

# A Service of Thanksgiving to God for the Life of

Elizabeth Hairston Parnell

July 27, 1930 - March 16, 2017

## Processional Hymn *I come with joy to meet my Lord*

I come with joy to meet my Lord, forgiven, loved, and free, in awe and wonder to recall his life laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed, the new community of love in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends. That love that made us makes us one, and strangers now are friends.

## Opening Sentences

### Collect

### First Reading

Isaiah 25: 6-9

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death for ever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

### Psalm 121

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills; \*  
from whence cometh my help?

My help cometh even from the LORD, \*  
who hath made heaven and earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved, \*  
and he that keepeth thee will not sleep.

Behold, he that keepeth Israel \*  
shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The LORD himself is thy keeper; \*  
the LORD is thy defence upon thy right hand;

So that the sun shall not burn by day, \*  
neither the moon by night.

The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil; \*  
yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul.

The LORD shall preserve thy going out, and thy coming in, \*  
from this time forth for evermore.

## Second Reading

II Corinthians 4:16 - 5:9

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling— if indeed, when we have taken it off we will not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan under our burden, because we wish not to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord— for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

## Sequence Hymn *Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place*

*Refrain:*

*Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place, I can feel his mighty power and His grace; I can hear the brush of angels' wings I see glory on each face; Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.*

In the midst of His children the Lord said He would be; It doesn't take very many, it can be just two or three; And I feel that same sweet Spirit, that I've oft times felt before; Surely I can say, I've been with the Lord. (refrain)

There's a holy hush around us as God's glory fills this place; I've touched the hem of His garment, I can almost see His face; And my heart is overflowing with the fullness of His joy; I know without a doubt, I've been with the Lord. (refrain)

## Gospel

John 11: 21-26

*Celebrant:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

*People:* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

*Celebrant:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## Homily

Fr. Craig J. Lister

## **The Prayers**

For our sister, Betsy, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said, "I am Resurrection and I am Life." Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who mourn for Betsy, and dry the tears of those who weep.

*Hear us, Lord.*

You wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend; comfort us in our sorrow.

*Hear us, Lord.*

You raised the dead to life; give to our sister eternal life.

*Hear us, Lord.*

You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring our sister to the joys of heaven.

*Hear us, Lord.*

Our sister was washed in Baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; give her fellowship with all your saints.

*Hear us, Lord.*

She was nourished with your Body and Blood; grant her a place at the table in your heavenly kingdom.

*Hear us, Lord.*

Comfort us in our sorrows at the death of our sister; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* And with your spirit.

*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 just and right so to do.

*The celebrant continues:*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who rose victorious from the dead, and comforts us with the blessed hope of everlasting life. For to your faithful people, O Lord, life is changed, not ended; and when our mortal body lies in death, there is prepared for us a dwelling place eternal in the heavens. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

## **The 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.

## **Prayer of Consecration**

Lord God our Father: When we had sinned against you and become subject to evil and death, you sent your only Son into the world for our salvation; by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary he became flesh and dwelt among us. On the cross he offered himself once for all as our Redeemer, that by his suffering and death we might be saved. By his resurrection he broke the bonds of death, trampling Hell and Satan under his feet. After he ascended to your right hand in glory, you sent your Holy Spirit, that we might become your holy people.

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

After supper, Jesus took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for 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 in remembrance of me."

Now sanctify these gifts that they may become for us the Body and Blood of your Son, Jesus Christ. Sanctify us also, that we may be filled with your Holy Spirit and manifest your presence and power in the world.

Therefore, heavenly Father, as we joyfully proclaim our Lord's life, death, and resurrection, we offer ourselves, our souls and bodies, as a living sacrifice. Grant that we who partake of this Holy Communion may receive the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ, and be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him. At the last day bring us with all your saints into the fullness of your heavenly kingdom, where we shall see our Lord face to face.

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 forever. *Amen.*

## **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 forever and ever. *Amen.*

## **Holy Communion**

### **Postcommunion Prayer**

Almighty God, we thank you that in your great love you have fed us with the spiritual food and drink of the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ, and have given us a foretaste of your heavenly banquet. Grant that this Sacrament may be to us a comfort in affliction, and a pledge of our inheritance in that kingdom where there is no death, neither sorrow nor crying, but the fullness of joy with all your saints; through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

## **The Commendation**

## **The Blessing**

**Closing Hymn** *The King of love my shepherd is*

The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never; I nothing lack if I am his, and he is mine for ever.

Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth, and where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me, and on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear Lord, beside me; thy rod and staff my comfort still, thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight; thy unction grace bestoweth; and oh, what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days thy goodness faileth never: Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house for ever.

**Those Serving**

Celebrant: Fr. Craig Lister

Organist: Rosemary Parten

Readers: Ron Hewett, Sue Comstock

Chalice Bearers: Marty Pate and Linda Bruce

Ushers: Lew Andersen and Chuck Lewis

*I am standing upon the seashore. A ship at my side spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean.*

*She is an object of beauty and strength, and I stand and watch her until at length she hangs like a speck of white cloud just where the sea and sky come down to mingle with each other.*

*Then someone at my side says: "There, she is gone."*

*Gone where? "Gone from my sight, that is all."*

*She is just as able to bear her load of living freight to the place of destination. Her diminished size is in me and not in her.*

*And just at the moment when someone at my side says, "There, she is gone," there are other eyes that are watching her coming and other voices ready to take up the glad shout: "There she comes."*

*And that is dying.*

*(John Howard Melish)*