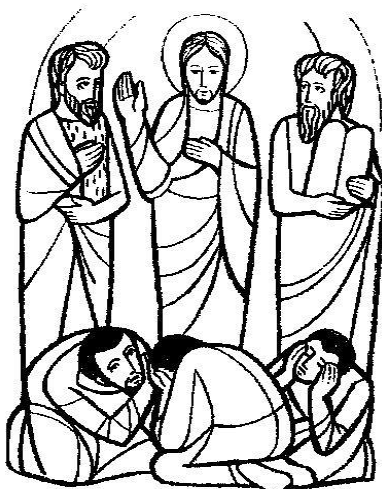


# St. John's Episcopal Church



## Last Sunday after the Epiphany

February 15, 2026 - 9am Holy Eucharist

### Prelude

Processional: *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise (vv. 1, 2, 4)*

Hymnal #135

Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to you we raise,  
manifested by the star to the Magi from afar;  
branch of royal David's stem, in thy birth at Bethlehem;  
anthems be to thee addressed, God in man made manifest.

Manifest at Jordan's stream, Prophet, Priest, and King supreme,  
and at Cana, wedding guest, in thy God-head manifest;  
manifest in power divine, changing water into wine;  
Anthems be to thee addressed, God in man made manifest.

Manifest on mountain height, shining in resplendent light.  
Where disciples filled with awe thy transfigured glory saw.  
When from there thou leddest them steadfast to Jerusalem,  
cross and Easter Day attest God in man made manifest.

### Opening Acclamation:

Blessèd be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*And blessèd be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.*

### Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts be 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.*

### Confession

The grace of God has dawned upon the world through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own. Let us confess our sins.

*Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.*

### Absolution

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### Gloria

Hymnal S-280

*Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.*

***For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.***

Collect of the Day

A Prayer Book for Australia

*O God, in the transfiguration of your Son, you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the cloud you foreshadowed our adoption as your children: Make us, with Christ, heirs of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

First Lesson:

A reading from the Book of Exodus (21:12-18).

The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them."

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

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

Psalm 112

Let us recite the psalm responsively, alternating verses.

- 1 The Lord is King; let the people tremble; \*  
he is enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth shake.
- 2 ***The Lord is great in Zion; \****  
***he is high above all peoples.***
- 3 Let them confess his Name, which is great and awesome; \*  
he is the Holy One.
- 4 ***"O mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; \****  
***you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob."***
- 5 Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God  
and fall down before his footstool; \*  
he is the Holy One.

- 6 *Moses and Aaron among his priests,  
and Samuel among those who call upon his Name, \**  
*they called upon the Lord, and he answered them.*
- 7 He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud; \*  
they kept his testimonies and the decree that he gave them.
- 8 *O Lord our God, you answered them indeed; \**  
*you were a God who forgave them,  
yet punished them for their evil deeds.*
- 9 Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God  
and worship him upon his holy hill; \*  
for the Lord our God is the Holy One.

Second Lesson:

A reading from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Letter of Peter (1:16-21).

We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all, you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

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

Sequence Hymn: *Christ upon the mountain peak (vv. 1-2)*

Hymnal #129

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>1. Christ upon the mountain peak<br/>stands alone in glory blazing;<br/>let us, if we dare to speak,<br/>with the saints and angels praise him.<br/>Alleluia!</p> | <p>2. Trembling at his feet we saw<br/>Moses and Elijah speaking.<br/>All the prophets and the Law<br/>shout through them their joyful greeting.<br/>Alleluia!</p> |
|--|--|

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *Matthew (17:1-9)*.

*Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Six days after Peter had acknowledged Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the Living God, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you

wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead." The Gospel of the Lord. *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

Sequence Hymn: *Christ upon the mountain peak (v. 3)*

Hymnal #129

3. Swift the cloud of glory came. God proclaiming in its thunder  
Jesus as the Son by Name! Nations cry aloud in wonder! Alleluia!

