27th Sunday in Ordinary Time Communion Service Responses of the people are indicated in **bold/italics**.

Welcome and announcements:

Opening Song: #735 Gather 'Round This Table



Mary: . Good evening, for those who don't know me, I am Mary, a lay member of Light of Christ, and occasionally I have lead Communion Services when Fr. Teri is not available. This evening, we gather and celebrate a Communion Service which means that the Bread and Hosts we will use were consecrated at a previous Mass with Fr. Teri. Together we will listen to sacred texts whose meaning is revealed and connected to the fabric of our daily lives. Some of you know that I change some of the words we say to reflect where I am on my journey, just as I know others do. I find this cacophony to be a positive sign that we are each striving to be our authentic selves as together we become more and more the living Body of Christ in the world.

Mary: Let us begin as one expression of God's people.

+ Father, Son, Holy Spirit. Amen.

Mary: Today we are united in prayer with our sisters and brothers who are attending the Synod in Estes Park. We ask that the Love of God, the peace of our brother Jesus, and the communion and friendship of the Holy Spirit be with all of us. *And also with you.*

Penitential Rite:

Mary: We now turn to God with our whole selves.

God of Wisdom, you invite us to examine our lives. Lord, fill us with mercy. Lord, fill us with mercy

Jesus, You, are concerned with each of us and our well-being. Christ, fill us with mercy.

Guiding Spirit, You, move through us in the world sharing love and grace. Lord, fill us with mercy. *Lord, fill us with mercy.*

Mary.: We pray that these words reflect our faith and our trust in God. May our loving God shower us with grace, be forever present to us, assure us that we are in right relationship with our Creator, and bring us to everlasting joy and light. *Amen.*

Opening Prayer:

Mary: Let us pray......God of all Goodness, you are capable of everything we can possibly imagine that is good and comes from love. Sometimes, however, we believe that everything around us, and even within us, is more powerful than you. Help us to know Your Voice in the Silence, and to know Your Faith in the Storms. May Wisdom become the foundation of our lives so that we may know what is essential in following our brother Jesus. We pray, *Amen.*

Mary: Let us all be seated as we listen to some stories from our Scriptures.

First Reading: Pam

Our First Reading is from the Book of Wisdom 7:3-12

When we are born, we draw in common air. When we fall, it is upon the same ground, the Earth that bears us all. Crying is the first sound we make, like everyone. No leader, authority, or rich person has known any other beginning of existence. There is only one way into life, and one way out.

I prayed, and understanding was given to me. I called on God, and the Spirit of Wisdom came to me. I esteemed Wisdom more than power and privilege. I held riches as nothing compared with Her.

I did not liken Her to a precious stone – it is not Her equal. All gold is a pinch of sand compared with Her. Silver ranks as clay beside Her. I loved Wisdom more than health or beauty. I preferred Her to the light; Her radiance never sleeps. In Her company, good things came to me, at Her hands, wealth that cannot be counted. I rejoiced in all Her gifts! Wisdom is their source, though I had not realized She is their Mother.

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom. Thanks be to God

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 90 (spoken)

Psalm Response is: Teach us to live contentedly.

R: Teach us to live contentedly.

God, You have been our home forever. Long before the mountains were born, long before the stars were flung, long before You brought Earth itself to birth, from age to age, You are God.

R: Teach us to live contentedly.

You return humans to stardust with a word: "Return, children of Adam, children of Eve."
But patience, O God! For a thousand years are to You like a yesterday, like one watch in the night.
Teach us to live contentedly. Teach us to live wisely.

R: Teach us to live contentedly.

Surprise us with Love at daybreak, so that we'll sing and dance with joy the day long. Teach us to sip contentedly from the fragrant wine of our lives.* Let us see the marvels of Your works. Let us enjoy Your splendor. May the sweetness of God be upon us all.

R: Teach us to live contentedly.

Second Reading: Pam

A Reading from the Book of Revelation 3:14-19

The Human One, Who is First and Last, said to John:

"Write this to the angel of the church in Laodicea:

'The Amen, the faithful and true witness, the Source of God's creation, says this: I know your works. I know that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you

were either cold or hot. Because you are lukewarm, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. You say, 'I am rich and affluent and have no need of anything; yet you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. I advise you to buy, from me, gold refined by fire so that you may be rich. Buy, from me, white garments to put on, so that your shameful nakedness may not be exposed. Buy, from me, ointment to smear on your eyes so that you may see. Those whom I love, I challenge. Those whom I love, I call to true wealth. Be earnest, therefore. Change your ways. Change your hearts."

A Reading from the Book of Revelation. *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Acclamation:



Gospel:

Mary: May the Word of Christ be with you all. And also with you.

