Fourth Sunday after Epiphany



"What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." Mark 1:27

January 28, 2024 at 10AM





Welcome to St. John!

This service bulletin will guide your participation in our worship service. You may also follow along in the (red) Book of Common Prayer (BCP), p. 355.

We say together the text in **bold.**

Our liturgy welcomes people of all ages. For those who desire it, the **Nursery** is open and staffed by our professional team. An Usher can direct you to the location.

Hearing devices are available at the ushers' table. An usher will be happy to assist you.

The Sundays between Epiphany (Jan. 6) and Lent (Feb. 14) represent a season of increasing interest, understanding, and communal response to the light and life that Jesus brings. Now that God's living presence has become Incarnate in our midst, we begin to see the world and ourselves in a new Light. We soon learn, this Light also beckons a response.

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Prelude Selections from the Vesper Voluntaries Elgar Announcements



Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854); para. of Psalm 72. Music: Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein, German folk song; adapt. and harm. A Student's Hymnal, 1923, after Henry Walford Davies (1869-1941).

Opening Acclamation and Collect for Purity

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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.**



Every service of the **Eucharist**, or Mass, is divided into two sections: the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of Holy Communion. The first section borrows from Jewish synagogue patterns of readings, teaching & prayer. The second section is a gathering – a literal a "re-membering" - of the Body of Christ around the table of Christ as we celebrate the Last Supper. Jesus instructed us to, "do this in remembrance of me" (Lk 22:19).

This opening prayer, or **Collect**, is meant to gather themes from the current season, scripture readings, or experiences of our lives, and to incorporate all of them into our journey toward Eucharistic fellowship with God.

Today's **First** Reading describes the role of a prophet. In scripture, a prophet is not a fortune teller, a sorcerer, or a necromancer. Rather, a prophet is one who speaks God's word and makes known God's will. Moreover, Moses' prophetic role was created by God in response to the people's fear at Mt. Sinai. Moses became a mediator between God and the people.

The promise here in Deuteronomy, as the people enter a new land and Moses prepares to die, is that God will not leave them bereft of a prophet. Their responsibility is to watch and to listen.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

First Reading

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Moses said: The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 111



Hallelujah!

I will give thanks to the LORD with my **whole heart**, * in the assembly of the upright, in the congre**gation**.

- Great are the deeds of the **LORD!** * they are studied by all who de**light in them**.
- His work is full of majesty and **splendor**, * and his righteousness endures for **ever**.
- He makes his marvelous works to be re**membered**; * the LORD is gracious and full of com**passion**.
- He gives food to those who **fear him**; * he is ever mindful of his **covenant**.
- He has shown his people the power of his **works** * in giving them the lands of the **nations**.
- The works of his hands are faithfulness and **justice**; * all his commandments are **sure**.
- They stand fast for ever and **ever**, * because they are done in truth and **equity**.
- He sent redemption to his people; he commanded his covenant for **ever**; * holy and awesome is his **Name**.
- The fear of the LORD is the beginning of **wisdom**; * those who act accordingly have a good understanding; his praise endures for **ever**.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him.

Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. "Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat, and Today's **Psalm** is a song of praise, celebrating God's presence in the history of God's covenant relationship with Israel. The psalmist points to God's mighty deeds as clues to God's saving and sustaining character.

In today's **Second Reading**, Paul offers a guiding principle to navigate Christian unity amid diverse cultural practices.

In the ancient world. much of the meat sold in marketplaces came from animals sacrificed in pagan temples. Moreover, pagan shrines were common places for social meals that included sacrificial meat. Christians in Corinth were divided over the issue of sacrificial meat. Some - the "strong" - felt that there was no harm in it. Others the "weak" - avoided sacrificial meat out of loyalty to Christ.

Paul claims that the "strong" are correct in their knowledge but deficient in their love because gospel freedom is always exercised in love. Charity to one's neighbor is more important than liberty in personal behavior.

no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn How wonderous and great thy works Hymn 533

Please stand



Words: Henry Ustick Onderdonk (1759-1858), alt.; para. The Song of the Redeemed. Music: Lyons, att. Johann Michael Haydn (1737-1806).

The Gospel Reading

Mark 1:21-28

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark +

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Reverend Eric Hillegas

The Nicene Creed Please stand

BCP 358

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.

In today's Gospel, Jesus' teaching and exorcism in the synagogue illustrate the nature of Jesus' message and power. Mark emphasizes Jesus' activity as teacher, but in contrast to Matthew and Luke, he provides little content of Jesus' teaching. Instead, he stresses the effect of Jesus' authority. One manifestation of this authority is Jesus' exorcism of an unclean spirit as witness to the arrival of God's Kingdom.

