



Christ Healing a Deaf and Dumb Man by Domenico Maggiotto, 18th century AD

LITURGY FOR PILGRIMS

Sunday, August 9, 2026 | The Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



WE GATHER TOGETHER

Ringing of the Bell to Center the Community

The Procession of Light, Incense, and Icon – “Alleluia 11” (Taize)

Blessed is the beloved community of God’s peace.

And blessed are those who follow the ways of love.

“Jesus said, “Are you being willfully stupid? Don’t you know that anything that is swallowed works its way through the intestines and is finally defecated? But the things we say and believe that come out of the mouth get their start in the heart. It’s from the heart that we vomit up all sorts of things that hurt and destroy. That’s what is dirty.””

(from the Gospel according to the tradition of Matthew)

(sung) **Come, dear friends, let's feast together,
stories share and fears release.
Christ is opening wide the circle.
may this house shine bright with peace.**

We gather to remember who God is:

The One who remains as rulers rise and fall.

The One whose love sets free.

The One who creates life where evil intends death.

Among us, within us, despite us, Love endures forever.

Singing – “Lord of all hopefulness” (insert)



WE SHARE OUR STORIES

Holy One, your power is neither controlling nor reckless; it is not arrogant and it is not destructive. Your strength is made manifest in service, transforming the world through acts of radical compassion and justice. May your Spirit guide us, that we too may have the courage to believe in this power of love. **Amen.**

A reading from the ancient book of Ezekiel from the Hebrew scriptures, :

The Holy One said to Ezekiel, “Now, son of man, put a brick in front of you, and draw a picture of the city of Jerusalem on it. Then lay siege against it: build a wall around it and place a siege ramp against it; prepare to attack it by placing tiny battering rams and pitching tiny camps around it. Then take an iron pan and put it between you and the city to represent the iron wall My people have put between them and Me. Turn your face toward it to show that Jerusalem will be under siege. This will be a sign to the people of Israel.

“Then lie down on your left side, facing the Jerusalem brick, and place all of Israel’s sins on you. You are to carry their sins for as long as you lie on your left side. I have decided you will represent the carrying of sins the exact number of days as the years of their sin. For 390 days, you will carry the wickedness of Israel’s Northern Kingdom. After you have completed this, lie down again, this time on your right side. While you lie down on your right side, you carry the sins of the people of the Southern Kingdom, Judah. This time, you are to lie on your right side for 40 days, one day for each year of their wickedness. Turn your face toward the siege on Jerusalem, and preach to her with raw passion, with your arm bared ready to strike. I will see

that you are tied up with ropes so that you cannot turn from side to side or move until the days of your siege are completed.

“Then take wheat and barley, beans and lentils, millet and spelt; store them together in one crock; use them to make bread for yourself during the siege. Eat the bread during the 390 days you are lying on your left side. Eat no more than 8 ounces of bread per day, and eat your portion at set times each day. Drink no more than 11 ounces of water each day, and drink it at designated times. Eat the bread in the same manner you would eat a barley cake. Let the people see you bake it, and use human excrement instead of animal dung as fuel. This is exactly what will happen to the people of Israel. They will be forced to eat their bread defiled and impure when I drive them to other nations.

Then Ezekiel said, “Never, Eternal Lord! I have never defiled myself in such a way. Since childhood, I have never eaten anything that is impure—nothing diseased or ripped apart by wild animals. Not a morsel of impure meat has ever been in my mouth.”

The Holy One replied, “All right then, I’ll let you bake your bread over cow dung instead of human excrement. Son of man, I am going to cut off the food supply from Jerusalem. The people will slowly starve, living off minimal rations of food and water. As they eat their morsels of bread and drink their minimal ration of water, they will be constantly worrying about what they will eat and drink the next day. When bread and water become more and more scarce, everyone will look at each other in horror. They will slowly waste away beneath the weight of their sins.”

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalter – from Psalm 102

PSALM TONE ONE



Antiphon

Turn your ear to me, and when I call, *
be quick to answer me!

ADONAI, hear my *prayer*,*
 let my cry for help *reach you*;
 do not hide your face from me when I'm in *trouble*;*
 turn your ear to *me*,
 and when I call, be quick to *answer me*!
 For my days are vanishing like *smoke*,*
 my bones smolder like *logs*;
 my heart is withering like grass in the scor-ching *sun**
 and Death is con-sum-ing *me*;
 whenever I heave a *sigh*,*
 my bones stick through my *skin*.
 I have become a vulture roaming the wil-der-ness,*
 a screech owl living in the *ruins*—
 I lie a-wake la-*menting*,*
 like a lone bird that chatters to itself on the *roof*.
 My enemies taunt me all day *long*,*
 those who used to praise me now use my name as a *curse*.
 Ashes are the bread I *eat*,*
 and everything I drink is laced with *tears*.
 In your fury and your *wrath*,*
 you picked me up only to toss me a-*side*;
 my days fade away like a *shadow*,*
 and I am as dry as *hay*.

