whose grace unbounded hath this wondrous banquet founded,- high o'er all the heavens he reigneth, yet to dwell with thee he deigneth.

2. Sun, who all my life dost brighten; Light, who dost my soul enlighten; Joy, the best that any knoweth; Fount, whence all my being floweth: at thy feet I cry, my Maker, let me be a fit partaker of this bless'd food from heaven, for our good, thy glory, given.

3. Jesus, Bread of Life, I pray thee, let me gladly here obey thee; never to my hurt invited, be thy love with love requited; from this banquet let me measure, Lord, how vast and deep its treasure; through the gifts thou here dost give me, as thy guest in heaven receive me.

Let us pray.

Calendar		
Monday	6:30 PM	Al-Anon – Support for those around someone afflicted by the disease of addiction
Tuesday	9 AM	Tuesday Tune-up – Scripture reflections from our clergy on Facebook and YouTube
Thursday	6:30 PM	Centering Prayer (<i>Zoom – an oasis of quiet contemplation done together with time for silent reflection</i>) Contact lauracanon@yahoo.com
Friday	10 AM	Morning Prayer with Daughters of the King (Live)
Friday	10:30 AM	Alzheimer’s / Dementia /Memory Support Group at the Epiphany campus. Contact Gary Hails 702-884-7050
Sunday	8 AM	Holy Eucharist (Live – spoken, contemplative)
	9 AM	Faith Matters (Live and Facebook)
	9:45 AM	Church School for youth, nursery care is available as well
	10 AM	Holy Eucharist (Live and live stream) A lively, family friendly service with music

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Simunye Discernment Group

All are invited to join Deacon Erica for an 11-week book study to launch our Simunye Discernment Group! We will read and discuss “Joining God, Remaking Church, Changing the World”. The group will meet on Zoom Monday evenings, 6:30-8pm, beginning Oct. 2. Contact Deacon Erica for Zoom link: (505) 818-7071 or TheRev.Roz@gmail.com

Helping Hands of Epiphany

Please join us on October 7 and October 28 for some refreshment, socializing and help with some light projects to help maintain our facility and serve our parish. Arrive between 8:30am and 9:00am. Sign up in the narthex so we can plan food.

Nancy Perlotto Memorial

Please join us on Saturday October 21 at 10:00 AM as we celebrate the life of Nancy Perlotto. A reception will follow the service of remembrance.

Ladder to the Light – Book Study

From 9 AM to noon on November 4 and 18 (2 parts) Reverend Susan will present a seminar on Bishop Steven Charleston's book Ladder to the Light. To quote the book, it "offers words of hard-won hope, rooted in daily conversations with the Spirit and steeped in Indigenous wisdom. For all who yearn for hope, Ladder to the Light is a book of comfort, truth and challenge in a time of anguish and fear. Night will not last forever. Together we can climb toward the light." You won't want to miss this opportunity. We suggest you read the book in advance, but even if you can't, the seminar will be worth your time.

Refugee Resettlement Needs

Won't you help with our Outreach Refugee Resettlement Program? Current needs are Pots and pans, dishes, silverware (no plastic) can Openers, pot holders and other kitchen items. See Betty-Jeanne and Kristen for more details or Questions

St. Jude's Ranch Collection

Currently, St Jude's is collecting baby things. Some new babies have arrived on campus so diapers, nursery items, wipes. Etc.

Epicenter Food collection is Underway

The food bank at Epicenter has need for ramen noodles and granola bars. They also distribute hotel size tooth paste, tooth brushes, shampoo, soap and disposable razors. If you are able to donate any of these items in October, please place them in the Epicenter basket in the narthex



Our mission is to create and nurture disciples to share our journey to know and to love Jesus Christ

10450 Gilespeie St. Las Vegas NV. 89183 / www.nvepiphany.org / email- 2015epiphany@ gmail.com

Phone: 702-693-4100