

Thanksgiving Eve Service
St. Christopher-by-the-Sea
November 24, 2021

Hymn 433 – We gather together

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
he chastens and hastens his will to make known;
the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing:
sing praises to his Name; he forgets not his own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;
so from the beginning the fight we were winning:
thou, Lord, was at our side: all glory be thine!

We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant,
and pray that thou still our defender wilt be.
Let thy congregation escape tribulation:
thy Name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

Lesson: Luke 22:14-20

When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God." After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given you your; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."

Homily – "Take and Do"

Thanksgiving Litany

O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.
Endue thy ministers with righteousness.
Give peace, O Lord, in all the world.
Lord, keep this nation under thy care.
Let not the need, O Lord, be forgotten.
Create in us clean hearts, O God.

And grant us thy salvation.
And make thy chosen people joyful.
For only in thee can we live in safety.
And let thy way be known upon earth;
Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
And sustain us with thy Holy Spirit.

Blessing and Sharing of Bread and Wine

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he 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 shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father, we remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory. And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country, where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. Amen.

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

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, you 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 for ever. Amen.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The Body of Christ. *The Bread of Heaven.*

The Blood of Christ. *The Cup of Salvation.*

Thanksgiving Collect

Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we beseech you, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Hymn 397 – Now thank we all our God

Now thank we all our God, with heart, and hands, and voices,
who wondrous things hath done, in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mother's arms hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us!
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
The Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven,
eternal, Triune God, whom earth and heaven adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be, evermore.

Dismissal

Alleluia! Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

There are all sorts of people and things and situations for which we are grateful, especially at this time of year. Even in the midst of uncertainty, we recognize that, not only are there people and conditions to be thankful for, there is the reality, the gift, that we can help those in need and mitigate conditions.

The verb “to mitigate” probably wasn’t on the tip of our tongues two years ago. But it certainly is now. We have been reminded in very sobering and often confusing ways that we are “mitigators.”

Of course, for people of faith, that has always been so. God has always counted on us to help out. Thus our theme this evening: “Take and Do.”

Not grab and yank the assignment. No, as people of God, we receive the assignment. God says, “Here, take it! Accept it. Welcome it. There’s work to do, love to share, hope to proclaim, and joy to experience.

And there is no charge. My Son has paid the price.

Now, if we do receive it, there is an expectation. Namely, that we share the sacrificial love of the Cross and the joy of the Resurrection. Our theme is not just “Take.” It is “Take and Do.” “Do this in remembrance. “ Do this in recognition that there is work to do. Do this in thanksgiving for the Love of God in Christ. And incredible gift, with an expectation that the mitigation can be as exciting and as interesting and as helpful as we care to make it.

Not just **Take**, but Take **and Do**. A two-part assignment that you all have received and are executing, in all sorts of different ways. By nature and training, you are mitigators. Your various ministries to people and conditions are impressive.

And these ministries are not just impressive, they are exactly what God has in mind for us. You, we, are doing what we are meant to be doing. Not only our birthright, but our joy. And it is this sense of joy that is at the heart of Thanksgiving, and at the heart of this Thanksgiving Eve service.

Good for the Lord for offering the Love of Christ, and good for you all for, not only receiving that offering, but sharing it. “Take and Do.” Amen.

