

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

January 29, 2023

10:00 AM



St. John's Episcopal Church
12201 Richmond Street
Chester, Virginia 23831
804-748-2182 | stjohscheester.com

A warm welcome to all who come to worship at St. John's this day. We are glad you are here! If you are visiting with us, we would like to get to know you better, so please fill out a visitor's card available from an usher or on the ushers table at the rear in the narthex.

Prelude

If able, please stand.

Hymn 569 God the Omnipotent! King, who ordainest

Russia

THE WORD OF GOD

BCP Page 355

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

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Celebrant 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.

People Amen.

³There is no guile upon his tongue; he does no evil to his friend; * he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.

⁴In his sight the wicked is rejected, * but he honors those who fear the LORD.

Antiphon

⁵He has sworn to do no wrong * and does not take back his word.

⁶He does not give his money in hope of gain, * nor does he take a bribe against the innocent. ⁷Whoever does these things * shall never be overthrown.

Antiphon

Second Reading from 1Corinthians 1: 18-31

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." ²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. ²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

LEM The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

If able, please stand.

Hymn 556 Rejoice ye pure in heart

Marion

Verses 1-3

During the hymn, the Gospel book is brought into the midst of the people.

The Gospel

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Matthew 5: 1-12**

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

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: ³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The people are seated.

Hymn 556 Rejoice ye pure in heart

Verses 4&5

Marion

The Sermon

If able, please stand.

The Nicene Creed BCP Page 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. 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

LEM God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. So let us pray to the Lord, saying, God, bless your Church. May our souls hunger and thirst for righteousness. Give us the grace to do those things you require of us: to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you. For your blessing and guidance,

People We give you thanks.

LEM God, bless the people of this and every nation. You make foolish the wisdom of the world; we pray that our leaders find their wisdom in you. Teach us to be merciful and open us to receive mercy from others. For your blessing and guidance,

People We give you thanks.

LEM God, bless your creation. Your mighty, creative voice echoes through the mountains. We offer back to you all the many gifts that spring forth from this earth. For your blessing and guidance,

People We give you thanks.

LEM God, bless our local community. May we be a people who do no evil to our friends, who heap no contempt upon our neighbors. For your blessing and guidance,

People We give you thanks.

LEM God, bless the poor in spirit with the inheritance of your kingdom. You choose what is weak in this world to shame the strong. Be the source of life for all those suffering and sick. For your blessing and guidance,

People We give you thanks.

LEM God, bless the dying and the dead. May their reward be great in heaven. Give to those who now mourn the blessing of your comfort. For your blessing and guidance,

People We give you thanks.

LEM Almighty God, look graciously on the people of St. John's. Be with us as we welcome the next rector for our church. Give us courage to respond and act as you lead us. Come and see the great things God has done. For your blessing and guidance,

People We give you thanks.

LEM Please offer your prayers of intercession and thanksgiving.

Celebrant Hasten, O Father, the coming of thy kingdom; and grant that we thy servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold thy Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate.

People Amen.

Confession of Sin and Absolution BCP Page 360

If able, please kneel or stand.

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
Silence is kept for reflection.

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.

Celebrant 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.

People Amen.

If able, please stand.

The Peace

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

The people are seated.

Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

BCP Page 361

When the elements and the offering plates are brought forward, if able please stand. After they are on the altar, please be seated.

Offertory Anthem How Excellent is Your Name

Robert Wetzler

O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens. When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you set in their places, what, what we are we?

That you are mindful of us, and crown us with glory and honor. O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is your name!

Doxology Hymn 380 (verse 3)

Old 100th

If able, please stand.

**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.**

The Great Thanksgiving

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 him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. 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:

People and Celebrant

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly... Lord God of pow-er and might, hea-ven and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

If able, please kneel or stand.

Celebrant 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:

People **Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Celebrant 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.

People **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer BCP Page 364

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People **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.**

The Breaking of the Bread and Fraction Anthem *Sung first by the choir, then by all.*

Antiphon

The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus
in the break - ing of the bread.

Verses

1. The bread which we break, Alleluia, is the communion of the Body of Christ.
2. One body are we, Alleluia, for though many we share one bread.

The Communion

The people are seated.

We offer Communion to all who are baptized regardless of church tradition. We have wafers for those allergic to gluten, wheat, dairy and corn. Simply ask the celebrant who gives the bread. Those who wish to have their wafer dipped in the wine, please ask the celebrant. Those not receiving Communion are encouraged to come forward to receive a blessing; please cross your chest with your arms.

Post-Communion Prayer BCP Page 365/366

If able, please kneel or stand.

Celebrant Let us pray.

People **Almighty and ever living God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Blessing

If able, please stand.

Hymn 680 O God our help in ages past

Verses 1-4,6

St. Anne

The Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Postlude

All liturgical materials printed in this bulletin are printed under license from either Rite Planning or CCLI #1994456.