



St. John's Episcopal Church
The Third Sunday after the Epiphany
January 26th, 2025

The Word of God

Entrance Hymn

#542 ~ *Christ is the World's True Light*

Christ is the world's true Light, its Captain of salvation,
the Daystar clear and bright of every race and nation;
new life, new hope awakes, for all who own his sway:
freedom her bondage breaks, and the night is turned to day.

In Christ all races meet, their ancient feuds forgetting,
the whole round world complete, from sunrise to its setting:
when Christ is thrown as Lord All Shall forsake their fear,
to plough-share beat the sword, to pruning-hook the spear.

One Lord, in one great Name unite us all who own thee;
cast out our pride and shame that hinder to enthrone thee;
the world has waited long, has travailed long in pain;
to heal its ancient wrong, Prince of Peace, and reign.

God build the heavens, the earth, and everything in them.

God calls us to be builders as well.

God calls us to build our lives;

To restore broken places and continue to grow.

God calls us to build our faith:

To study the Word and ponder its interpretation.

God calls us to build our community:

To build bridges of understanding and systems of justice.

God calls us to build history by fulfilling the promises of Scripture:

To preach the good news of God's love and liberation for all people.

Officiant 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

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Old Testament

[Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10](#)

All the people of Israel gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen,"

lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

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

The Psalm Psalm 19

- 1 The heavens declare the glory of God, *
and the firmament shows his handiwork.
- 2 **One day tells its tale to another, ***
and one night imparts knowledge to another.
- 3 Although they have no words or language, *
and their voices are not heard,
- 4 **Their sound has gone out into all lands, ***
and their message to the ends of the world.
- 5 In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; *
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
- 6 **It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens**
and runs about to the end of it again; *
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.
- 7 The law of the LORD is perfect
and revives the soul; *
the testimony of the LORD is sure
and gives wisdom to the innocent.
- 8 **The statutes of the LORD are just**
and rejoice the heart; *
the commandment of the LORD is clear
and gives light to the eyes.
- 9 The fear of the LORD is clean
and endures for ever; *
the judgments of the LORD are true
and righteous altogether.

- 10 More to be desired are they than gold,
more than much fine gold, *
sweeter far than honey,
than honey in the comb.
- 11 By them also is your servant enlightened, *
and in keeping them there is great reward.
- 12 **Who can tell how often he offends? ***
cleanse me from my secret faults.
- 13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
let them not get dominion over me; *
then shall I be whole and sound,
and innocent of a great offense.
- 14 **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my
heart be acceptable in your sight, ***
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

The Lord sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, and to proclaim liberty to the captives.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

The Gospel

[Luke 4:14-21](#)

Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

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

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.

The Prayers of the People

God of the prophets and apostles, you call us to restore that which is broken and to proclaim your vision of a world made new. Create in us new hearts and strong voices as we pray.
God fill us with the power of your Spirit.

We pray for those who have been anointed or chosen as leaders of people that they may attend to the voices of their people and be guided by you.
God fill us with the power of your Spirit.

We pray for pastors and teachers of the church, remembering especially Julia our Bishop, and John our priest, that they may faithfully interpret your word for others.

God fill us with the power of your Spirit.

We pray for those who are poor and in need of assistance and for ourselves, that we may open our hearts to their cries for help.

God fill us with the power of your Spirit.

We pray for those who are the captives of war and the victims of violence; may we bring them good news both in word and deed.

God fill us with the power of your Spirit.

We pray for those with physical challenges and spiritual struggles; especially Elin Babin, Nicholas Bettencourt, Paul Brophy, Norma Cahill, Francine Carroll, Marie Conners, 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, Mary & Dante, Bobby Miller, Harriet Miraglia, Jonelle Moloney, Erica and Gisela Moore, Jeanine Morris, Fran Muise, Sara Murray, Carol Patroliia, 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, Lizzi, Rachel, Abigail, and Claire; console and strengthen them with your compassionate love.

Are there others...

Make us agents of healing and hope.

God fill us with the power of your Spirit.

We pray for departed loved ones and friends; George Gulliford, Jr., and Tyler, Brianna, and Jada Amicon; lift us up in our loss, as they have been lifted into your eternal heaven.

God fill us with the power of your Spirit.

We pray for those who are oppressed by powers beyond their control; give us courage to work to set them free.

God fill us with the power of your Spirit.

God of Jubilee, make us the body of the risen Christ, untied, in all our diversity. Animate us by your Holy Spirit that together we may work toward your coming kingdom. In Jesus Name we pray.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin as an offering of our trust in God's love and forgiveness for us.

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.

Officiant 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

Let us give generously from that which has been given to us, that through our offerings the good news of Jesus Christ may be fulfilled.

The Holy Communion

Prayer over the Gifts

Loving God, before the world began you called us. Make holy all we offer you this day, and strengthen us in that calling. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

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.

Officiant Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to the banquet of the Lamb.

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, our hands have taken holy things; our lives have been nourished by the body of your Son. May we who have eaten at this holy table be strengthened for your service in your world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

Officiant Glory to God,

People 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

As we go from this place on this day holy God we rejoice in the strength of God, we fix our eyes on the grace of Christ, and we drink deeply of the Spirit, who makes us one. The blessing of God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you this day and always.

Closing Hymn #390 - *Praise to the Lord*

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation:
join the great throng, psaltery, organ, and song,
sounding in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord; over all things he gloriously reigneth:
borne as on eagle-wings, safely his saints he sustaineth.
Hast thou not seen how all thou needest hath been
granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy way and defend thee;
surely his goodness and mercy shall ever attend thee;
ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
who with his love doth befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again,
gladly forever adore him.

Dismissal

Go into the world and proclaim the good news! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

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

Announcements/Reminders

Office Closure 1/29 - 2/4

Our parish administrator will be away beginning **Wednesday, January 29th**, returning **Wednesday, February 5th**. Phone and email messages will be monitored for *urgent* matters during regular business hours. Per usual, please contact Rev. John for pastoral needs - thank you.

Coffee Hour Sign-up

We need volunteers for coffee hour; see the sign-up sheet in Ashworth Hall if you are able to lend a hand...thank you!

Annual Meeting

Next Sunday, **February 2nd, 11:30am** - we look forward to everyone's participation!

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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