



*Saint Stephen's welcomes everyone who wishes to follow Christ, worship together, grow in faith and share God's love through service to others.*

## THE FEAST OF CLARE OF ASSISI



### Clare of Assisi

#### Welcome and Announcements:

Wed. 11 Aug 9:30am, 2021

Clare of Assisi (born **Chiara Offreduccio** and sometimes spelled

Continued Pg.11



## Entrance Rites

*The people stand as they are able.*

### Opening Acclamation:

BCP p. 355

Presider Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.  
People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

### Gloria - Canticle 13

*(Words found in BCP p. 90)*

**Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers; \*  
you are worthy of praise; glory to you.  
Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name; \*  
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.  
Glory to you in the splendor of your temple; \*  
on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.  
Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim; \*  
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.  
Glory to you, beholding the depths; \*  
in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.  
Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; \*  
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.**

### Salutation

Presider God be with you.  
People **And also with you.**  
Presider Let us pray

### The Collect of the Day:

BCP p. 249

Presider Let us pray. *(BCP p. 230)*  
People: **O God, whose blessed Son became poor that we through his poverty might be rich: Deliver us from an inordinate love of this world, that we, inspired by the devotion of your servant Clare, may serve you with singleness of heart, and attain to the riches of the age to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

# The Word of God

## **First Lesson:** A reading from the book of the **Ecclesiastes: 5:8-5**

If you see in a province the oppression of the poor and the violation of justice and right, do not be amazed at the matter; for the high official is watched by a higher, and there are yet higher ones over them. But all things considered, this is an advantage for a land: a king for a plowed field.

The lover of money will not be satisfied with money; nor the lover of wealth, with gain. This also is vanity.

When goods increase, those who eat them increase; and what gain has their owner but to see them with his eyes?

Sweet is the sleep of laborers, whether they eat little or much; but the surfeit of the rich will not let them sleep.

There is a grievous ill that I have seen under the sun: riches were kept by their owners to their hurt, and those riches were lost in a bad venture; though they are parents of children, they have nothing in their hands. As they came from their mother's womb, so they shall go again, naked as they came; they shall take nothing for their toil, which they may carry away with their hands.

*Lector:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

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

**Psalm 63:1-8**

*Deus deus meus*

*(Read aloud in unison)*

- 1 O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; \*  
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,  
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.**
- 2 Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, \*  
that I might behold your power and your glory.**
- 3 For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; \*  
my lips shall give you praise.**
- 4 So will I bless you as long as I live \*  
and lift up my hands in your Name.**
- 5 My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, \*  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,**
- 6 When I remember you upon my bed, \*  
and meditate on you in the night watches.**
- 7 For you have been my helper, \*  
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.**
- 8 My soul clings to you; \*  
your right hand holds me fast.**

**Gospel Lesson: Luke 12:32-34**

Reader      The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

**People:      Glory to you Lord Christ**

Jesus said to his disciples, “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Reader      The Gospel of the Lord

**People      Praise to you Lord Christ**

# Sermon

**Nicene Creed:**                   *(Said aloud by all, in unison)*                   *BCP p. 358*  
*(Contemporary Version)*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.**

**Amen**

## Prayers of the People

(BCP p. 97-98)

- Leader: Help us, O God our Savior;  
People: **Deliver us and forgive us our sins.**  
Leader: Look upon your congregation;  
People: **Give to your people the blessing of peace.**  
Leader: Declare your glory among the nations;  
People: **And your wonders among all peoples.**  
Leader: Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;  
People: **Never forget the lives of your poor.**  
Leader: Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;  
People: **And your favor to those who are true of heart.**  
Leader: In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer pray for *The Diocese of Dunkwa-on-Offin – The Church of the Province of West Africa*  
People: **May God bless and keep them.**  
Leader: In the Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for *St. Raphael in the Valley, in Benson.*  
People: **May God bless and keep them.**  
Leader: We pray for the first peoples of this land, especially the Apache peoples who called this area home.  
People: **For greater understanding and cooperation between us towards the common good for all.**  
Leader: Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;  
People: **So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.**

## Confession of Sin

Presider: *Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.*

**All: God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

## **Absolution**

Presider: *Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.*

## **Exchange of the Peace**

Presider May the peace of Christ be always with you

**All And also with you.**

*The Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## **Offertory:**

Presider: *Offer to God a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High*

# The Holy Communion

## The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant *The Lord be with you.*

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant *Lift up your hearts.*

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

Celebrant *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

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

*Presider Continues*

*All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things.*

*You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.*

*Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:*

**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.**

*Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise.*

*Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.*

*We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said:*



*“Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”*

*After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: “Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”*

*And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ’s coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:*

**Dying, you destroyed our death.  
Rising, you restored our life.  
Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

