

Holy Eucharist

Processional Hymn: *O for a thousand tongues to sing*

O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer's praise, the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim and spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy Name.

Jesus! the Name that charms our fears and bids our sorrows cease; 'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.

He speaks; and, listening to his voice, new life the dead receive, the mournful broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.

Hear him, ye deaf; ye voiceless ones, your loosened tongues employ; ye blind, behold, your Savior comes; and leap, ye lame, for joy!

Glory to God and praise and love be now and ever given by saints below and saints above, the Church in earth and heaven.

Acclamation

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: His mercy endures forever. *Amen.*

Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Kyrie Eleison

Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy, Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, have mercy.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

The Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn *Blessed Jesus, at thy word*

Blessèd Jesus, at thy word we are gathered all to hear thee; let our hearts and souls be stirred now to seek and love and fear thee; by thy teachings pure and holy, drawn from earth to love thee solely.

All our knowledge, sense, and sight lie in deepest darkness shrouded, till thy Spirit breaks our night with the beams of truth unclouded; thou alone to God canst win us; thou must work all good within us.

Gracious Lord, thyself impart! Light of Light, from God proceeding, open thou our ears and heart, help us by thy Spirit's pleading. Hear the cry thy Church upraises; hear, and bless our prayers and praises.

Gospel

John 9: 1-41

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who

worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Homily

Fr. Maurice Hagar

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, visible and invisible. 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

Intercessor: Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

For the peace of the whole world, and for the well-being and unity of the people of God, let us pray to the Lord. *(silence)*

Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

For Foley, our Archbishop, and Steven, our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people of our diocese and congregation, let us pray to the Lord. *(silence)*

Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy.

People Hear our prayer.

For all those who proclaim the Gospel at home and abroad; and for all who teach and disciple others, let us pray to the Lord. *(silence)*

Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

For our brothers and sisters in Christ who are persecuted for their faith, let us pray to the Lord. *(silence)*

Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

For our nation, for those in authority and for all in public service let us pray to the Lord. (*silence*)

Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

For all those who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity [especially _____], let us pray to the Lord. (*silence*)

Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

For all those who departed this life in the certain hope of the resurrection [especially _____], in thanksgiving let us pray to the Lord. (*silence*)

Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant concludes with the following prayer

Heavenly Father, grant these our prayers for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. *Amen.*

The Confession and Absolution 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 Bishop, when present, or the Priest, stands and says

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.*

Peace

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Announcements

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 right to give him thanks and praise.

The celebrant continues:

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again. 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.
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory, Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Celebrant continues

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:

Celebrant and People

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

The Celebrant continues

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 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.*

Breaking of the Bread

Agnus Dei

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world.
Give us your peace, give us your peace.

Holy Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty and ever living God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. *Amen.*

Blessing

Closing Hymn *Glorious things of thee are spoken*

Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God; he whose word cannot be broken formed thee for his own abode; on the Rock of Ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose? With salvation's walls surrounded, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

See! the streams of living waters, springing from eternal love, well supply thy sons and daughters and all fear of want remove. Who can faint, when such a river ever will their thirst assuage? Grace which, like the Lord, the giver never fails from age to age.

Round each habitation hovering, see the cloud and fire appear for a glory and a covering, showing that the Lord is near. Thus deriving from their banner, light by night, and shade by day, safe they feed upon the manna which he gives them when they pray.

Blest inhabitants of Zion, washed in the Redeemer's blood! Jesus, whom their souls rely on, makes them kings and priests to God. 'Tis his love his people raise over self to reign as kings: and as priests, his solemn praises each for a thank-offering brings.

