



May 31, 2023
6:00pm

*Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
and
Admission of Pam Stewart to the Third Order of the Society of Saint Francis*

Prelude

Improvisation on Ubi Caritas

Welcome

Opening Hymn

Sing of Mary

Blue Hymnal, #277

Clergy
People

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect of the Day

Clergy
People
Clergy

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

Prayer on the Feast of the Visitation

Father in heaven, by your grace the virgin mother of your incarnate Son was blessed in bearing him, but still more blessed in keeping your word: Grant us who honor the exaltation of her lowliness to follow the example of her devotion to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Prayer for Saint Francis

O God, by whose grace your servant Francis, kindled with the flame of your love, became a burning and a shining light in your Church: Grant that we also may be aflame with the spirit of love and discipline, and walk before you as children of light; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Reading

Romans 12: 9-16b

Contemporary English Version

Be sincere in your love for others. Hate everything that is evil and hold tight to everything that is good. Love each other as brothers and sisters and honor others more than you do yourself. ¹¹Never give up. Eagerly follow the Holy Spirit and serve the Lord. Let your hope make you glad. Be patient in time of trouble and never stop praying. Take care of God's needy people and welcome strangers into your home.

Ask God to bless everyone who mistreats you. Ask him to bless them and not to curse them. When others are happy, be happy with them, and when they are sad, be sad. Be friendly with everyone. Don't be proud and feel that you know more than others. Make friends with ordinary people.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 113

BCP, p. 756

Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the LORD; *
 praise the Name of the LORD.
Let the Name of the LORD be blessed, *
 from this time forth for evermore.
From the rising of the sun to its going down *
 let the Name of the LORD be praised.
The LORD is high above all nations, *
 and his glory above the heavens.
Who is like the LORD our God, who sits enthroned on high, *
 but stoops to behold the heavens and the earth?
He takes up the weak out of the dust *
 and lifts up the poor from the ashes.
He sets them with the princes, *
 with the princes of his people.
He makes the woman of a childless house *
 to be a joyful mother of children.

Holy Gospel *Luke 1: 39-57*

Common English Bible

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Mary got up and hurried to a city in the Judean highlands. She entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. With a loud voice she blurted out, "God has blessed you above all women, and he has blessed the child you carry. Why do I have this honor, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. Happy is she who believed that the Lord would fulfill the promises he made to her."

Mary said,
"With all my heart I glorify the Lord!
In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior.
He has looked with favor on the low status of his servant.
Look! From now on, everyone will consider me highly favored
 because the mighty one has done great things for me.
Holy is his name.
He shows mercy to everyone, from one generation to the next, who honors him as God.
He has shown strength with his arm.

He has scattered those with arrogant thoughts and proud inclinations.
He has pulled the powerful down from their thrones and lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty-handed.
He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, remembering his mercy,
just as he promised to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to Abraham's descendants forever."

Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months, and then returned to her home.
When the time came for Elizabeth to have her child, she gave birth to a boy.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Reflection

The Rev. Dr. Becky Coerper

The Order of Admissions – The Third Order of the Society of Saint Francis

This Order for Admissions shall be carried out after the Gospel at a celebration of Holy Eucharist. The Officiant is a lay person or cleric who has received a mandate to perform the admission from the Provincial Chaplain.

The Invitation *Pam Stewart who is to be admitted, stands before the Officiant.*

Officiant: My sister, what do you desire?
Candidate: I, Pam, desire to serve our Lord Jesus Christ by Profession in the Third Order of the Society of Saint Francis, for the rest of my life, in company with my brothers and sisters.

The Question

Officiant: Do you accept The Principles as the vision of the Community for the Third Order of the Society of St. Francis?
Candidate: I do.

The Exhortation

The Officiant:

My sister, as a baptized Christian you have given your life to the Lord Jesus Christ, and are a member of his Body. You must always seek to be conformed to his image in the life you would embrace. You seek Christ's image in a community of Christians who live after the example of Saint Francis, the Poor Man of Assisi. Let your life in the spirit of Francis' holy poverty make our Blessed Lord known and loved everywhere, and promote the spirit of love and unity within the family of God. Continue to serve the Lord by prayer, study, and active work for his Dominion. And so observe your personal rule of life that you, like Francis, might be free to manifest humility, love and joy in the Lord.

My sister, in the life you seek, be ready to endure hardness. Calling to mind how our Savior has said to us that if we would serve him, then we must follow him; that if we would come after him, we

must deny self and take up our cross every day and follow him. Let us, therefore, pray to the Lord that you may have the grace to persevere in your chosen way.