Mary: A Reading from the Good News attributed to Mark 10:17-31 *Glory to You, O God.*

As Jesus started on his way, someone ran up to him and fell on bended knee, asking. "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

"Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except One, God. You know the commandments: 'Don't murder. Don't commit adultery. Don't steal. Don't lie. Don't cheat. Honor your father and mother."

The petitioner answered: "Rabbi, all these I have kept since my childhood."

Jesus looked at and loved the person before him. "One thing you lack," Jesus said. "Go. Sell all that you have. Give it to those who are poor. You will have treasure in heaven. Then, come, follow me."

At Jesus' response, the one who asked the question became crestfallen and went away grieving, for they had many possessions.

Jesus looked around and said to the disciples, "How hard it is for those who are rich to enter the kin-dom of God!" The disciples were perplexed at these words. Jesus said again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kin-dom of God! It's easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the kin-dom of God." The disciples were even more stunned, and said to themselves, "Who, then, can be helped?" Looking at them, Jesus said, "For humans, it is impossible, but not with God. All things are possible with God."

Then Peter spoke up, "Rabbi, we've left everything to follow you!" Jesus replied, "Yes. Indeed, no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or land for me and for the gospel will fail to

receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and land—persecutions too—and in the age to come, everlasting life.

"But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

A Reading from the Gospel of Mark. Praise to You, Jesus the Christ

Praise to You, Jesus our Christ.

Homily: Lectio Divina

Prayers of the People:

Mary: I'd like to invite Pam back to lead us in the prayers that have been prepared for today. The rest of you may remain seated.

Pam: Our response today is: Loving God, with you all things are possible. Loving God, with you all things are possible.

For the world, that people of all nations can work together to overcome violence, division and dissent. We pray: *Loving God, with you all things are possible.*

For the church and all people of good will. We especially pray for our ECC as they meet at Synod in Estes Park this weekend. That we can work together to build a better world. We pray: **Loving God, with you all things are possible.**

For those left in the wake of Hurricane Helene and Milton. We pray especially for Amelia, Paula Degnan's daughter, and their family. That they are safe and secure as they rebuild their homes and lives, confident that You are with them. We pray: *Loving God, with you all things are possible.*

For those who are sick, who struggle, who feel alone and isolated. (We especially pray for _____). That they know Your presence and care for them. We pray: *Loving God, with you all things are possible.*

For those who have died. (We especially pray for _____). That they now enjoy eternal rest and comfort in Your presence. We pray: *Loving God, with you all things are possible.*

Pam: For those who have written prayers in the comments, we pray with you. Are there any other prayers here in the sanctuary that you would like to share? (PAUSE) For these and for all the prayers we share through our hearts, we pray: **Loving God, with you all things are possible.**

Pam: n addition, Prayer Partners will be available after Mass here in the Sanctuary by the back altar. For those at home, or those who have a prayer to share during the week, you can email our Prayer Companion Team at prayercompanionteam@lightofchristecc.org and someone will reach out to you. These prayer ministries welcome and invite you, in confidence, to share your concerns in more detail or depth, or even to pray for you when you can't find the words.

Collect: (Mary,)

Ever Present God, we share with you our prayers and our lives, confident that you are present and hear them. We trust in your constant care for us, and we pray in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

Sign of Peace:

Mary: Please rise. As we share a sign of Peace with one another. Please join me as we first turn to the cameras in the back and share a sign of peace with those participating from home. When you are ready, you may move around the sanctuary if you choose.

Offertory Song: #537 Glory and Praise to Our God



Text: Psalm 65, 66; Dan Schutte, b.1947 Tune: Dan Schutte, b.1947; acc. by Sr. Theophane Hytrek, OSF, 1915-1992, alt. © 1976, Daniel L. Schutte and OCP Publications Mary: Generous God, through your goodness we have these gifts to place on your table. These offerings have sometimes traveled through the mail to get here, and other times through pockets or purses. They represent our entire lives. May they become the Light of Christ in your world. **Blessed** by God forever.

Mary: Blessed are you, Loving God of all Creation, through your goodness we have this bread and other food from our cupboards to place on your tables. Work of earth and human hands. Thank you, for providing this Spiritual Food for us. **Blessed be God forever.**

Mary: Please rise.

Mary: Let us open our hearts. We open them to our God.

Mary: Let us give thanks to our Loving God. *It is right to give God thanks and praise.*

Preface:

Mary: We thank you, loving and Inclusive God, that you are a God of all People. We are joyful that you know us by our names. How marvelous is the unity that you create from our diversity, as you dwell in the hearts of all people, each called to be a blessing to the rest.

Grounding, guiding, and challenging us with your Wisdom so that we can live up to the full potential that unity affords us.

