



St. John's Episcopal Church
Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany
February 23rd, 2025 ~ 10am

The Word of God

Entrance Hymn #544 ~ *Jesus Shall Reign* (verses 1-3 & 5)

Jesus shall reign where e'er the sun
doth his successive journeys run;
his kingdom stretched from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To him shall endless prayer be made,
and praises throng to crown his head:
his Name like sweet perfume shall rise
with every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue
shall dwell on his love with sweetest song;
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his Name.

Let every creature rise and bring
peculiar honors to our King;
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud amen.

Words of Welcome

Take delight in the Lord, who satisfies the desires of your heart.
Commit your way to the Lord and trust in God's actions.
Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for God.
The Lord is our salvation and our refuge in times of trouble.

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.

Gloria S280

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.

The Collect

O Lord, you have taught us that without love whatever we do is worth nothing: Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts your greatest gift, which is love, the true bond of peace and of all virtue, without which whoever lives is accounted dead before you. Grant this for the sake of your only Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Old Testament

[Genesis 45:3-11, 15](#)

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh,

and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there--since there are five more years of famine to come--so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'

And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Reader The Word of God.
People Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

Psalm 37:1-12, 41-42

- 1 Do not fret yourself because of evildoers; *
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.
- 2 **For they shall soon wither like the grass, ***
and like the green grass fade away.
- 3 Put your trust in the LORD and do good; *
dwell in the land and feed on its riches.
- 4 **Take delight in the LORD, ***
and he shall give you your heart's desire.
- 5 Commit your way to the LORD and put your trust in him, *
and he will bring it to pass.
- 6 **He will make your righteousness as clear as the light ***
and your just dealing as the noonday.
- 7 Be still before the LORD *
and wait patiently for him.
- 8 **Do not fret yourself over the one who prospers, ***
the one who succeeds in evil schemes.
- 9 Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; *
do not fret yourself; it leads only to evil.
- 10 **For evildoers shall be cut off, ***
but those who wait upon the LORD shall possess the land.
- 11 In a little while the wicked shall be no more; *
you shall search out their place, but they will not be there.
- 12 **But the lowly shall possess the land; ***
they will delight in abundance of peace.
- 41 But the deliverance of the righteous comes from the LORD; *
he is their stronghold in time of trouble.
- 42 **The LORD will help them and rescue them; ***
he will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them,
because they seek refuge in him.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

I give you a new commandment, says the Lord; love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

The Gospel

[Luke 6:27-38](#)

Jesus said, "I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. John Beach

The 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

Let us offer our intercessions to God, saying, God in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Holy God, your cross stands before us as a light that shows us our failures and our salvation through your Son. We thank you for forgiving us and for coming among us to heal our pain and resentments. We yearn for your word and praise you for your love.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You who preserves life, who sends among our people caretakers and peacemakers, who give us scientists and inventors, give your people new eyes to behold the needs of your creation. Let us into fields of wheat and pools of clean water. Shelter the earth with clouds; nurture the soil with sun. Make our gratitude so profound that with joy we will love and guard what you have created for our very lives.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Giver of prayer that groans within us, teach us to pray for our enemies. Their names are many, and we whisper some of them before you in our hearts (*silence*)...Be with them, guard them from harm, and guide them in the way of your light. Save us from self-righteousness, and help us begin our lives anew,

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heal the nations, Mighty Lord. Rain peace upon all people, give hope to the hopeless, and love to the lonely. Surprise the leaders of all nations with your joy. For the people of Gaza, Israel, Ukraine, Russia, Yemen, Sudan, Haiti, The Central African Republic, and the United States, we cry out for reconciliation and plenty.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We beg comfort for the sick, O God. Make whole the broken, make wise the foolish, humble the powerful, make glad the hearts of those who tend our loved ones, and for any who are in pain, give them release and rest. Speak to: Elin Babin, Nicholas Bettencourt, Paul Brophy, Norma Cahill, Francine Carroll, Marie Connors, Barbara Cox, Kelly Dodge, Jim and Tim Eldridge, Joanne and Paul Felci, Ruth Garrett, Peggy Gibbs, Allison Gray, Patti Greene-Botticeli, Jerica Hamre, Will Hare, Carolyn and Tom Hashem, Bruce Higgins, Louis Hoelzl, Larry Kamp & Family, Doris Kelly, Jeanne Kelly-Smith, Janet Lancaster, Lawrence LeBlanc, Elizabeth, Melissa McSheffery, Matt, Mary & Dante, Harriet Miraglia, Jonelle Moloney, Erica Moore, Gisela Moore, Jeanine Morris, Fran Muise, Sara Murray, Carol Patroia, Kathy and Keelan Pothier, Shirley Raithel, Debbie Rossetti, Gina Sorrentino, Sandy and David St. Clair, Nancy Scarry, Terrie Sevier, Gail Smith, Dom and Joanie Tello, Steve and Kathy, Tony Venezia, Kathy Webber, Nancy White, Rachel, Abigail, and Claire; lift them and restore their strength.

Are there others...

And to all who cry out silently.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Now hear, O God, the prayers of this assembly spoken silently or aloud. (*silence*)

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Savior of the world, we give you thanks for the church, for the meek, for the courageous, for those who teach us how to wait. We praise you for the life giving spirit that inhabits the saints whose visions have shown the path. We thank you for St. John, St. Luke, and for the biblical witness of Joseph and his brothers in stories rich enough to feed us, along with them, with your mercy. Make us truly grateful for prophets and dreamers.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for departed loved ones and friends, especially Ralph Selvitella; comfort us in knowing they have found eternal life in your heavenly kingdom.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Trusting in the mercy of your never-failing wisdom we commend into your hands all for whom we pray; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Jesus promised us that God is kind, even to the ungrateful and the wicked, even to us. Trusting in God's kindness and love, let us confess our sin.

Minister and People

**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.**

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

The Peace

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

Announcements

Invitation to the Offering

Children of the Most High God, in obedience to Jesus' words to love others as we love ourselves, do good, bless and pray for friends and enemies alike, let us know do to others as we would have them do to us, offering our tithes and gifts for the sake of our sisters and brothers in need.

The Holy Communion

Prayer over the Gifts

Merciful God, accept all we offer you this day. Lead us to love you with all our heart, and to love all people with your perfect love. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ.

The Great Thanksgiving

Officiant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Officiant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**
Officiant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
People **It is meet and right to do so.**

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

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of 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:

Minister and People

Sanctus

S129

**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.

Officiant 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.

Officiant 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,

The Lord's Prayer

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, and deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power,

and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Officiant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem 1982 Hymnal #S155 ~ *Christ, our Passover*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Invitation to Holy Communion

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

The Officiant invites the following prayer to be said by all.

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. 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.

Anthem during Communion Contemplation

Prayer after Communion

Gracious God, in the Eucharist we celebrate your love for us and for all people. Grant that strengthened by these holy gifts, we may show your love in our lives, and know its fulfilment in your presence. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Officiant Glory to God,

whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Blessing

Now may the Lord who sent Joseph to Egypt and gave him tears of joy at reunion with his family, surround your days with strong visions, worthy work, reconciliations, and the strength to persevere, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, One God, Father of us all.

Closing Hymn

#657 ~ *Love divine, all Loves Excelling*

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee,
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

The Dismissal

Let us bless the Lord, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

People Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Participants in this Service:

The Rev. John Beach, Priest-in-Charge
Stephen Sikorski, Music Director
Ray Mears, Worship Leader ~ Kristina Palazzo, L.E.M.

St. John's Episcopal Church

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