



St. Lawrence

Episcopal Church

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY: HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II
January 23, 2022 at 9:00 AM

Prelude

Berceuse (sur les paroles classiques)
Louis Vierne

Please stand as you are able.

Opening Hymn

Hail to the Lord's anointed

Hymnal 616

1 Hail to the Lord's A - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!
2 He comes with suc - cor speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,
3 He shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth,
4 Kings shall bow down be - fore him, and gold and in - cense bring;
5 O'er ev - ery foe vic - to - rious, he on his throne shall rest;

1 Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, his reign on earth be - gun!
2 to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;
3 and love, joy, hope, like flow - ers, spring in his path to birth:
4 all na - tions shall a - dore him, his praise all peo - ple sing;
5 from age to age more glo - rious, all bless - ing and all - blest:

1 He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free;
2 to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to light,
3 be - fore him on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald, go;
4 to him shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows a - scend;
5 the tide of time shall nev - er his cov - e - nant re - move;

1 to take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.
2 whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, were pre - cious in his sight.
3 and right - eous - ness in foun - tains from hill to val - ley flow.
4 his king - dom still in - creas - ing, a king - dom with - out end.
5 his Name shall stand for ev - er, his change - less Name of Love.

Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
All **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Collect

Presider May God be with you.
All **And also with you.**
Presider Let us pray.

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

All **Amen.**

Please be seated

First Reading

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 Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 19 *(Spoken together)*

**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? *
cleans 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.**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--Jews or Greeks, slaves or free--and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in

the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

Alleluia

Celtic Alleluia

Refrain

Verse—The Kingdom of God is at hand, the time is fulfilled, says the Lord; repent and believe in the Gospel

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Gospel

Luke 4:14-21

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
All **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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."

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.
All **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Homily

The Rev. Kristin Saylor

Please stand as you are able.

Response—A musical setting of The Creed

We be - lieve_ in God al - might - y, Au - thor of all things that be.
 We be - lieve_ that Je - sus suf - fered, scourged and scorned and cru - ci - fied;
 We be - lieve_ in God's own Spir - it, bond - ing all the saints with - in
 Mak - er of_ the earth and heav - ens, Keep - er of_ the sky_ and sea.
 tak - en from the cross, was bur - ied, True Life there had tru - ly died.
 one church cath - o - lic, one church ho - ly, where for - give - ness frees_ from sin;
 We be - lieve_ in God's Son, Je - sus, now for us_ both Lord and Christ,
 We be - lieve_ that on the third day Christ was raised up from the grave,
 in the bod - y's res - ur - rec - tion, for the break - ing of_ death's chain
 of_ the Spir - it and of Mar - y born to bring a - bun - dant life.____
 then as - cend - ed to God's righthand. He will come to judge and save.____
 gives the life_ that's ev - er - last - ing. This the faith that we have claimed.

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Prayer of the People

Intercessor Gracious God, you have shown us the way of life and love. Help us to follow your guidance. We pray for all who are dedicating their lives to your service, especially Michael our Presiding Bishop, Paula our Bishop-elect, Chilton our Assisting Bishop, Kristin our Rector. We pray also for all those who are seeking your presence in their lives and are striving to do your will. We pray especially for those who are preparing for new roles on the Vestry and as Wardens.

All Lord, we sing your praises!
Hear our prayers.

Intercessor Gracious God, guide our country's leaders, especially Joe our president, JB our governor, and all others in positions of public trust, that they may work together to serve the common good, promoting safety, justice, and dignity for every person.

All Lord we sing your praises!
Hear our prayers.

Intercessor Gracious God, lead all the nations and peoples of this world into ways of decency and truth. Establish peace among them, and help them to understand there are many paths that lead to You. Help us also to safeguard your creation and to sustain and renew the life of this fragile planet.

All Lord we sing your praises!
Hear our prayers.

Intercessor Gracious God, we thank you for the many gifts you have given us. Bless our parish family, our homes and our loved ones with your joy and grace. Inspire us to share our gifts generously with others and with our communities. We also give thanks for all those celebrating birthdays. We give thanks for the arrival of children, especially: Maxwell, to Mandy, Joel and big sister Clara Paustian; Nolan, to Ross and Melissa. and other important life events this week.

