

The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi ~ October 04th

The Season of Creation, Fifth Sunday (September 06 – Oct 04, 2020)

Presiding: the Rev. Andrew Twiddy, the Rev. Christine Muise

Youth Team: Allison Poole, Evan Matzanke, Luke Desvaux

Music Selections for Sunday Oct 04, 2020

Hymns and/or Accompanied Poetic Readings, from *Common Praise* (1998):

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|----------------------|------------|---|
| Opening | 355 | All Creatures of Our God and King, vv. 1-4 |
| Reflective | - | Ma-im, Ma-im, Ma-im * (<i>Hebrew: "water" ~ a lament, and a celebration</i>) |
| At the Gospel | 399 | Now Thank We All Our God (<i>tune: Dutch Carol [Red 1971 Hymnal, 471]</i>) |
| At Prayer | 355 | All Creatures of Our God and King, vv. 5-7 |
| Closing | 416 | All Things Bright and Beautiful |

The Prayer for the Day ~ The Collect

Most High, Source of all Compassion,
all-vulnerable and all-powerful in your goodness,
grant your people grace to renounce freely
the empty glories of this world's oppressive systems;
that, following the way of blessed Francis,
we may love you with all our hearts,
and delight in your whole creation
with mature and complete joy;
through Jesus the Anointed One,
our Teacher, our Sibling, and our Friend. *Amen.*

A First Reading ~ from Hebrew Scripture

Jeremiah 22:13–16

Reader: Here is a thought to ponder: knowing God ... means acting fairly towards those who are in need. A reading from the book of Jeremiah.

I tell you, there is grief for the one who builds a house by unfair practices, and adds on upper rooms by unjust means!

Grief for the one who makes a neighbour work for nothing, and does not give them their due wages;

who says, "I will build myself a spacious house with large upper rooms", and who cuts out windows for it, panelling it with cedar, and painting it with a vermilion red.

Are you a king, because you compete in cedar?

Did not your forebears eat and drink, and act with justice and fairness? Then it was well with them.

They adjudicated the justifiable complaints of the poor and needy; and things went well because of that.

"Is not this what it means to know me?" says the Holy One.

Reader: Holy Word, Holy Wisdom. Hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

All: Thanks be to God.

In Response:

The Psalm Verse of the Day:

God's splendour is over earth and heaven

A Psalm Response

Psalm 148:7–14

Laudate Dominum

Psalm Verse of the Day: God's splendour is over earth and heaven

7 Praise the Holy One from the earth, *
you sea-monsters and all deeps;

8 Fire and hail, snow and fog, *
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;

9 Mountains and all hills, *
fruit trees and all cedars;

10 Wild beasts and all cattle, *
creeping things and winged birds;

11 Sovereigns of the earth, and all peoples, *
princes and all rulers of the world;

12 Young men and young women, *
old and young people together.

13 Let them praise the Name of the Holy One, *
for God's Name alone is exalted,
God's splendour is over earth and heaven.

14 God has raised up strength for the people
and praise for all of the loyal servants of God, *
for the children of Israel,
a people near to God's heart. Hallelujah!

Leader: Glory to our Creator, to the Word and the Wisdom
to the Holy One, and to the Great Spirit,

All: the One who is at the beginning, and at the end,
and will be with us forever. Amen.

A Second Reading ~ from Early Christian Scripture

Galatians 6:14–18

Reader: Have you ever known what it is like to make a completely new beginning?

¹¹ Now, my friends, in these last sentences of my letter, I want to emphasize in the bold scrawls of my personal handwriting the immense importance of what I have written to you.

¹⁴⁻¹⁶ I have nothing to boast about except for the Cross of our Lord and Teacher, Jesus, the Anointed One. Because of the execution-stake of Jesus, the oppressive systems of the world have also been crucified in relation to me, and as far as I am concerned, I too have been crucified in relation to them.

I am set free from the stifling atmosphere of pleasing others and fitting into the little patterns that they dictate.

Can't you see the main issue in all this? It is not what you and I do— in the technical matters of religious law surrounding circumcision, or the lack of it, that people want to debate.

No! When it comes to Jesus, it's all about a *completely new beginning* to our lives ~ *that* is everything!

And for those who will live by this one central point - peace and compassion be upon them, and upon all who are the Israel of God.

¹⁷ From now on, let no one make trouble for me with their debates. Seriously, I am carrying the very wounds of Jesus, branded in my body.

¹⁸ In signing off, I have this to say: may the generous love of Jesus, our Teacher and God's Anointed One, be with you all very deeply, my dear friends.

Reader: Holy Word, Holy Wisdom. Hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading ~ **Matthew 11:25–30**

Reader: In the final analysis, we all long to be guided beyond our stress and anxiety towards a place of peace, rest, and simplicity.

The holy gospel, according to Matthew. ***(Glory to you, Jesus, the Anointed One)***

Jesus said, “I thank you, Beloved, Holy One of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from those who consider themselves the wise and the intelligent, and have revealed them to those who are like little children. Yes, my Beloved One, for it gave you pleasure to do that.”

Jesus went on to say, “All things have been entrusted to me by my Beloved.”

“In reality, no one knows God’s Firstborn, except for the Beloved One, and no one knows the Beloved except for the Firstborn, and anyone to whom the Firstborn chooses to make that revelation.

So come to me, all you that are weary, and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

Take the guidance of my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest and peace for yourselves.

For my yoke fits comfortably, and my burden is light.”

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom: The Gospel of Christ ...
Praise to you, Jesus the Anointed One.

The Simplicity Prayer

***The Prayer Jesus Gave Us,
in the tradition and simplicity of Clare and Francis of Assisi***

~ A Franciscan Lord's Prayer ~

Our Beloved,

Your energy is compassionate and unique.

We want everyone to be aware of this.

We want everything to share in this.

Restore all things,

to be in harmony, on the outside, and on the inside.

Give us what we really need now,

for today, and for each day.

Free us from the harm we have done,

and help us, in our journey of recovery,

to release those who have harmed us.

Keep us safe during our times of distress,

and release us from oppression.

For your purpose, your strength, and your glory,

is to bring together everyone and everything.

We are depending on this. We are committed to this.