Homily

Fr. Walter Connelly

Nicene Creed

*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:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
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 and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He 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:

Common Worship, Church of England

*Worship Leader:* We pray that Christ may be seen in the life of the Church.

In Christ you have called us into one household as your beloved children. May our love for our brothers and sisters in Christ be strengthened by your grace.

Jesus, Lord of the Church: *in your mercy hear us.*

You have called us to be a temple where the Holy Spirit can dwell. Give us clean hands and pure hearts so that our lives will reflect your holiness.

Jesus, Lord of the Church: *in your mercy hear us.*

You have called us to be a light to the world, so that those in darkness come to you. May our lives shine as a witness to the saving grace you have given for all.

Jesus, Lord of the Church: *in your mercy hear us.*

You have called us to be members of your body, so that when one suffers, all suffer together. We ask for your comfort and healing power to bring hope to those in distress, especially Erica Moore, Gisela Moore, Jeanine Morris, Fran Muise, Sara Murray, Ralph Nasuti, Lisa P., Kathy Pothier, Tom & John Puckett, Shirley Raithel, Sandy & David St. Clair, Marilyn Aham, Amy Wright, David G., and Liana

Jesus, Lord of the Church: *in your mercy hear us.*

You have called us to be the Bride, where you, Lord, are the Bridegroom. Welcome to your wedding feast Patricia O'Brien, Lewis & Helen Stanhope, Ethel Penney, and all those who have gone before us in faith.

Jesus, Lord of the Church: *in your mercy hear us.*

*Priest:* Compassionate God, you transfigured your Son, Jesus Christ, before the eyes of your chosen witnesses and they were overcome by fear. Transfigure us so that we may turn from fear to love and reveal your compassion for all humanity; through Jesus Christ, the beloved. *Amen.*

## Peace and Announcements

We are all one in Christ Jesus. We belong to him through faith,  
heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

*And also with you.*

## Invitation to the Offering

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works,  
and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Offertory Hymn: *Jesus, take us to the mountain*

Tune: UNSER HERRSCHER (180)

1. Jesus, take us to the mountain  
Where, with Peter, James & John,  
We are dazzled by your glory,  
Light as blinding as the sun.  
There prepare us for the night  
By the vision of that sight.
2. What do you want us to see there  
That your close companions saw?  
Your divinity revealed there  
Fills us with the self-same awe.  
Clothed in flesh like ours you go,  
Matched to meet our deadliest foe.
3. What do you want us to hear there  
That your dear disciples heard?  
Once again the voice from heaven  
Says of the incarnate Word:  
"Listen, listen ev'ryone;  
This is my beloved Son!"
4. Take us to that other mountain  
Where we see you glorified.  
Where you shouted, "It is finished!"  
Where for all the world you died.  
Hear the stunned centurion:  
"Truly this was God's own Son!"

## Doxology

(v. 3) Hymnal #380

*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. Amen.*

Holy God, receive all we offer you this day, and bring us to that radiant glory  
which we see in the transfigured face of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

*Common Worship*, Eucharistic Prayer F

The Lord be with you.

*And also with you.*

Lift up your hearts.

*We lift them to the Lord.*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

You are worthy of our thanks and praise, Lord God of truth, for by the breath of your mouth you have spoken your word, and all things have come into being. You fashioned us in your image and placed us in the garden of your delight. Though we chose the path of rebellion you would not abandon your own. Again and again, you drew us into your covenant of grace. You gave your people the law and taught us by your prophets to look for your reign of justice, mercy and peace. As we watch for the signs of your kingdom on earth, we echo the song of the angels in heaven, evermore praising you and singing:

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

Sanctus S-129

*Hosanna in the highest.*

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

*Hosanna in the highest.*

Lord God, you are the most holy one, enthroned in splendour and light, yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ you reveal the power of your love made perfect in our human weakness. Embracing our humanity, Jesus showed us the way of salvation; loving us to the end, he gave himself to death for us; dying for his own, he set us free from the bonds of sin, that we might rise and reign with him in glory.