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: Form III

Please stand or kneel

BCP 387

O God, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you; **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons; especially Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Audrey, our Bishop; Eric our Rector; and Martha, our Deacon; That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world; especially Joseph our President, Josh our Governor, and all our local officials; **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble, especially Dave, Alex, Bill, Beverly, Elaine, Greg, Steve, Tim, Bud, Vickie, Barb, Larry, MaryEllen, Ryan, Susan, Kathy, Donna, Marilyn, Kathy, Adrienne, Kevin, Gerald, Sue, Lea, Gordon, Alvina, Milton, Jeff, Debbie, Barbara, Dave, Rob and Ted. **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Give to the departed eternal rest; especially Josephine, Steven, Mary, Kermit, Helen, Elinor, Dale and Sydney.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others, either silently or aloud.

Pause for petitions from the People.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

The Absolution

The Peace Please stand

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

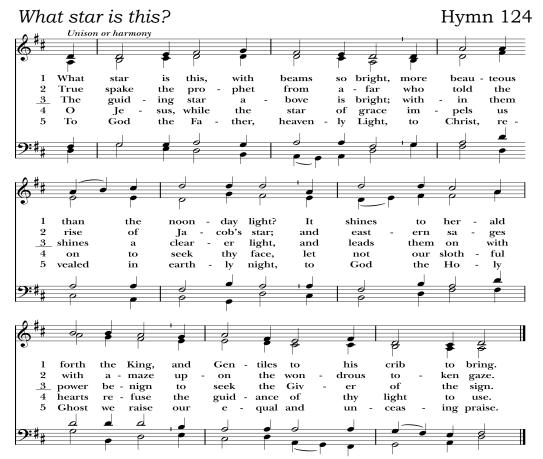
People And also with you.

HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory Ubi Caritas

John Trotta

The Presentation of Eucharistic Elements



Today's **Offertory Anthem**, *Ubi Caritas*, is an ancient chant, thought to have originated in France between the 4th and 10th centuries. The original text has several stanzas.

Traditionally, the chant was used as an antiphon, or sung refrain, for the washing of feet on Maundy Thursday.

The Latin translates: Where charity and love are, God is there. Christ's love has gathered us into one. Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him. Let us fear, and let us love the living God. And may we love each other with a sincere heart.

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer C BCP 369

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.

PeopleCelebrant

It is right to give God thanks and praise. God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are

worthy of glory and praise.

People

Glory to you for ever and ever.

Celebrant

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in the courses, and this

fragile earth, our island home.

People

By your will they were created and have their being.

Celebrant

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

People

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Celebrant

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

People

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

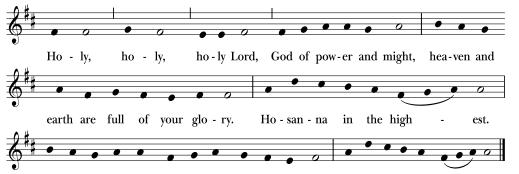
Celebrant

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

The word **Eucharist** is a Greek term for "thanksgiving." This is the family meal of the Church. We thank the Father for sending the Son to heal and to reconcile a broken world.

The prayer begins with the opening dialogue, the **sursum corda** ("Lift up your hearts...").

Sanctus S124 Hurd



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est. Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

Please stand or kneel

The Celebrant continues with a summoning the Holy Spirit and Jesus' Words of Institution at the Last Supper, until:

Celebrant Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving:

People We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

The Celebrant continues with prayers of preparation, concluding with the following petition for unity:

Celebrant Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name:

People Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Celebrant Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever, Amen.

Sanctus, Benedictus

This proclamation includes two songs of praise. "Holy, Holy, Holy" is the song of angels surrounding God's throne (Rev. 4:8). "Hosanna!" is the song of pilgrims who welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday (Matt. 21:9). We join with both the angels of heaven and all those looking for God's deliverance in our world.

Bread and wine are

offered in remembrance of the Last Supper in which Jesus took bread and wine and gave to his disciples, instructing them to "do this in remembrance of me."

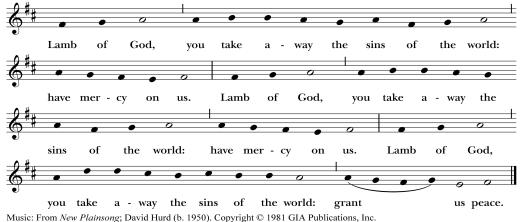
At the **altar** we offer ourselves to God, allowing ourselves to be broken & shared, like bread and wine, for the world. Finally, we receive the bread & wine – the Body & Blood of Christ – our spiritual food & drink, which unites us to Christ and his risen life.

Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People Therefore let us keep the feast, Alleluia.





Invitation to Communion and Godly Play

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Ushers will invite each row. Please notify an usher to receive Communion at your pew. Communion in the Episcopal Church is open to all baptized Christians. Please come to the altar rail when invited; either kneel or stand. To receive the **bread** place one hand cupped on top of the other with palms facing up. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. **Wine** may be received either from the common chalice or from a tray of individual cups which follows the chalice. **Children** are invited to receive Communion first, or a blessing if not yet receiving Communion, and then dismiss to Godly Play.