The Litany

Litanist: God the Father,

People: **Have mercy on us.**

Litanist: God the Son,

People: **Have mercy on us.**

Litanist: God the Holy Spirit,

People: **Have mercy on us.**

Litanist: Holy Trinity, One God,

People: **Have mercy on us.**

Litanist: We humbly pray that you will hear us, O Lord, and that you will send peace to the whole world which you have reconciled to yourself by the ministry of your Son, Jesus.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Litanist: That you will guide all in civil authority to establish justice and maintain it for all people.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Litanist: That you will heal the divisions of your visible Church, that all may be one.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Litanist: That you will grant to your people forgiveness of sins, and give us grace to amend our lives.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Litanist: That you will lead all members of your Church in their vocations and ministries to serve you in a true and Godly life.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Litanist: That you will raise up able ministers for your Church that the Gospel may be known to all people.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Litanist: That you will inspire all bishops, priests, and deacons with your love, that they may hunger for truth and thirst after righteousness; that you will fill them with compassion and move them to care for your people.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Litanist: That you will bless our brothers and sisters who seek to serve you in the Third Order, Society of Saint Francis, and will give them grace to persevere.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Litanist: That you will bless their households and adorn them with all Christian virtue.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Litanist: That by the indwelling of your Holy Spirit you will sustain those you have called to the life of the Gospels in the way of Saint Francis, and encourage them to persevere to the end.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Litanist: Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Intercessions may be offered here.

Litanist: Lord, in your mercy,

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Litanist: That we, with the Blessed Virgin, Saints Francis and Clare, Saints Louis and Elizabeth, our patrons, Saint James, and all the saints who have served you in the past, may be gathered into your unending Dominion.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Officiant: Lord, have mercy.

People: **Christ, have mercy.**

Officiant: Lord, have mercy.

Officiant: Let us pray.

Lord God, you are always pleased to show yourself to those who are childlike and humble of heart; help us to follow the example of blessed Father Francis, to look upon the wisdom of this world as foolishness, and to set our minds only on Jesus Christ, and him crucified, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all praise forever. **Amen.**

Song of Invocation *Ubi Caritas*

Blue Hymnal, #606

The hymn is sung by all in preparation for the Pledge.

The Pledge

Officiant: Let those who seek admission to Profession make their vow and pledge.

The candidate to be admitted to profession says:

I, Pam, give myself to our Lord Jesus Christ, to serve him for the rest of my life in company with my brothers and sisters in the Third Order of the Society of Saint Francis, according to the Principles of the Order, seeking to spread the knowledge and love of Christ, to promote the spirit of love and harmony as the family of God, and to live joyfully a life of simplicity and humble service after the example of Saint Francis.

The Celebrant blesses the Third Order Cross and the Officiant presents it to the Candidate

Officiant: Take this cross in token that you, Pam, are crucified with Christ yet live by faith in the Son of God who loved you and gave himself for the life of the world. Wear it as a sign that you are a professed member of the Third Order.

Candidate: I, Pam, undertake by God's grace to keep for one year my personal rule of life which I now place on the altar.

Officiant: May the Lord accept your offering and give you grace to persevere with joy.

The Blessing

Officiant: To the prayers of the Saints I commend you.
May our Blessed Lady pray for you.
May Saint Francis, who bore the marks of the Crucified pray for you.
May Saint Clare pray for you. May Saints Louis and Elizabeth,
illustrious saints of the Third Order, pray for you.

And I shall pronounce upon you the blessing, which blessed Francis
gave to Brother Leo, his companion:
The Lord bless you and keep you
The Lord show his face to you and have mercy upon you;
The Lord turn his countenance toward you and give you peace;
My brothers and sisters, the Lord bless you.

The Peace

Clergy The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Announcements

Offertory *Sing out my soul* **Blue Hymnal #437**

Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below,
praise him above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Priest The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Priest Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Priest 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 everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

A seasonal prayer is said here

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life gain he has won for us everlasting life.

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:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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, 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, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Communion

The Postcommunion Prayer

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

Closing Hymn

Holy Spirit, ever living

Blue Hymnal, # 511

Dismissal

Clergy Let us go forth in the name of Christ, Alleluia! Alleluia!
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Postlude

Rector	The Rev. Dr. Becky Coerper
Deacon	The Rev. Dr. Charles N. Stewart
Organist/Choirmaster	Kip Coerper
Director of Contemporary Music & Technology	Michael Larkin
Lector & Chalice	Marie Hughes
Litany	Michael Brown
Officiant: Order of Admissions to the Third Order of the Society of Saint Francis	Lynne Herne

THE ORDER OF ADMISSIONS incorporates THE RULE OF THE THIRD ORDER OF THE SOCIETY OF SAINT FRANCIS, the Form of Profession and Renewal as enacted by the Interprovincial Third Order Chapter in the Constitutional Revision of 1993, and subsequently ratified by the Five Provincial Chapters 1997.