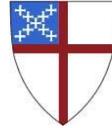


# St. Augustine's

In The Woods



An Episcopal Church serving Whidbey Island

Compassion - Commitment - Community - Reverence - Reconciliation

A Greening Congregation



A Celebration of Christ's Healing Ministry  
Wednesday, January 13, 2021

A Celebration of Christ's Healing Ministry  
Today we remember Hilary of Poitiers

Acclamation

*Presider:* Blessed are you, O God, the Light of the world.

*People:* **You reveal your glory to the nations.**

Collect For Purity

**Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

A Song of Judith *Judith 16: 13-16*

I will sing a new song to my God, \*  
for you are great and glorious, wonderful in strength, invincible  
Let the whole creation serve you,\*  
for you spoke and all things came into being.  
You sent your breath and it formed them,\*  
no one is able to resist your voice.  
Mountains and seas are stirred to their depths,\*  
rocks melt like wax at your presence.  
But to those who fear you,\*  
you continue to show mercy.

Collect of the Day

*Presider:* The Lord be with you.

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

*Presider:* Let us pray.

Keep us steadfast, Lord God, in that true faith that we professed at our baptism; that, like your servant Hilary of Poitiers, we may rejoice in having you for our Father, and may abide in your Son, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit; for you live and reign for ever and ever as one God in Trinity of Persons. **Amen.**

Lesson 1 John 2:18-25

Reader: A reading from the First Book of John

Children, it is the last hour! As you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. From this we know that it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they did not belong to us; for if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us. But by going out they made it plain that none of them belongs to us. But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and all of you have knowledge. I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and you know that no lie comes from the truth. Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father; everyone who confesses the Son has the Father also. Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you will abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is what he has promised us, eternal life.

*Reader:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

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

Psalm 119: 97-104

97 Oh, how I love your law! \*  
all the day long it is in my mind.

**98 Your commandment has made me wiser than my enemies, \*  
and it is always with me.**

99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, \*  
for your decrees are my study.

**100 I am wiser than the elders, \*  
because I observe your commandments.**

101 I restrain my feet from every evil way, \*  
that I may keep your word.

**102 I do not shrink from your judgments, \*  
because you yourself have taught me.**

103 How sweet are your words to my taste! \*  
they are sweeter than honey to my mouth.

**104 Through your commandments I gain understanding; \*  
therefore I hate every lying way.**

The Holy Gospel: Luke 15: 1-7

*Presider:* The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke

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

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable: "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance."

*Presider:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon The Rev. Canon Joan Anthony

Today we remember Hilary, and early Bishop of Poitiers. He was involved in the struggle against the heresy, Arianism throughout his life. As a leading theologian and proponent of what emerged as the orthodox position, Hilary was named a saint and doctor of the church in 1857.

Hilary is also recognized and the first hymnist.

Hilary was in good company. Jesus it seems was always getting into trouble with the religious authorities of the day. He contravened the purity laws by eating with tax collectors and sinners. He upset the ordered and ancient rules that were designed to bring human beings closer to God. After all, these were the rules God had laid down so long ago at Sinai. Or were they?

What we know as the 10 commandments were actually more accurately known as the 10 words. God was sparse with language. God was also blunt. It was human beings that needed to amplify the basic 10 words into a myriad of rules. The intent was good, to help human beings live up to what God wanted of them. But so often our good intentions make things more difficult.

Jesus spoke often in parables, stories that seemed easy to understand but often had a "punch line" at the end that opened up unexpected new ways of thinking. Today's gospel tells the parable of the lost sheep and it illustrates such a "punch

line". Shepherding was difficult and dangerous work. A shepherd was out away from civilization alone all day with only the sheep. There were wild animals, brigands, and accidents to contend with. Relative safety came only at night when the sheep were brought back to the fold, and other shepherds would join together to keep watch in the dangerous dark hours.

Sheep were notorious for straying in search of greener pastures. In the arid grasslands of the middle east, they would often range far afield in search of food. It was not unusual for one to stray too far from the herd. It was the one who strayed who was most in danger of being attacked by wild animals.

The Pharisees and scribes are grumbling. Jesus won't conform, won't follow the rules. Jesus actually welcomes tax collectors and sinners instead of shunning them. He even eats with them. It is scandalous and he is leading others to do the same. When the powers challenge Jesus he tells a parable about sheep and shepherds. I would be willing to bet that the Pharisees and scribes know very little about sheep and shepherds, except perhaps the correct way to prepare the Passover lamb. They are urban dwellers, men of books and study, not shepherds. The parable, I think, was told for the benefit of the crowds, the same crowds that were full of tax collectors and other sinners.