On the night he gave up himself for us all he took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: 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. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, we proclaim the death that he suffered on the cross, we celebrate his resurrection, his bursting from the tomb, we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high and we long for his coming in glory. As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our redemption, Father, by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; form us into the likeness of Christ and make us a perfect offering in your sight.

Look with favour on your people and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts. Bless the earth, heal the sick, let the oppressed go free and fill your Church with power from on high. Gather your people from the ends of the earth to feast with Blessed Mary of Nazareth, Blessed John the Evangelist and all your saints at the table in your kingdom, where the new creation is brought to perfection in Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and 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.*

Fraction: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.  
*Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)

S-161

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.*

The Invitation to Holy Communion

In fellowship with our sisters and brothers worshiping online, let us join together in praying for that spiritual communion shared by all Christ's disciples.

*My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.*

The gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Mt 11:28-29). All those wishing to share in the life of Christ are welcome at God's altar.

Post-communion 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.*

Epiphany Blessing:

Christ the Son of God perfect in you the image of his glory and gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Recessional: O wondrous type! O vision fair (vv. 1-3).

Hymnal #137

1. O wondrous type! O vision fair of glory that the Church may share,  
which Christ upon the mountain shows, where brighter than the sun he glows!
2. With Moses and Elijah nigh th'incarnate Lord holds converse high;  
and from the cloud, the Holy One bears record to the only Son.
3. With shining face and bright array, Christ deigns to manifest today  
what glory shall be theirs above who joy in God with perfect love.

Dismissal:

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Postlude:

## Announcement(s)

### Alice Johnson Scholarship

Open to Episcopalians within the Mystic Valley Deanery for post high school education (vocational or college). Applicants must be under 30, demonstrate commitment to Christian ideals, service to community and academic achievement. Applications are available in the small foyer outside Ashworth Hall and are due April 17.

### Parish Calendar

Weekly Tue Bible Study, Hurll Room, 10 - 11:00am  
Feb 17 Tue Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 5:30 - 7:30pm  
Feb 18 Wed Ash Wednesday Liturgy and the Imposition of Ashes, 12pm  
Mar 14 Sat Artisan Marketplace, 9am - 2pm

### Parish Cycle of Prayer

*(Please help to keep this list current and inform the office of any changes – thank you.)*

#### Week One of the Month:

Emily Graves Autori, Nicholas Bettencourt, Paul Brophy, Norma Cahill, Francine Carroll, Barbara Cox, Ken DiBiccari, Jim & Tim Eldridge, Joanne & Paul Felci, Ruth Garrett, Allison Gray, and Jerica Hamre

#### Week Two:

Will Hare, Carolyn Hashem, Bruce Higgins, Louis Hoelzl, Jeanne Kelly-Smith, Anthony K., Janet Lancaster, Melissa McSheffery, Ray Mears, Matt, Mary & Dante, Harriet Miraglia, Jonelle Moloney, and Darlene Jackson

#### Week Three:

Erica Moore, Gisela Moore, Jeanine Morris, Fran Muise, Sara Murray, Ralph Nasuti, Lisa P., Kathy Pothier, Tom & John Puckett, Shirley Raithel, Sandy & David St. Clair, Marilyn Aham, Amy Wright, David G., and Liana

#### Week Four:

Nancy Scarry, Malcolm Silva, Teddi, Terrie Sevier, Gail Smith, Dom & Joanie Tello, Kathy Webber, Nancy White, Rachel, Abigail, Claire, Carol Ann, Patty, Holly, and Kevin O'Connor

### Participants in this Service:

The Rev. Walter Connelly, Priest-in-Charge  
Stephen Sikorski, Music Director  
Linda Graves, Layreader & Joanne Lancaster, L.E.M.

*St. John's Episcopal Church, 8 Prospect Street, Saugus, MA 01906*