Flowing with Joy, Walking with God.

Julian of Norwich
May 6, 2021
Service of Healing • 6:15 pm
The Reverend Sarah van Gulden
Priest-in-Charge
Opening Sentences

Presider  The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.
People  And also with you.
Presider  Let us pray.

Loving God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer: accept our prayers and grant the power of your grace, that the weak may be strengthened, sickness turned to health, the dying made whole, and sorrow turned into joy; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

Triune God, Father and Mother to us all, who showed your servant Julian revelations of your nurturing and sustaining love: Move our hearts, like hers, to seek you above all things, for in giving us yourself you give us all. Amen.

The First Reading

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds,

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people. Thanks be to God.
The Response

Psalm 27:5-11

One thing have I asked of the LORD; one thing I seek; *
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;
To behold the fair beauty of the LORD * and to seek him in his temple.
For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter; *
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling
and set me high upon a rock.
Even now he lifts up my head *above my enemies round about me.
Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation with sounds of great
gladness; * I will sing and make music to the LORD.
Hearken to my voice, O LORD, when I call; * have mercy on me and
answer me.
You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." * Your face, LORD, will I
seek.

The Gospel

John 4:23-26

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People Glory to you Lord Christ.

Jesus said to the Samaritan, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you
will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship
what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the
Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will
worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to
worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit
and truth.” The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is
called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” Jesus said to
her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you Lord Christ.

Reflection

Litany for Healing

Loving God, we hold in your healing presence those who suffer pain and ill-
health, with their families, and all who care for them.
May they know the deep peace of Christ.

Loving God, we hold in your healing presence those who suffer in mind and spirit, and all who care for them.

May they know the deep peace of Christ.

Loving God, we hold in your healing presence the suffering people of our world, and all the places where people are experiencing despair and loss.

May they know the deep peace of Christ.

Loving God, we hold in your healing presence those facing bereavement, and we pray for all who have died.

May they know the deep peace of Christ.

Loving God, we give you thanks for health restored and prayers answered. We hold in your healing presence those whose needs are known to you alone.

May they know the deep peace of Christ.

May your wisdom, God, guide nurses, doctors, first responders and those who work in every part of Health Services across the world. May your presence strengthen all who work for the benefit and well-being of all.

May they be strengthened for the tasks set before them.

God of compassion and love, we offer you all our uncertainty and suffering, Give us strength to bear our weakness, healing even when there is no cure, Peace in the midst of turmoil, And love to uphold and strengthen us. Glory to God who brings healing and light into all places. May the peace of Christ bear us into new life this day and evermore.

Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer 1, Enriching Our Worship)

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right, and good 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, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

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

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace. But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so, we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love.

Yet you never ceased to care for us and prepared the way of salvation for all people. Through Abraham and Sarah, you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation.

Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: “Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ’s Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. AMEN.

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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.

Distribution of Communion
Closing Prayer

Generous God, we give you thanks for your beloved Jesus Christ, in whom you have shared the beauty and pain of human life. Look with compassion upon all for whom we pray, and strengthen us to be your instruments of healing in the world, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Blessing

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Creator, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

Of Dame Julian’s early life we know little, only the probable date of her birth (1342). Her own writings in the Revelations of Divine Love are concerned only with her visions, or “showings,” that she experienced when she was thirty years old.

She had been gravely ill and was given the last rites; suddenly, on the seventh day, all pain left her, and she had fifteen visions of the Passion. These brought her great peace and joy. “From that time I desired oftentimes to learn what was our Lord’s meaning,” she wrote, “and fifteen years after I was answered in ghostly understanding: ‘Wouldst thou learn the Lord’s meaning in this thing? Learn it well. Love was his meaning. Who showed it thee? Love. What showed he thee? Love. Wherefore showed it he? For Love. Hold thee therein and thou shalt learn and know more in the same.’ Thus it was I learned that Love was our Lord’s meaning.”

Julian had long desired three gifts from God: “the mind of his passion, bodily sickness in youth, and three wounds—of contrition, of compassion, of will-full longing toward God.” Her illness brought her the first two wounds, which then passed from her mind. The third, “will-full longing” (divinely inspired longing), never left her.
She became a recluse, an anchoress, at Norwich soon after her recovery from illness, living in a small dwelling attached to the Church of St. Julian. Even in her lifetime, she was famed as a mystic and spiritual counselor and was frequently visited by clergymen and lay persons, including the famous mystic Margery Kempe. Kempe says of Julian: “This anchoress was expert in knowledge of our Lord and could give good counsel. I spent much time with her talking of the love of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

The Lady Julian’s book is a tender and beautiful exposition of God’s eternal and all-embracing love, showing how his charity toward the human race is exhibited in the Passion. Again and again she referred to Christ as “our courteous Lord.” Many have found strength in the words the Lord had given her: “I can make all things well; I will make all things well; I shall make all things well; and thou canst see for thyself that all manner of things shall be well.”

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