Together we praise your majesty, O God, with all the living we sing/say:

Mass of Welcoming



Mary: This is the heart of the Eucharistic celebration. We are the body of Christ. Through this Eucharist which we are about to receive, we remember how we have been blessed with the Divine's presence on earth. Jesus walked among us. He healed us, taught us, fed us, ultimately died upon the cross and rose in Love and Glory so that the world might be transformed by his example of love.

Mary: We remember now with story and this Bread already consecrated, that on the night before he died, Jesus took another loaf of bread, he blessed it and he broke it, then he gave it to his friends and followers and said,

ALL: "Take this all of you and eat it. This is my body which will be shared with you."

Mary: Blessed are you, creator God, one with Your Son, Jesus the Christ.

We acknowledge with reverence and faith, that within Christ's re-created body, risen and one with you, are all the people of this earth, adults, and children of all races, of all religions and political beliefs. We now seek an awareness that binds us all together in a holy communion.

Loving God, may we be aware of the Spirit who brings to life in us the desire to follow the example of Jesus the Christ. We pray that we are united with you and that we may live with Wisdom and be a sign of Your peace as we support and serve others in love.

Mary: Together let us say: *Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours all loving God, forever and ever.*



LORD'S PRAYER

Mary: Let us join our hearts together in love, and pray together in the words that have been prayed with Jesus for centuries:

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin(g)dom 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 Kin(g)dom, the power, and the glory, now and forever. Amen.



Mary: In this Bread we know the Body of Christ. Blessed are we who have been called to this meal.

God, I am ready to receive you. Because by your invitation, I am here. (People will have various responses to the Agnes Dei.)

(Invitation to Communion) Believing this bread is meant to be shared with all. We, as part of the ECC, believe that wherever you are on your journey you are welcome to come and share this Communion, if you so choose. If you need gluten free hosts, they will be on the stool near Pam and she and I will have regular bread. There is no wine or grape juice today. The center aisle is on camera, the one on your left is not. The important thing to remember is that you can't get this wrong. For those of you at home, receive the grace that God shares with you this day.

Communion Song: #824 Behold the Lamb



Prayer after Communion:

Mary: Let us pray...

God of Wisdom, your life-giving word, and this Bread of Life, come alive in our lives. May they renew our souls and draw us closer to all of creation in love and acceptance. In Jesus' name we pray. *Amen.*

Mary: May we know God's love is always with us as we open our hearts to a blessing, knowing that God has faith in us. We remember those at the Synod, asking that Wisdom be revealed in their conversations and that the ECC members empowered by the Spirit, give light to the world. We ask for this blessing now, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Mary: This Communion service is ended. Please join me in our sending forth by repeating each phase after me:

We are the Light of Christ....

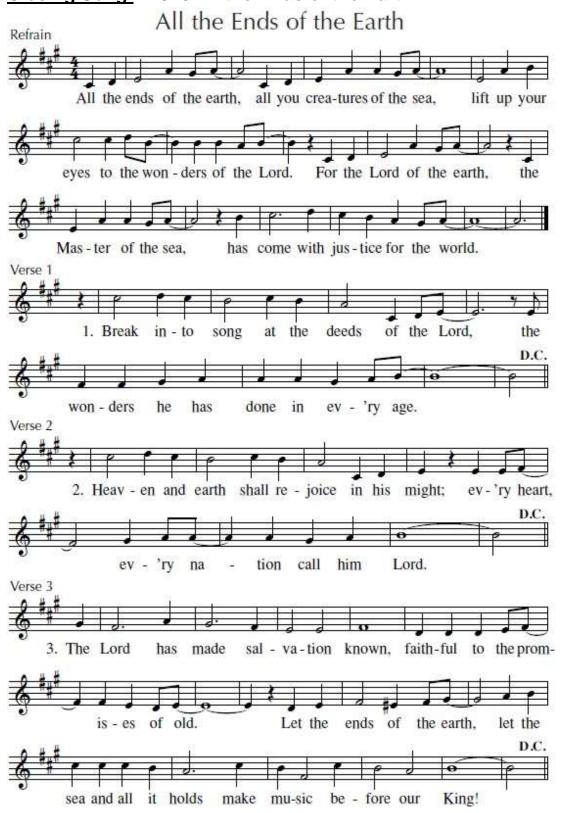
Let us go forth as such.....

loving and serving God.....

as we get to love and serve in God's world......

Thanks be to God.

Closing Song: # 526 All the Ends of the Earth



Text: Psalm 98; Bob Dufford, SJ, b. 1943
Tune: Bob Dufford, SJ, b. 1943; acc. by Bob Dufford and Chris Morash, alt.
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