All Lord, we sing your praises!
Hear our prayers.

Intercessor Gracious God, we ask you to bring your light to those who live in darkness or hatred. We pray for relief for all caught up in bitterness or destructive thoughts. We pray for food for the hungry, shelter for the homeless and safety for those in danger. We pray for health for the sick, comfort for all who mourn, and peace for all who are fearful, troubled, or sad, especially: Bill, Paige, Tonia, Link, Marcella, Jacki, Emily, Barb, Ginny, Glenn, Louise, James, Roger, Kay, Dave, Stephanie, Gracelyn, Brinley, JN, Linda, Betty, Kay, Jack, Rob, Chris, Kim, Fran, Bella, Theresa, Kari, Jill, Paul, Sam, Annie, Noah, Laura, Nick, Lucy, Barbara, Bruce and those whom we now name either aloud or in our hearts.

All Lord, we sing your praises!
Hear our prayers.

Intercessor Gracious God, we pray for all who have died, especially Nat and Matt. Be with those who grieve and help us all to celebrate the joys of our lives together on this earth. May we, in the fullness of time, share with all your saints the glory of your heavenly kingdom.

All Lord, we sing your praises!
Hear our prayers.

Confession of Sin

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

Silence may be kept.

All **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 our Savior 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.**

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

All **Amen.**

The Peace

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

All **And also with you.**


THE HOLY COMMUNION

Our common life depends on our generosity. Offering plates are available in the front and the back of the church. During the offertory music, please consider giving as you are able. Thank you.


Offertory Music

Open your ears, O faithful people

Hymnal 536




1 O - pen your ears, O faith - ful peo - ple,
 2 They who have ears to hear the mes - sage,
 3 Is - ra - el comes to greet the Sa - vior,
 4 O - pen your ears, O faith - ful peo - ple,



o - pen your ears and hear God's word. O - pen your hearts, O
 they who have ears, then let them hear. They who would learn the
 Ju - dah is glad to see his day. From east and west the
 o - pen your ears and hear God's word. O - pen your hearts, O



roy - al priest - hood, God has come to you.
 way of wis - dom, let them hear God's word.
 peo - ples trav - el, he will show the way.
 roy - al priest - hood, God has come to you.



God has spo - ken to his peo - ple, Hal - le - lu - jah!




And his words are words of wis - dom, Hal - le - lu -



jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! God has spo - ken to his peo - ple,
 To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra,



Hal - le - lu - jah! And his words are
 To - rah o - ra,



words of wis - dom, Hal - le - lu - jah!
 To - rah o - ra, Hal - le - lu - jah!

“Torah ora” is Hebrew for, “The Law is our Light.”

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

Celebrant The Lord be with you. *People* And al - so 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 God thanks and praise.

Presider

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, 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:

Sanctus (*Holy, Holy, Holy*)

Ho - ly, ho - ly,
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
heaven 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.

Presider We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Savior 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 Jesus 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, according to his command, O Father,

All **We remember Christ's death,
We proclaim Christ's resurrection,
We await Christ's coming in glory;**

Presider And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Lawrence and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Lords Prayer

Presider As our Savior Christ has taught us we now pray,

All **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem

*Cantor:**

O Lamb of God, you take a - way
 the sins of the world, have mer - cy on us.
 Grant us peace, grant us peace.

Repeat as needed

Last time

*The assembly echoes each phrase of the cantor at the interval of one measure.

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Presider The gifts of God for the people of God.

Communion Music *Ubi Caritas (Where charity and love are, God is there)* WLP831

Descant

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,
 Ai - a nō e loa'a ke a - lo - ha

A

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,
 Ai - a nō e loa'a ke a - lo - ha

u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.
 Ai - a nō e loa'a ke A - kua nō.

B

u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.
 Ai - a nō e loa'a ke A - kua nō.

Translation: Where true charity and love abide, God is there.

Communion Hymn

My God, thy table now is spread

Hymnal 321

1 My God, thy ta - ble now is spread, thy cup with
2 O let thy ta - ble hon - ored be, and fur - nished
3 Drawn by thy quick - ening grace, O Lord, in coun - tless
4 Nor let thy spread - ing Gos - pel rest till through the

love doth o - ver - flow; be all thy chil - dren
well with joy - ful guests; and may each soul sal -
num - bers let them come and gath - er from their
world thy truth has run, till with this Bread shall

thith - er led, and let them thy sweet mer - cies know.
va - tion see, that here its sa - cred pledg - es tastes.
Fa - ther's board the Bread that lives be - yond the tomb.
all be blessed who see the light or feel the sun.

