THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PRIESTING OF WOMEN

Resources for Liturgy

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us hold this moment open to God's grace.
Almighty and everliving God, whose Spirit guided this church to welcome women as priests, pastors and teachers: grant to us who celebrate this milestone a heart of love and a zeal for justice, that by our labours the church may grow into the stature of Christ, and earth draw closer to heaven, where with Jesus Christ your Son and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God in glory everlasting.
Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Exodus 1.15-20

A reading from the Book of Exodus.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live." But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?" The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 91.9-16

ILP

Because you have made the Lord your refuge, *
and the Most High your habitation,

there shall no evil happen to you, *
neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.

For the angels of God shall have charge over you, *
to keep you in all your ways.

They shall bear you in their hands, *
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

You shall tread upon the lion and adder; *
you shall trample the young lion and the serpent under your feet.

"**Because they are bound to me in love, ***
therefore will I deliver them;
I will protect them,
because they know my name.

They shall call upon me, *
and I will answer them;
I am with them in trouble;
I will rescue them and bring them to honour.

With long life will I satisfy them, *
and show them my salvation."

The Second Reading

Romans 16.1-7, 16

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church at Cenchreae, so that you may welcome her in the Lord as is fitting for the saints, and help her in whatever she may require from you, for she has been a benefactor of many and of myself as well.

Greet Prisca and Aquila, who work with me in Christ Jesus, and who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. Greet also the church in their house. Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who was the first convert in Asia for Christ. Greet Mary, who has worked very hard among you. Greet Andronicus and Junia, my relatives who were in prison with me; they are prominent among the apostles, and they were in Christ before I was. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel

Mark 14.3-9

If the gospel is greeted with alleluias, the following versicle may be used
Sing and bless God's holy name;
proclaim the good news of salvation from day to day.

The Gospel is announced
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Mark.
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

While Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. But some were there who said to one another in anger, "Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor." And they scolded her. But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

The Gospel of Christ.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Prayers of the People

The intercessor bids the prayers of the community.

For the church in every time and place: for our growing more deeply and broadly, for our embrace of diversity and our continued relationship with those who have not yet called women to the ministry of word and sacrament, for the revealing of your dream among us, we pray to you, our God:
Show us your salvation.

For Mother Earth: for every mountain, valley and plain, every glacier and waterfall, rainforest and desert, and all that dwell in them; for the transformation of human desires and practices that mar the earth, and the wisdom and will to seek communion with all of creation, we pray to you, our God:
Show us your salvation.

For the peoples of the world and those in authority over them: that each barrier broken in church and in society would reveal new horizons for the human community and herald your in-breaking Kingdom, we pray to you, our God:
Show us your salvation.

For greater investment in women the world over: for the equity of First Nations, Métis and Inuit women; for care and protection of our trans and Two-Spirit siblings, for an end to gender-based discrimination and violence in all its forms, that attention to the welfare of women will lead to the cherishing of every child of earth, we pray to you, our God:
Show us your salvation.

For those separated from this gathering by sickness or hardship, for those unjustly imprisoned or condemned to harsh treatment, for those weighed down by grief or despair, for your healing power in every place of pain and need, we pray to you, our God:
Show us your salvation.

In thanksgiving for the saints in every generation: remembering especially Li Tim-Oi, Elspeth Alley, Mary Mills, Patricia Reed, Virginia Briant, and our forebears in faith whom we name now:

Names may be spoken aloud.

Receive them as heirs of your promise, we pray to you, our God:
Show us your salvation.

For ourselves: for the vocation of every person gathered here, lay and ordained, for fullness in living and gentleness in dying,
for the forgiveness of our sins, and our willingness to forgive those who have sinned against us;

Silence is shared.

That we who are clothed with Christ in baptism may receive and share his anointing grace in this life, and that all may be drawn together in unity in your eternal realm, we pray to you, our God:
Show us your salvation.

The presider concludes:

O God, you are with your creatures in their trouble: hear our prayer which we offer in your name; rescue us from the temptation to complacency or despair, and make us the dwelling place of your spirit; that by faithful worship and witness your deliverance may reach to the ends of the earth, and your love to every seeking soul, in the name of Christ, we pray.
Amen.

Offertory Sentence

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:28

Hymn

Lancashire

Guide us, O God, with blessing,
to live and love, shalom;
you shepherd us and feed us,
your heart shall be our home.
With change and challenge 'fore us,
we join our hands resolved,
to be your church triumphant;
lead on, O God, lead on.

Guide us, O God, with blessing,
with Hannah, Deborah, called,
to be this new day's prophets,
we shall not be forestalled.
Your cross is e'er before us,
and in its light we walk;
lead on in peace and promise,
lead on, O dazzling light.

Guide us, O God, with blessing,
with Mary's song allied,
with Anna's age and wisdom,
we travel in their stride.
Give us the will to fashion,
a future that holds firm,
for peace and fairness, justice;
lead on, O faithful God.

Guide us, O God, with blessing,
to live and love, shalom;
you shepherd us and feed us,
your heart shall be our home.
With change and challenge 'fore us,
we join our hands resolved,
to be your church triumphant;
lead on, O God, lead on.

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The Prayer over the Gifts

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006) alt

Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hill were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and for ever.
Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Salal+Cedar Eucharistic Prayer, adapt[1].

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 right in all times and in all places to thank and praise you Creator of all. We praise you from coastal rainforests in the West; where the tidal pools and sandstone shores frame the East; along frosty shelves and tundra in the North; where prairies stretch to the horizon and jagged peaks pierce the sky; from coast to coast to coast we sing out. We praise you at a time when the body of earth is broken again and again.

We give thanks for our place in the story of salvation. Our ancestors journeyed with you in creation and migration. They depended on the land, were displaced from the land and displaced others from their lands. They knew you in tents and cities, on mountains and by wells, in families and in dreams, and through wilderness prophets who spoke of cedars and listened to ravens. Together with angels and ancestors, orca and salmon, bear and raven, salal and cedar we join our voices with all creation in this ancient honour song:

The Sanctus and Benedictus is spoken or sung.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The presider continues

We give thanks to you for Jesus, whose first bed was a feed trough. He was baptized in the Jordan, tested in the wilderness, he traveled in fishing boats and told parables of famers and seeds, labor and wages, yeast and bread.

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread, food of the poor, the work of field and hearth, he gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his friends saying: Take and eat, this is my body, given for you, do this to remember me. Again after supper he took the cup of wine, fruit of the land, gave thanks and gave it to his friends saying: This is my blood, which is shed for you. When you do this, do it in memory of me.

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

Remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection and awaiting his coming kingdom, we offer you this bread and this cup. Creator, send your Spirit on these gifts so that we know Jesus in them and are gathered together with everyone who shares this sacred meal of justice and community. Fill us with the courage and love of Jesus, that we may strive for justice and peace, respect the dignity of every human being, and safeguard the integrity of creation. Bring us with and all your saints to your

[1] New users of the Salal+Cedar Eucharistic Prayer are asked to make a financial gift to indigenous land protectors in their locale.

commonwealth of sparrow and lily, child and beggar which is both now and yet to come. All honor and glory are yours, Creator, Christ and Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

Fraction Sentence

Bread is broken. Silence may be kept.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We, being many, are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.
Almighty God, source of all goodness, we give you thanks that you feed us with heavenly food, and nourish us with signs of your promise; send us now into the world in unity and peace, to love and serve you as you are revealed in our neighbour, through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord.
Amen.