Communion Music

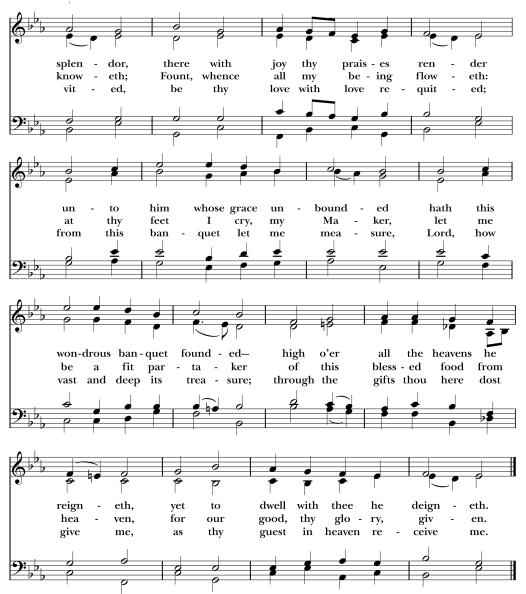
Where Charity and Love Prevail

Evers

Ablutions Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness

Hymn 339





Words: Johann Franck (1618-1677); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: *Schmücke dich*, melody Johann Cruger (1598-1662); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906.

Celebrant Let us pray.

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.

The Blessing

The response is: Amen.



6 Glory to God and praise and love be now and ever given by saints below and saints above, the Church in earth and heaven.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: Azmon, Carl Gotthilf Gläser (1784-1829); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude Allegro Everett Titcomb

The flowers on the High Altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory and celebration of:

Josephine, Steven, Mary, Kermit, Helen, Elinor, Dale and Sydney



Parish Prayer List

Please Pray For: Dave, Alex, Bill, Beverly, Elaine, Greg, Steve, Tim, Bud, Vickie, Barb, Larry, MaryEllen, Ryan, Susan, Kathy, Donna, Marilyn, Kathy, Adrienne, Kevin, Gerald, Sue, Lea, Gordon, Alvina, Milton, Jeff, Debbie, Barbara, Dave, Rob and Ted.

The Departed: Josephine D. Appell (1/21/24), Steven E. Robertson (1/22/24), Mary E. King (1/28), The Rev'd. Canon Kermit L. Lloyd (1/28), Helen McCay Dent (1/29), Elinor Kelsey Dent (1/29), Dale W. Linebaugh (2/2) and Sydney Mark Bitzer (2/3).

Birthdays: Eve Deinlein (1/28) and Robert Ryer (1/31).

Worship Schedule This Week

Wednesday, 10AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sunday, 8AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite I; 10AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Announcements

The **Annual Business Meeting of the Parish** will take place *today* after the 10AM Eucharist. The Annual Meeting is an important opportunity to focus on our spiritual life, financial operations and parish property. We also hold elections for Parish Leadership. Annual Meeting booklets are available at the ushers' tables.

2023 Leadership Nominations

<u>Vestry</u>: Mike Dellinger, Megan Dietz, Scott Hamilton, Brian Hershner, and Claudia Parks.

Nominating Committee: Bill Ariail, Lynn Conant, and Carolyn Warman.

<u>Delegates for Diocesan Convention</u>: Daniel Blakemore, Wanda Blakemore, Dorothy Kennedy, and Charlie Marino. <u>Alternate</u>: Felicia Marino.

Nourishing Soul and Body: Please join us on **Tuesday, January 30, at 6PM** for an evening of prayer and fellowship, including a potluck dinner, a brief presentation on a spiritual topic with open conversation and Evening Prayer.

The **Outreach Committee** will hold a 2024 organizational meeting on **Thursday**, **February 1** beginning at 3pm in the Parish Hall. New members are welcome! For additional information, contact Outreach Committee Co-Chairs Susan Ariail at (717) 870-7963 or Felicia Marino at (719) 306-5842.

Please join us next **Sunday, February 4th**, for a **Vestry sponsored Coffee Hour** after both Sunday morning services. In celebration of our many blessings over the past year, and with gratitude for an overwhelming display of generosity in this year's stewardship campaign, the Vestry would like to express their appreciation after both of next week's services. Next week also marks Rev. Martha's last Sunday at St. John as she prepares for ordination to the priesthood. Please join us in thanking Rev. Martha for her season of service at St. John and congratulating her on her upcoming ordination.

Adult Forum Ivan Ruiz-Swartz concludes a series entitled: Living the Spirit-Filled Life next Sunday Feburary 4th. Join us at 9am in the chapel.

Please join us on **Sunday, February 11 at 4pm** for our next **Concert Series** performance featuring coloratura soprano Yukiko Ishida.

Excerpts in margin notes are adapted from, Planning for Rites and Rituals: A Resource for Episcopal Worship.

The Rev. Eric Hillegas, Rector The Rev. Martha Ambrose, Deacon Mr. Rodney Barnett, Organist and Choir Director

St. John Episcopal Church is a community of believers that welcomes all people to celebrate God's presence in today's world.



A Jubilee Center

140 N. Beaver Street York, PA 17401 717-848-1862 stjohnyork.org