

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Prelude

Take My Life and Let it Be
St. Thomas Chancel Choir

Hymnal #707

Opening Hymn

God of Our Fathers

Hymnal #718

God of our fathers, whose almighty hand leads forth in beauty all the starry band
of shining worlds in splendor through the skies, our grateful songs before thy throne arise.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past, in this free land by thee our lot is cast;
be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay thy word our law, thy paths our chosen way.

From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence, be thy strong arm our ever sure defense;
thy true religion in our hearts increase, thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh thy people on their toilsome way, lead us from night to never-ending day;
fill all our lives with love and grace divine, and glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.

Daniel Crane Roberts (1841-1907)

Acclamation

pg. 355 in Book of Common Prayer

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

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

Collect for Purity

Gloria

from *The Heritage Mass* by Owen Alstott

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heav'nly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. 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.

Collect of the Day

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

The First Reading: *Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25*

¹Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. ²And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: 'Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. ^{3a}Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.'

¹⁴"Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD,

choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

¹⁶Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; ¹⁷for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

¹⁹But Joshua said to the people, “You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. ²⁰If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good.” ²¹And the people said to Joshua, “No, we will serve the LORD!” ²²Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.” ²³He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel.” ²⁴The people said to Joshua, “The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey.” ²⁵*So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.*

Psalm: Psalm 78:1-7

¹Hear my teaching, O my people; *

incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

²I will open my mouth in a parable; *

I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

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

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

***⁵He gave his decrees to Jacob
and established a law for Israel, ****

which he commanded them to teach their children;

***⁶That the generations to come might know,
and the children yet unborn; ****

that they in their turn might tell it to their children;

⁷So that they might put their trust in God, *
***and not forget the deeds of God,
but keep his commandments.***

The Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel’s call and with the sound of God’s trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Alleluia – Celtic Alleluia - Refrain, Cantor, Refrain

O’Carroll/Walker

Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

[Jesus said,] ¹“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil

with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' ¹²But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

Gospel Response – Celtic Alleluia - Refrain

The Sermon

Nicene Creed

Prayers of the People

All remain standing. *Presider or deacon*

Let us offer our prayers for the healing touch of Christ among all people, saying
Hear our prayer.

Confession of Sin

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.

The Peace

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

HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Music

Battle Hymn of the Republic
St. Thomas Chancel Choir

Steffe-Wilhousky

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A from Book of Common Prayer

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People ***And also with you.***
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People ***We lift them to the Lord.***
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People ***It is right to give him thanks and praise.***

Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the deacon or celebrant. The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

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:

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

Celebrant Holy and gracious Father. . .

. . .Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People ***Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.***

Celebrant We celebrate the memorial of our redemption. . .

. . .Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And as our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

The Lord's Prayer

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.

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People ***Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.***

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion Music

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Hymnal #708

Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need thy tender care;
in thy pleasant pastures feed us; for our use thy folds prepare.
Blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.

Early let us seek thy favor, early let us learn thy will;
do thou, Lord, our only Savior, with thy love our bosoms fill.
Blessed Jesus! Thou hast loved us: love us still.

Hymns for the Young, ca. 1830, alt.

Almighty Father, strong to save, whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep its own appointed limits keep:
O hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.

O Christ, the Lord of hill and plain o'er which our traffic runs amain
by mountain pass or valley low; wherever, Lord, thy people go,
protect them by thy guarding hand from every peril on the land.

O Spirit, whom the Father sent to spread abroad the firmament;
O Wind of heaven, by thy might save all who dare the eagle's flight,
and keep them by thy watchful care from every peril in the air.

O Trinity of love and power, our people shield in danger's hour;
from rock and tempest, fire and foe, protect them wheresoe'er they go;
thus evermore shall rise to thee glad praise from space, air, land, and sea.

Sts. 1 and 4, William Whiting (1825-1878), alt.; sts. 2-3, Robert Nelson Spencer (1877-1961)

Sending Forth

Postcommunion Prayer

*Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Blessing

Closing Hymn

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain, for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee, and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife, who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw, confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law.

O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee, and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

Katherine Lee Bates (1859-1929), alt.

Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People ***Thanks be to God.***

Postlude

God Bless Our Native Land Chancel Choir

Hymnal #716