The Presider continues:

*Send your Holy Spirit upon us (+) and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ.*

*Grant that we, burning with your Spirit’s power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.*

*Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.*

**Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN.**

*And now as Jesus taught us, we pray: (Contemporary Lord’s Prayer)*

**Our Father 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 forever. Amen.**

## **The Breaking of the Bread:**

*(Presider breaks the consecrated bread)*

**Presider:** *God of promise, you have prepared a banquet for us.*

**People:** **Happy are those who are called to the Supper of the Lamb.**

## **Invitation to Communion:**

**Presider:** *These are the gifts of God for the People of God.*

**People:** **Christ invites us all to be known and fed here.**

## **Prayers for Birthdays, Anniversaries, Healing, Travelers, and Gratitude**

### **Post Communion Prayer**

**Presider:** *Let us pray:*

**God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.**

**Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## **Benediction:**

**Presider:** *Live without fear: your Creator has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you as a mother. Go in peace to follow the good road and may God's blessing: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you always. Amen.*

## **Dismissal**

**Presider:** People of St. Stephen's, what does God call us to do?

**People:** **We are called to love and serve.**

**Presider:** Let us go forth, rejoicing in God's Spirit, alleluia, alleluia!

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

**Clara, Clair, Claire, Sinclair;** 16 July 1194 – 11 August 1253) was an [Italian saint](#) and one of the first followers of [Francis of Assisi](#).<sup>[1]</sup> She founded the Order of Poor Ladies, a [monastic religious order](#) for women in the [Franciscan](#) tradition, and wrote their Rule of Life,<sup>[2]</sup> the first set of monastic guidelines known to have been written by a woman. Following her death, the order she founded was renamed in her honour as the Order of Saint Clare, commonly referred to today as the [Poor Clares](#). Her feast day is on 11 August.

Clare was born in [Assisi](#) during the [High Middle Ages](#), the eldest daughter of Favarone<sup>[3]</sup> or Favorino Sciffi, Count of Sasso-Rosso and his wife [Ortolana](#). Traditional accounts say that Clare's father was a wealthy representative of an ancient Roman family, who owned a large palace in Assisi and a castle on the slope of [Mount Subasio](#).<sup>[1]</sup> Ortolana belonged to the noble family of Fiumi, and was a very devout woman who had undertaken pilgrimages to [Rome](#), [Santiago de Compostela](#) and the [Holy Land](#). Later in life, Ortolana entered Clare's monastery, as did Clare's sisters, Beatrix and Catarina (who took the name [Agnes](#) and was later declared a saint herself).<sup>[4]</sup>

As a child, Clare was devoted to prayer. Although there is no mention of this in any historical record, it is assumed that Clare was to be married in line with the family tradition. However, as a teen she heard Francis preach during a Lenten service in the church of San Giorgio at Assisi and asked him to help her to live after the manner of the Gospel. On the evening of [Palm Sunday](#), 20 March 1212, she left her father's house and accompanied by her aunt Bianca and another companion proceeded to the chapel of the [Porziuncula](#) to meet Francis. There, her hair was cut, and she exchanged her rich gown for a plain robe and veil.<sup>[1]</sup>

Francis placed Clare in the convent of the [Benedictine nuns](#) of San Paulo, near Bastia. Her father attempted to force her to return home. She clung to the altar of the church and threw aside her veil to show her cropped hair.<sup>[5]</sup> She resisted any attempt, professing that she would have no other husband but [Jesus](#) Christ.<sup>[6]</sup> In order to provide the greater solitude Clare desired, a few days later Francis sent her to Sant' Angelo in Panzo, another monastery of the Benedictine nuns on one of the flanks of Subasio. Clare was soon joined by her sister Catarina, who took the name Agnes. They remained with the Benedictines until a small dwelling was built for them next to the church of [San Damiano](#), which Francis had repaired some years earlier.<sup>[1]</sup>

Other women joined them, and they were known as the "Poor Ladies of San Damiano". They lived a simple life of poverty, austerity and seclusion from the world, according to a Rule which Francis gave them as a [Second Order](#) (Poor Clares).<sup>[5][6]</sup> [continued online at Wikipedia](#)

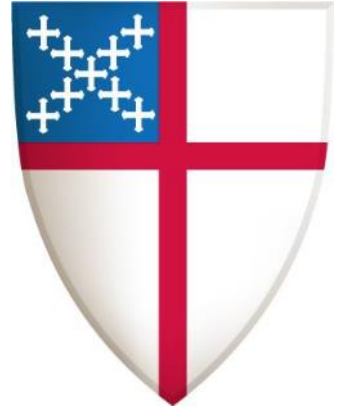
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