Words: Sts. 1-3, Philip Doddridge (1702-1751), alt.; st. 4, Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.
Music: *Rockingham*, melody from *Second Supplement to Psalmody in Miniature*, ca. 1780; adapt. Edward Miller (1731-1807); harm. Samuel Webbe (1740-1816)

Spiritual Communion

Zoom Host Since we cannot share in the Body and Blood of Christ at this time, you are invited to join in the following prayer. The very intention to receive is enough to receive the spiritual blessing of the sacrament.

Let us pray.

All **In union, blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory. And particularly for the blessings given me....**

I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you or from my sisters and brothers in Christ; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.

The sending forth of Eucharistic Visitors

When Eucharistic Visitors are sent out the following words are used.

All **In the name of God and this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body. We who are many are one body because we share one bread, one cup.**

Postcommunion Prayer

Presider Let us pray.

All **Loving God,
we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior.
Amen.**

Blessing

Presider May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

1 Spread, O spread, thou might - y word, spread the king - dom of the Lord,
 2 word of how the Fa - ther's will made the world, and keeps it, still;
 3 word of how the Sa - vior's love earth's sore bur - den doth re - move;
 4 word of how the Spi - rit came bring - ing peace in Je - sus' name;
 5 Word of life, most pure and strong, word for which the na - tions long,

1 that to earth's re - mot - est bound all may heed the joy - ful sound;
 2 how his on - ly Son he gave, earth from sin and death to save;
 3 how for - ev - er, in its need, through his death the world is freed;
 4 how his nev - er - fail - ing love guides us on to heaven a - bove.
 5 spread a - broad, un - til from night all the world a - wakes to light.

Words: John Marriott (1780-1825), alt.
 Music: *Moscow*, Felice de Giardini (1716-1796); harm. *The New Hymnal*, 1916, based on Hymns Ancient and Modern, 1875, and Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Psalm 19
 Benedetto Marcello

Community Prayers

The Universal Church, its members and its mission: Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui ; and for our Companion Dioceses of Southeast Mexico and Renk

The concerns of the local community, especially those who are affected by gun violence.

For our parish family, that we may put our trust in God's wisdom and loving care, in times of joy and times of uncertainty, that we may embrace in faith our mission to grow in love and service to God's people.

Those who suffer and are in any trouble and those who have requested our prayers: Bill, Paige, Tonia, Link, Marcella, Jacki, Emily, Barb, Ginny, Glenn, Louise, James, Roger, Kay, Dave, Stephanie, Gracelyn, Brinley, JN, Linda, Betty, Kay, Jack, Rob, Chris, Kim, Fran, Bella, Theresa, Kari, Jill, Paul, Sam, Annie, Noah, Laura, Nick, Lucy, Barbara, Bruce

We give thanks for all the blessings of this life.

We give thanks for those waiting for children, especially: Mandy and Joel, Laura and Gordon, Nathanael and Liz, Ashley and Carl, Jullian and Joanna, Kyle and Allie

We give thanks for the arrival of children, especially: Maxwell, to Mandy, Joel and big sister Clara Paustian; Nolan, to Ross and Melissa.

We pray for peace and healing in our nation and the world.

We pray for those who have died, especially: Matt

We pray that peace and justice may come soon in places of war and conflict, and for all whose life of service puts them at risk; and for all victims of religious oppression throughout the world.

If you have a loved one you would like mentioned in the Prayers of the People list, please write their first name on the clipboard located at the rear of the church. You may also visit www.stlawrencechurch.org and click on "worship" and look for "Online Prayer Group". Names are checked and updated weekly and refreshed every month.

Current Events and Ministries At St. Lawrence

WELCOME! New to St. Lawrence? Visiting and curious about our parish? Want more information about Sunday school, youth groups, adult education, outreach activities, opportunities for fellowship and more? Please complete the top part of the newcomers card and either drop it in the collection plate or hand it to an usher. We'll contact you to answer your questions, point you in the right direction and do anything we can to help you feel welcome at St. Lawrence Church. Keep the bottom section for easy ways to access more information about our parish.

