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St. Luke’s Gondola Point

**MORNING PRAYER** - Proper 17 - August 29, 2021

[Un-bolded words are said by one, **Bolded words** can be said by all.]

**PENITENTIAL RITE**

The Father brought us forth by the word of truth that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures. *James 1.18*

Dear friends in Christ, as we prepare to worship almighty God, let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Silence is kept.

**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 neighbours 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 upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn: *Holy, Holy, Holy* (CP #1)

**MORNING PRAYER**

Lord, open our lips,

**And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

O God, make speed to save us.

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

**as it was in the beginning, is now,** **and will be for ever. Amen.** **Alleluia!**

The Lord is our light and our life: **O come, let us worship.**

**Venite** *Psalm 95.1–7*

Come, let us sing to the Lord; \*

**let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.**

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \*

**and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.**

For the Lord is a great God, \*

**and a great king above all gods.**

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, \*

**and the heights of the hills are his also.**

The sea is his for he made it, \*

**and his hands have moulded the dry land.**

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \*

**and kneel before the Lord our maker.**

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. \***Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!**

God rules over all the earth: **O come, let us worship.**

**PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

A reading from the Song of Songs (or Song of Solomon) 2:8-13

*8The voice of my beloved!*

*Look, he comes,*

*leaping upon the mountains,*

*bounding over the hills.*

*9My beloved is like a gazelle*

*or a young stag.*

*Look, there he stands*

*behind our wall,*

*gazing in at the windows,*

*looking through the lattice.*

*10My beloved speaks and says to me:*

*“Arise, my love, my fair one,*

*and come away;*

*11for now the winter is past,*

*the rain is over and gone.*

*12The flowers appear on the earth;*

*the time of singing has come,*

*and the voice of the turtledove*

*is heard in our land.*

*13The fig tree puts forth its figs,*

*and the vines are in blossom;*

*they give forth fragrance.*

*Arise, my love, my fair one,*

*and come away.*

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

Psalm 45:1-10

My heart is stirring with a noble song; let me recite what I have fashioned for the king; \*

**my tongue shall be the pen of a skilled writer.**

You are the fairest of men; \*

**grace flows from your lips, because God has blessed you for ever.**

Strap your sword upon your thigh, O mighty warrior, \*

**in your pride and in your majesty.**

Ride out and conquer in the cause of truth \*

**and for the sake of justice.**

Your right hand will show you marvellous things; \*

**your arrows are very sharp, O mighty warrior.**

The peoples are falling at your feet, \*

**and the king’s enemies are losing heart.**

Your throne, O God, endures for ever and ever, \*

**a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of your kingdom;**

**you love righteousness and hate iniquity.**

Therefore God, your God, has anointed you \*

**with the oil of gladness above your fellows.**

All your garments are fragrant with myrrh, aloes, and cassia, \*

**and the music of strings from ivory palaces makes you glad.**

Kings’ daughters stand among the ladies of the court; \*

**on your right hand is the queen, adorned with the gold of Ophir.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

**As it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.**

A reading from the book of James 1:17-27.

*17Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. 18In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.*

*19You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; 20for your anger does not produce God’s righteousness. 21Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.*

*22But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. 23For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; 24for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. 25But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.*

*26If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. 27Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.*

The word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: *The Kingdom of God*

The Lord be with you: **And also with you.** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Mark (7:1–23). **Glory to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, 2they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. 3(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; 4and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) 5So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” 6He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,*

*‘This people honors me with their lips,*

*but their hearts are far from me;*

*7 in vain do they worship me,*

*teaching human precepts as doctrines.’*

*8You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”*

*9Then he said to them, “You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition! 10For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘Whoever speaks evil of father or mother must surely die.’ 11But you say that if anyone tells father or mother, ‘Whatever support you might have had from me is Corban’ (that is, an offering to God)— 12then you no longer permit doing anything for a father or mother, 13thus making void the word of God through your tradition that you have handed on. And you do many things like this.”*

*14Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: 15there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”*

*17When he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about the parable. 18He said to them, “Then do you also fail to understand? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile, 19since it enters, not the heart but the stomach, and goes out into the sewer?” (Thus he declared all foods clean.) 20And he said, “It is what comes out of a person that defiles. 21For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, 22adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. 23All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”*

The Gospel of Christ: **Praise be to You, O Christ.**

Sermon

The Apostles’ Creed

**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.**

**INTERCESSIONS**

Let us pray with confidence to the Lord, saying, “Lord hear our prayer.”

O Lord, guard and direct your Church in the way of holiness, unity, service, and praise. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Give to all nations an awareness of the unity of the human family.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Cleanse our hearts of prejudice and selfishness, and inspire us to hunger and thirst for what is right. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Teach us to use your creation for your greater praise, that all may share the good things you provide. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Strengthen all who give their energy or skill for the healing of those who are sick in body or in mind, and bring relief and peace to those on our hearts today. [***Take a moment of silence to offer up prayers and intercessions, for yourself and for others. Our weekly prayer list can be found in this week’s bulletin.***]

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Set free all who are bound by fear and despair, and those who face great danger and suffering today, remembering especially the people of Afghanistan, and Haiti. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Grant a peaceful end and eternal rest to all who are dying, and your comfort to those who mourn. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the whole human family, remembering especially the people of Afghanistan, and others facing brutality and danger, that we may all live together in justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all you have done for us.

We thank you for the splendour of the whole creation, **for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.**

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, **and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.**

We thank you for setting us tasks which demand our best efforts, **and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.**

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us **to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.**

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; **for the truth of his word and the example of his life**;

for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; **for his dying, through which he overcame death;**

for his rising to life again, **in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.**

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; **and through him, at all times and in all places,**

**may give thanks to you in all things.** **Amen**.

Collect

*Author and Giver of all good things,*

*graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us in all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord,*

*who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.* **Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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.**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Song: *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing* (CP #354)

Dismissal

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**