



Harriet Starr Cannon, CSM

**ST. MARY'S  
SERVICE OF HOLY EUCHARIST**

Including a Reflection  
on the Life and Witness of  
**HARRIET STARR CANNON**

**RELIGIOUS  
(1896 CE)**

from *Holy Women, Holy Men*

**Wednesday, May 5, 2021**

7:00-7:30 am Service of Holy Eucharist

7:30-8:00 Fellowship and Conversation

**<https://zoom.us/j/584949088>**

**Meeting ID (recurring): 584 949 088**

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant:* God be with you

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

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

Gracious God, you called Mother Harriet and her companions to revive the religious life in the Episcopal Church by founding the religious community of St. Mary, and to dedicate their lives to you: Grant that, after their example, we may ever surrender ourselves to the revelation of your holy will; through our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## PSALM 131

*The St. Helena Psalter*

<sup>1</sup> O God, I am not proud;

I have no haughty looks.

<sup>2</sup> I do not occupy myself with great matters,

or with things that are too hard for me.

<sup>3</sup> But I still my soul and make it quiet, like a child upon its mother's breast;

my soul is quieted within me.

<sup>4</sup> O Israel, wait upon God,

from this time forth for evermore.

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 9:33:37

A reading from Mark.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

The Word of the Lord

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

## REMEMBERING HARRIET STARR CANNON, RELIGIOUS

Harriet Starr Cannon founded the Community of St. Mary. Cannon was born in Charleston in 1823 and was orphaned in 1824 when her parents died of yellow fever. She grew up with her only surviving sibling in Bridgeport, Connecticut, in the home of relatives. In 1851, Cannon entered the Sisters of the Holy Communion, an order founded by William Augustus Muhlenberg, Rector of the Church of the Holy Communion in New York City. The Sisters were heavily involved in the operation of clinics and care facilities that would become St. Luke's Hospital in the City of New York. During her years with the Sisters of the Holy Communion, Cannon served as a nurse.

Over time, Harriet Cannon yearned for a more traditional monastic form of religious life. When agreement could not be reached with Sisters of the Holy Communion, Cannon and a small group of her sisters moved to form a new order. On the Feast of the Presentation, February 2, 1865, Horatio Potter, Bishop of the Diocese of New York, received from Harriet Cannon and her sisters the traditional vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, at St. Michael's Church in Manhattan. The sisters began life together as the Community of St. Mary and Harriet Cannon became the Order's first Superior.

The apostolate of The Community of St. Mary began with nursing and the care of women who had endured difficult circumstances. After time, however, Mother Cannon and her Sisters became increasingly committed to providing free schools for the education of young women in addition to their medical work. The Community continued to grow and developed girls' schools, hospitals, and orphanages in New York, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.

The Community of St. Mary played a critical role in response to the yellow fever epidemic in Memphis in the 1870's. Sister Constance and her companions are remembered on September 9.

## PRAYERS

*Prayers may be offered, silently or aloud.*

## HOLY EUCHARIST

Form A (*Enriching Our Worship*, p. 65)

*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.*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, for the wonderful grace and virtue declared in all your saints, who have been the chosen vessels of your grace, and the lights of the world in their generations.

And so we join the saints and angels in proclaiming your glory, as we say,

*Celebrant 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.*

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by [Christ], and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.*

On the night before he died for us, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, 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, 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

*The Celebrant then continues*

We now celebrate, O God, the memorial of Christ our Savior. By means of this holy bread and cup, we show forth the sacrifice of Christ's death, and proclaim the resurrection, until Christ comes in glory. Gather us by this Holy Communion into one body in the Risen One, and make us a living sacrifice of praise. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

And now, in the words Christ taught us, we are bold to pray, saying, *Our Father...*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

*Eternal and Life-Giving God,  
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

May the peace with passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and may the blessing of the loving God, and God's son, risen for us, and the Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you always.

## THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*All: And also with you.*