



## The Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading: Isaiah 55:10-13

*Reader* A reading from the Book of Isaiah.  
For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,  
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.  
For you shall go out in joy,  
and be led back in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you  
shall burst into song,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.  
Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;  
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;  
and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,  
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

*Reader* The word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 65

*Please join on the alternating (bolded) verses of the psalm.*

- <sup>1</sup> You are to be praised, O God, in Zion;  
to you shall vows be performed in Jerusalem.
- <sup>2</sup> **To you that hear prayer shall all flesh come,  
because of their transgressions.**
- <sup>3</sup> Our sins are stronger than we are,  
but you will blot them out.
- <sup>4</sup> **Happy are they whom you choose  
and draw to your courts to dwell there!  
they will be satisfied by the beauty of your house,  
by the holiness of your temple.**
- <sup>5</sup> Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation,  
O Hope of all the ends of the earth and of the seas that are far away.
- <sup>6</sup> **You make fast the mountains by your power;  
they are girded about with might**
- <sup>7</sup> You still the roaring of the seas,  
the roaring of their waves,  
and the clamour of the peoples.
- <sup>8</sup> **Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvellous signs;  
you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.**
- <sup>9</sup> You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous;  
the river of God is full of water.
- <sup>10</sup> **You prepare the grain,  
for so you provide for the earth.**

11 You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;  
 with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.  
 12 **You crown the year with your goodness,  
 and your paths overflow with plenty.**  
 13 May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,  
 and the hills be clothed with joy.  
 14 **May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,  
 and the valleys cloak themselves with grain;  
 let them shout for joy and sing.**  
 Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

**Second Reading: Romans 8:1-11**

*Reader* A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.  
 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

*Reader* The word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Canticle A Song of Wisdom**

*Officiant* Wisdom freed from a nation of oppressors  
 a holy people and blameless race.

*All* **She entered the soul of a servant of the Lord,  
 withstood dread kings with wonders and signs.  
 To the saints she gave the reward of their labours,  
 and led them by a marvellous way;  
 she was their shelter by day  
 and their starlight through the night.  
 She brought them across the Red Sea,  
 led them through mighty waters,  
 but their enemies she swallowed in the waves  
 and spat them out from the depths of the abyss.  
 Lord, the righteous sang hymns to your name,  
 and praised with one voice your protecting hand,  
 for Wisdom opened the mouths of the dumb,  
 and gave speech to the tongues of babes.**

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

*Reader* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Reader* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach.

And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them.

Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen! Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

*Reader* The Gospel of Christ.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Homily**

The Rev'd Fr. Jeffrey Kennedy

**The Apostles Creed**

*Officiant* Let us confess our faith as we say,

*All* **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 to the dead.**

**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.**

## Invitation to Christian Stewardship

*We at St John the Baptist Norway give regularly to God's work through offerings and other gifts. Our offerings support the life of the parish, as well as the work we do in the world, both locally and globally. We invite you to contribute financially as you are able to the life and ministry of the parish. Instructions for submitting contributions can be found in the announcements.*

*Officiant* Blessed be thou, Lord God of Israel, for ever and ever. All that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine. All things come of thee and of thine own have we given thee. **Amen.**

## Intercessions and Prayers

### Intercessions

*Leader* Let us offer our prayers to the source of all love and life, saying, "Lord, hear our prayer." Let us ask the Lord for a day of fulfilment and peace.

*All* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Let us ask the Lord to teach us to love others as he has loved us.

*All* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Let us ask the Lord for peace and justice in the world.

*All* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Teach us to use creation for your greater praise, that all may share the good things you provide

*All* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Strengthen all who give their energy or skill for the healing of those who are sick in body or in mind.

*All* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Set free all who are bound by fear and despair.

*All* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Grant a peaceful end and eternal rest to all who are dying, and your comfort to those who mourn.

*All* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Let us ask the Lord to renew the Church through the power of the Holy Spirit.

*All* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray, to the mercy and protection of God. **Amen.**

### The Collect

*Officiant* Let us pray. Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you. May we find peace in your service, and in the world to come, see you face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

*Officiant*

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

*All*

**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,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## Blessing

*Officiant*

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 Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## Hymn

*For the Healing of the Nations (576)*

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

For the healing of the nations, God, we pray with one accord,  
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords.  
To a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us, Father, into freedom; from despair your world release,  
That, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.  
Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned:  
pride of status, race, or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.  
In our common quest for justice, may we hallow life's brief span.

You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind;  
for our growing in your likeness, bring the life of Christ to mind;  
that by our response and service earth its destiny may find.

## Dismissal

*Officiant*

Let us bless the Lord.

*People*

**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

**Gavotte in F (Samuel Wesley)**

## Announcements

### **Contributing Financially**

There are three ways you can contribute financially to the parish:

1. By cheque, made payable to 'St John the Baptist Norway Anglican Church' and mailed to: 470 Woodbine Ave South, Toronto, Ontario, M4E 2H6.
2. Donate online through [CanadaHelps.org](http://CanadaHelps.org). A link can be found on the main page of the parish website ([stjohnsnorway.com](http://stjohnsnorway.com)).
3. Pre-authorized Debit (PAD). If you wish to sign-up for automatic monthly withdrawals, please contact the wardens.

Tax receipts are issued for all gifts after year-end.

### **Weekly Bible Study – Summer break!**

From now until September, our weekly bible study will take a summer break.

### **Youth Ministry – Summer Break!**

From now until September, our youth ministry will take a summer break so that youth and leaders alike can enjoy a rest and come back refreshed.

### **Ministries for Children – continuing through Summer**

For children, our Sunday School coordinator Elisabeth Westberg is hosting weekly lessons on Zoom, beginning at 10:00 AM on Sunday mornings. For information about how to connect over Zoom, please email Elisabeth directly at [youth@stjohnsnorway.com](mailto:youth@stjohnsnorway.com).

### **Weekly Happy almost-an-Hour – Fridays at 5PM**

On Fridays at 5:00 PM, we are holding "Happy almost-an-Hour!" Grab some snacks, tune into Zoom, and catch up with other parishioners! To join online, follow the link:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/2035813958>. To dial in on the phone, first dial: 647-558-0588. When prompted, enter the meeting ID: 203 581 3958#. Please refer any questions to Fr. Benjamin ([curate@stjohnsnorway.com](mailto:curate@stjohnsnorway.com), 647-608-5608). – **PASSWORD: 077686**

### **Suspension of public worship in church buildings to last until September**

In a letter to parishes sent out last week, the Toronto bishops have extended the suspension of public worship in buildings to last until at least September. This upholds the decision in the letter from the Ontario House of Bishops that was distributed the previous week. Dial-in and virtual worship will continue through the summer months until worship in the church building resumes.

### To Reach Us

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