The leaving of 99 sheep to find the one who has gone astray makes no sense logically. You are endangering the 99 to save the life of the one. Of course that is the point. The way God works in the world, the way of love makes no logical sense. It was never intended to make logical sense. The way God works, through love not power may not seem effective in the short run, but as people of faith we believe that in the long run, the power of love can and does change the world, one person, one action at a time. Not perhaps efficient, but then God never claimed efficiency.

One final note on the parable. "Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance." says Jesus. To be righteous, as this term is used in scripture, is to be in right relationship with God. We are righteous when having confessed our sins we acknowledge God's grace of forgiveness. We are all the one sheep that went astray, not the ninety-nine who thought they were righteous. A subtle message to the Pharisees and scribes and also to the crowds. Most of the Pharisees and scribes probably missed the point at least in the moment, but for the crowds, the tax collectors, and other

dubious people, for the sinners among them there was hope. Forgiveness and a restored relationship with God not by following the rules but simply for the asking.

## A Litany of Healing Form 2

Loving God, we hold in your healing presence those who suffer pain and ill-health, those who suffer in mind and spirit, especially any we name now:

*Silence*

We pray for their families and friends and those who care for them.  
**May we all know the deep peace of Christ.**

Loving God, we hold in your healing presence the suffering people of our world, and the places where people are experiencing division, injustice, and violence, especially any we name now:

*Silence*

We pray for all who work to relieve suffering, end division, overcome injustice and stop violence, especially any we name now:

*Silence*

We pray that conflict may be resolved and that justice may be served.  
**May we all know the deep peace of Christ.**

Loving God, we hold in your healing presence those struggling to overcome addictions or abuse, those supporting and working with them, and all those whose suffering has distanced them from those who love them, especially any we name now:

*Silence*

We pray for the gifts of loving relationship and peace, and all who long for them.  
**May we all know the deep peace of Christ.**

Loving God, we hold in your healing presence those whose needs we do not know and those whose names we do not know, confident that they are known to you. We name in our hearts those who are close to us, for whom we pray:

*Silence*

We pray for the gifts of wisdom and insight, and the strength to support all who we encounter who are or have been lost.

**May we all know the deep peace of Christ**

Confession

Let us pray.

*Silence is kept.*

**All: Most holy God, you are our beginning and you will be our end; we are made in your image and likeness. And yet there are times when we fail to honor that image and likeness within us: For what we have done that has been destructive, and counter to your hope for us, forgive us. For what we have not done that could have brought wholeness and love to those around us, and to the world in which we live, forgive us; In all that we could be, but have not been, transform us. For we long to be instruments of your peace, your joy, and your love. Amen.**

*Presider:* God is faithful and just, and forgives those who repent. In the name of the Triune God your sins are forgiven✠; be at peace. God strengthen you in all goodness and keep you on the pilgrim's pathway. **Amen.**

*In the place of laying on of hands and anointing, the following takes place*

Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Holy Scripture teaches us that Jesus healed many who were sick as a sign of the reign of God come near, and sent the disciples to continue this work of healing through prayer in his name.

While we are not able to be together in person, the ministry of healing and prayer continue without ceasing. The laying on of hands and the anointing with holy oil are the outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual grace, given by Christ and available to all who accept them in faith.

I pray that you will be strengthened and filled with God's grace and that you may know the healing power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Peace

*Presider:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

## The Offertory

*Presider:* Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

## The Great Thanksgiving ~ Prayer B

*Presider:* The Lord be with you.

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

*Presider:* Lift up your hearts.

*People:* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Presider:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People:* **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

For with your co-eternal Son and Holy Spirit, you are one God, one Lord, in Trinity of Persons and in Unity of Being; and we celebrate the one and equal glory of you, O Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Presider and People*

**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.**

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, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Presider and People*

**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 blessed Augustine, blessed Hilary of Poitiers, and 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.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your 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 Breaking of the Bread

*Presider:* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People:* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Holy things for Holy people.

*Those experiencing this liturgy at home are invited to pray:*

**Come Lord Jesus, and dwell in my heart in the fullness of your strength; be my wisdom and guide me in right pathways; conform my life and actions to the image of your holiness; and, in the power of your gracious might, rule over every hostile power that threatens or disturbs the growth of your kingdom, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.**

*Silence is kept*

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. **Amen.**

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. **Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer

*Presider:* Let us pray.