Dismissal

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

St. Francis Anglican Parish

Prayer List

For the concerns weighing on the hearts and minds of members of this congregation:

Pray for those who are ill:

Rachael
Jack Beyer
*Helen Frechette
*Susan Dixon
Richard Quinn
*Nina Bonti
Carole Womble
*Katie Kerley
Sheila Holland
Cynthia McNeil

Les Sadler
*Mackenzie Stinson
Nancy Griffin
Mary Quinn
Ken Jeffries
James Oberkirsch
Mary Taylor
Patricia Spaulding
*Harriet Tice
*Peggy Nelson
Ed Bolt

Jean Banzel
*Betty Pittman
Dierdre Hearn
Sophia Johnson
Ron Perkinson
*Jim Bonti
Mary Perkins
*Linda Pate
Barb Cavalluzzi
Norman Keith

*Member of St. Francis

If you need to add or remove a name from the prayer list please call Sue Comstock at 919-498-9154 or you can email her at suectrace@gmail.com. Names will be removed after three weeks unless you contact Sue to extend the time.

Pray for strength and divine guidance: Mari, Bruce, Cathy Stinson, Jeff Johnson.

Pray for those serving all over the world in our military: Matthew Pate, Ben Hodsdon, William Puckett, Katherine Campbell, Tommy Walker, Brian Gille, George Walter, Patrick Hart, Jim Makepeace, Stephen Hart, Rick Smith, Chris Bladgett, Ryan Childress, Greg Poe, Josh Pratt, Jody Gordon, Raymond Desantos and Eliza.

Pray for the departed: Marion Jones, Albert Wedge, MaryAnn Griffin, Althea Dickinson, Mildred Clapp, Maggie White, Ben Tinsley, Betsy Parnell.

Those serving today:

Ushers:	Mark Mahaffey and Chuck Lewis
Chalice Bearers:	Marty Pate and Bob Nelson
Lector:	Judith Edmonds
Acolytes:	Lena and Matthew Kerley
Coffee Hour:	Brenda and Ronnie Brown
Organist:	Rosemary Parten
Altar Guild:	Tammy Bennetts, Mari Hann, Beth Puckett and Barbara Jameson

Announcements

Sunday School - Both the adult's and youth's Sunday School will convene today. Pam Kerley will be teaching the children and Juli Anne Lawrence will be teaching our teenager class today.

Youth Group - Meet today at 5:30 pm.

Lenten Soup Pot - Please support this throughout the season of Lent.

No Confirmation class for young people - On Tuesday, March 28, 2017.

Lenten Program - "Lent with Louie", Wednesday, March 29, 2017 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm.

Holy Eucharist - Each Wednesday during Lent at 11:30 am.

Holy Land Trip - October 2017.

CUOC FOOD CONTRIBUTIONS - Please be consistent in bringing nonperishable food items for the baskets.

Back Pack Pals - Food requests: Ravioli/Spaghetti O's, Beanie Weenies, Cup of Soup-Oodles of Noodles, Vienna sausages, tuna, peanut butter, peanut butter/cheese crackers, fruit cups and/or applesauce, pudding cups, juice boxes, Pop-Tarts, cereal bars, individual boxes of cereal, granola bars. Place donations in the CUOC baskets.

St. Francis website - Please make it a point to visit stfrancisnc.org. There you can get all the latest news about our parish. It's a wonderful website managed by our own Dr. Charles Wick.

If your child listens better with busy hands, you may let him or her use one of the bulletins located on clipboards at the front of the church where the usher stands. Finished bulletins may be exchanged for a treat at Sunday school. Please return the empty clipboard and colored pencils to the basket after the service. If I can improve the bulletin in any way please let me know. I would love to hear your suggestions. - Pam Kerley

Women's Ministry Events

"BOOK AND BISCUITS:" Saturday, April 8 at the home of Gordy Reese, 10 am to noon. Book selection: "When God Winks at You--How God Speaks Directly to You Through the Power of Coincidence" by Squire Rushnell. Light refreshments (did we mention biscuits???) and discussion. Book is easily available from thrift books.com, Christian Books and Amazon. Sign-up sheet on bulletin board. A modest voluntary love offering will assist funding of future events.