But you, ADONAI, sit en-*throned*,*
 and your renown lasts from one generation to the *next*!
 Arise, and take pity on *Zion*!*
 The time has come to have mercy on it;
 indeed, the hour has *come*;
 for your faithful ones prize its *stones**
 and are moved to pity by its *dust*.

Gloria

Glory to you, O Trinity, most holy and *blessed*;*
 One God, now and for-ever. A-*men*.

Antiphon

Turn your ear to me, and when I *call*,*
 be quick to *answer me*!



Reading from the Gospel in the tradition of Mark:

Jesus left the region around Tyre and went by way of Sidon toward Lake Galilee. He went through the land near the ten cities known as Decapolis. Some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk. They begged Jesus just to touch him. After Jesus had taken him aside from the crowd, he stuck his fingers in the man's ears. Then he spit and put it on the man's tongue. Jesus looked up toward heaven, and with a groan he said, "Effatha!" which means "Open up!"

At once the man could hear, and he had no more trouble talking clearly.

Jesus told the people not to say anything about what he had done. But the more he told them, the more they talked about it. They were completely amazed and said, "Everything he does is good! He even heals people who cannot hear or talk."

Story from our brother, Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

A Midrash

A statement of faith from our allies and friends in the Progressive Christian Alliance:

We believe in God, whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives; whose love was given a human face in Jesus of Nazareth; whose love was crucified by the evil that waits to enslave us all; and, whose love, defeating even death, is our glorious promise of freedom. Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful and full of doubt, we trust that love. And in the name of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves in the service of others: to seek justice and to live in peace; to care for the earth and to share the commonwealth of God's goodness; to live in the freedom of forgiveness and in the power of the Spirit of Love; and in the company of all the faithful – past, present, and yet to come – so to be the Church, for the glory of God. **Amen.**

In a world where spirits of dominance and control encourage us to turn away from one another, Jesus calls us to the opposite. Together, we practice trust by sharing all that we have with each other - freely, generously, and with joy.

We share our stories, expose our world's failings, and pledge to work for peace.

God of real bodies and real bodily functions, we confess the times we are complicit in respectability toward authorities, resisting the tasks of radical disobedience that may bring about justice. Forgive us when we flinch or recoil at the work of prophets who take what seem like drastic steps to get our attention. Open our ears to hear and our mouths to speak.

(Silence is held.)

In Jesus, whose own body brings healing, the liberation of God's commonwealth of peace shatters our complicity. We are released, with eyes and ears and mouths and eyes and hearts open, sent forth to dismantle the powers of death and embody love. **Those in power do not hold our future. Thanks be to God.**



WE FEAST AT THE TABLE

The peace of Jesus be always with you. **And also with you!**

We share signs of peace and present the gifts.

**Praise God, the source of life and breath.
Praise Christ, the one who conquers death.
Praise Holy Spirit, wind and flame.
The One and Holy Triune Name. Amen.**

The Holy One be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up in hope.

Let us give thanks for life and breath.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God, who breathes fire into our very existence, filling us with holy joy and holy indignation at the plight of our world: we claim the sign of renewal given to a broken and discouraged community, now as always throughout history. For you come to your people,

filling them with confidence. Your Holy Spirit inspired their lives, bringing clarity and vision, perseverance and persistence, hope and peace. So we join our voices now with them and with all those who have gone before us, with Ezekiel and the mute and deaf man, and all your saints who have struggled to bring a glimpse of your kingdom here on earth:

Holy, holy, holy, God of love and strength. All creation is full of your imagination. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who comes in your name.

Blessed is Jesus, our brother, who calls us beyond the limits of our understanding of our humanity to seek the divine spark within us all, and fills us with a sense of oneness with God and with each other in community.

On the night he was betrayed, while at supper with his friends, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, and broke it saying, “Take and eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.” After supper, he took the cup, blessed it and said: “Drink this, all of you: this is the new covenant made in my blood; do this for the remembrance of me.”

Holy God, we now offer you these gifts, longing for the bread of justice and the wine of the age to come. So, we proclaim a mystery of our faith.

Christ lives. Christ dies. Christ rises again and again.

Pour out your Spirit on these gifts that through them we may be people of justice and compassion. May we be better able to embody your hope, look beyond the obstacles in our path and see new visions, dream new dreams and become your Beloved Community. **Amen.**

We pray the prayer Jesus taught

(sung) **O lamb of God, who takes away the shame of the world,
show mercy in us.
O lamb of God, who takes away the shame of the world,
grant us peace.**

Until the day when justice is no longer imagined but lived, when peace is not enforced but shared, when every table is crowded and everybody is welcomed—we will gather, we will give thanks, we will break bread, and we will practice the future. **Amen.**

We share in our communion of solidarity.



WE GO TO BE PEACE

The pastor's commendation

(sung) **Go, dear friends, bring liberation: stories share and fears release.**

Christ has opened wide the circle. May your lives shine bright with peace.

Moving through the gentle and angry, the humble and bold, the hopeful and resolute, Christ makes known the power of God. It does not trickle down from on high but rises up among us: in the streets, from deep within, among all the creatures of the earth. Let us go, declaring, "Hope is here." **Amen.**

Singing – "Could it be that God is singing" (VT 42)

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!