*Presider and People:*

**Good and gracious God, Holy One in our midst: we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name. Amen.**

Blessing

May the God of hope fill us with every joy in believing. May the peace of Christ abound in our hearts. May we be enriched by the gifts of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Dismissal

*Presider:* Alleluia, Alleluia! Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

*People:* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!**

Prayer List for St. Augustine's:

Eric Reid, Nancy Pendergast, Ianna King, Lorainne Bayes, Blythe Hewitt, Alex Roe, Andrea Roe, Beth & Mark Gearhart, Barbara Self, Barbara Houston, Kathryn Rickert, Lori Morrison, Fr Valery, Greg Murphy, Julie Bird, Joy & Craig Johnson, Sylvia Brooksbank, David Roe, Paul Louden, Lydia Coats, Colleen Corbett, Deacon Dennis & Linda McManis, Kris Jaeger, Lisa Rohlfing, Debby Denno, Katie Reid, Diana Lindsey, Levi Doss, Amanda King, Jim Christiansen, Carole Halsan, Debbie Wright, Peter Martin, Pete & Nettie Snyder, Marianne Tuttle & family, Chris Lubinski, Ed Klein, Roger Howarth, Tom Bauling, Sydney McCready, Vina Kazsmarcek, Ray Kazsmarcek, LaurieJean, Nancy Cox, Babs & Gary Stone, Margaret Schultz, Peggy Mitchell, Nancy Paris, Tim Smith, Audrey Taie & family, all of the people at Maple Ridge, Elliot Kearns & family, Austin Skubi, Lynn Willeford, Gavin Campbell, Ana Kinkaid, Suzy Palmer, Mark Halloran, John Meyer, Talia Petosa, Gary Smith, Jonathan Morgan & Dana Bublitz, Ruth Epstein, Dannette Masterson, Cary Dial, Jill Uhacz, Diana Klein, Vickie Russo, Rick Schutte, Jim Ramler, Christen Herman, Dean Muncey, John Meyer, Lance Lidral, Laura Whiteway, Carol Ryan, Dale, Johanna, and Trevor Arnold.

Prayers for people who work on the front lines:

All those who are in the food supply chain, the farm workers, processors, delivery folks and the people in our local grocery stores

David Rickert Vollan - Physical Therapist

Allison Wortman - Nurse at Virginia Mason Hospital, Seattle

Hillary Yeomans - Home Healthcare Worker

Karen Fay - Psychiatric Nurse, VA Hospital, Seattle

Maureen Masterson - Compass Health

Renee Wilson, Nurse, Columbus Regional Hospital, Columbus, IN

Cheyenne Wilson, Nursing Asst, Columbus Regional Hospital, Columbus, IN

Tommy Hanson - US Naval Hospital

Keith - Paramedic

Dawn Meyer, Psychologist, Seattle

Mark Taylor, Healthcare worker  
Alysia Doss - ICU Nurse  
Paulette Bishoff, Nurse  
Christopher Doss, Home Health worker  
Diana DiBiase, VA Hospital, Seattle  
Liviya Thoreson Whyte, Hospitalist Providence  
Lisa Dillon Lantz, Nurse  
Amber Halligan, ICU Nurse  
Sean Plattner - firefighter EMT  
Matt Idso, Scientist - Institute for Systems Biology  
Cricket Farr, Full Life Care, Seattle  
Amy Breuninger, Healthgiver  
Kenny Downs - Naval Air Station Whidbey Island  
Denny Huff, Firefighter  
April Wooderson - ER Nurse  
Brook Wooderson - Police Dept.  
Heather Wooderson - Police Dept.  
Candra Ramezani - Firefighter  
Lynsey Barker - Vascular Access Team at Swedish First Hill  
Austin Skubi - Social Worker - Providence, Everett  
The staff of Providence, Everett  
Karen Eaton - Social Worker UW Hospital  
Melissa Anthony EMT - Vancouver, WA fire department  
Peggy Sinclair E.R. nurse Port Townsend WA  
Staff at Careage, Coupeville, WA  
Marshall Corson, Cardiologist UW Hospital  
Kelly Jo Sandri, MD, Truman Hospital Missouri  
Lesa Bjork, RN, ICU Harborview  
Michela Mattens, Nurse, Providence Everett  
Debra Shreckenghost, ICU Nurse  
Larry Laissue - President Kyocera N.W. IT and document support for essential services  
Andy Laissue - Assistant Manager Safeway, Chico CA