

St. Francis of Assisi

Sunday, October 4, 2020

The Feast of Francis of Assisi

St. Francis is commemorated on October 4th. St. Francis lived in the 12th century, and as a young man gave up his position and wealth to take up a closer walk with God. He lived a simple life, emulating the teachings of Christ in the Beatitudes and the Sermon on the Mount. His devotion, works of charity and poverty so appealed to those around him that many came to follow in his path. He is remembered as an example of Christian disciple and humility, and is honored across divisions of faith and church—a saint for all people.

Prelude

Felix Mendelssohn, 2nd Movement from “*Sonata in A major*”

Opening Hymn (Sung by Musicians)

ELW 835 “All Creatures, Worship God Most High”

- 1 All creatures, worship God most high!
Sound ev'ry voice in earth and sky: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright;
sing, sister moon and stars of night:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

- 2 Sing, brother wind; with clouds and rain
you grow the gifts of fruit and grain: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Dear sister water, useful, clear,
make music for your Lord to hear:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen

Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty God, we praise you for your servant Francis, whom you sent to call the Church to its tasks and renew its life. Raise up in our own day teachers and prophets

inspired by your Spirit, whose voices will give strength to your Church and proclaim the reality of your kingdom; through your Son, Jesus Christ Our Lord.

Amen.

First Reading

Micah 6:6-8

With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:7-15 (by musicians)

7Restore us, O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

8You have brought a vine | out of Egypt;
you cast out the nations and | planted it.

9You cleared the | ground for it;
it took root and | filled the land.

10The mountains were covered | by its shadow
and the towering cedar trees | by its boughs. R

11You stretched out its tendrils | to the sea
and its branches | to the river.

12Why have you broken | down its wall,
so that all who pass by pluck | off its grapes?

13The wild boar of the forest has | ravaged it,
and the beasts of the field have | grazed upon it.

14Turn now, O | God of hosts,
look | down from heaven;

15behold and | tend this vine;

preserve what your right hand has planted

Second Reading

Galatians 6:14-18

May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is the new creation. Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule—to the Israel of God. From now on, let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (setting 4—Alleluia—Musicians Sing)

Gospel

Matthew 11:25-30

C: Glory to you, O Lord

At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do. “All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

ELW 769 “If You but Trust in God to Guide You”

- 1 If you but trust in God to guide you
with gentle hand through all your ways,
you'll find that God is there beside you
when crosses come, in trying days.
Trust then in God's unchanging love;

build on the rock that will not move.

- 4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways unswerving,
offer your service faithfully.

Trust heaven's word; though undeserving,
you'll find this promise true to be.
This is our confidence indeed:
God never fails in time of need.

Apostle's Creed

C: 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 into hell.
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.

Prayers of Intercession

Prayer attributed to St. Francis
Read in unison by Congregation

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.

Holy God, we pray for the healing of all in need: those who are tired, feeling despair, sick, or oppressed especially those we now name before you Joe, Nancy, Carol, Dennis, Rob, Pastor Steve Swanson and all those diagnosed with COVID-19. Give your consolation and free us from all that keeps us bound, we ask in Jesus' name and through his Spirit. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Eucharist Liturgy

P: The Lord be with you
C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: Blessed are you, O Lord our God.
Your abundant grace fills our lives with blessings.
All of Heaven and earth sing of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
Who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
Who preached good news to the poor,
And who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:
“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

We give you thanks and praise for
your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

C: Christ has died.
Christ has risen.
Christ will come again.

P: Send your Holy Spirit on us, gathered here,
and on this gift of bread and all who share in the body of your Son.

May your saving acts be proclaimed
and your name forever be praised, Almighty Father.
We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ,
with your Holy Spirit in your holy church throughout the world.

C: Amen. Your Kingdom come.

A: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

C: Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those
 who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
 and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Communion Distribution

You are invited to come to the altar for Holy Communion. Places are marked where you may stand. Communion will be by the distribution of bread alone. After you have communed, please return to your place in the pews. We ask that everyone observe the protocols of social distancing and wear your mask when approaching and leaving the altar.

Lamb of God

Anthem (sung by Musicians)

"For I will Consider my Cat, Jeffrey" from *Rejoice in the Lamb* by Britten

Post Communion Blessing

P: The body of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray.

Holy and gracious God, you have blessed us at this holy meal and united us in the fellowship of our savior, Jesus Christ. Your generous blessings renew us to go forth to serve as your faithful people until your kingdom comes and your rule is established throughout the whole world.

C: Amen. Come Lord Jesus, Come.

Closing Hymn Sung by Musicians

ELW 796 "How Firm a Foundation"

- 1 How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said
who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?

- 4 "Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove
my sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;
and then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn,
like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne."

Benediction and Dismissal

P: Go forth in the power of the Holy Spirit!
Proclaim the gospel throughout the earth!
Serve the Lord with gladness,
with deeds of justice and mercy!

C: Amen.

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

François Couperin, “*Récit pour Chromhorne*” from *Messe pour Les Convents*

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