A note from Rev. Kristin Saylor

If we haven't had the pleasure of having a one-on-one conversation and you'd like to do that, please send me an email, give me a call, or drop by my virtual or in person office hours (info below). I'd be honored to meet.

Personal drop-in office hours are:
In person: Wednesdays, 10-11:30 am
Zoom: Mondays, 11:30 am—1:00 pm (link in the Thursday Email)

A Worship "Soft Space" for Children

This space is for children old enough to leave the nursery, through children young enough to enjoy a front row seat, up to age 10. The soft space gives kids a chance to experience our liturgy, worship, and communion without anything in their way. The soft space is not mandatory. Children should sit where they are most comfortable in church.



All sessions will be in the classroom and available to Zoom. Links delivered to your email. If you are new to Sunday School, please contact Miss Kim at kimahall2000@yahoo.com to be included in the Zoom invitation.

All dates are Sundays at 10:15 a.m.



Vestry Nominations

Deborah DeManno

Nominee for Warden, (term until January 2024)

My connection with St. Lawrence Church began in 2009 when I attended the noon service on Ash Wednesday because it was convenient to my office in Lake Forest. Soon I attended the weekday morning service when my schedule permitted. While I continued to belong to an Episcopal church near my home in Evanston, I felt drawn to St. Lawrence for the welcoming community and focus on inclusive and accessible worship. I don't recall when I became a "full time" member of St. Lawrence Church - and maybe that is the point of this community; a seeker can feel at home here from their first visit. My support of the mission and ministries includes facilitating the Conversations that Matter Sunday forum (2016-2020), guiding Living Compass Circles as a trained community Wellness Advocate, being a mentor to a recent confirmand, reading the Prayers of the People/Intercessions, offering a few homilies during online worship in 2020, and serving on the Rector Search Committee (RSC).

My experience on the RSC was a powerful one, shaped by the stories we heard from the St. Lawrence community. It is because of my RSC experience that I accepted the invitation to stand as Warden. During the search, each rector candidate each asked us what was next for St. Lawrence? Our reply was that we really did not have an answer - because our community had not yet had a chance to dream of our future. We had been focused on the financial challenges of the building. Then we faced the pandemic and shutdown with an extended period without a full-time priest. Now, with our new Rector, we enter the period when we need to envision what kind of future we want to create together. It's not going to be easy, nor will the path always be clear - walking along a growing edge is like that. But our demonstrated resilience and how we live out our faith and stories can embolden us to take on this next challenge.

Speaking of stories, here is the rest of mine:

I was raised Roman Catholic in a northwest side working-class neighborhood of Detroit, where one's identity was anchored in the parish church your family attended. A key part of my formation was my twelve years of parochial school education with the Dominican Sisters. In high school I fell in love with biology and decided to be a scientist. I earned two degrees in Biological Sciences: a B.S. at Michigan Technological University and a Ph.D. from the University of Notre Dame. A postdoctoral position at Northwestern Med School brought me to Chicagoland.

Like many others, in my twenties I drifted away from church. My time at Notre Dame brought me back to the sacredness of community worship in groups small and large. But after I left campus and started working in Chicago, I had a harder time reconciling the exclusion of women and LGBTQ peo-

ple from the full life of the Catholic church. For a few years I was not part of any faith community. The sudden death of my mother when I was 33 started me on a period of searching, which led me to the Episcopal Church where I was received in 1991. At St. Luke's in Evanston, I was elected to two Vestry terms. I also served as the head of the Altar Guild and chaired the Worship Commission.

Professionally, I worked as a research scientist for 30 years, in both medical schools and in pharmaceutical industry R&D. My areas of research ranged from Reproductive and Women's Health to Metabolic Diseases (diabetes and obesity). After early retirement in 2017, I planned to spend my time traveling and enjoying my passion of photography. The Holy Spirit had other plans. Late in 2020 I completed a two-year training program to be a Spiritual Director/Guide. It might seem to be a big leap, but I see common threads connecting my roles of scientist and spiritual director. Both involve searching, careful observation, paying attention, and deep listening - whether it's understanding data or holding space for another's sacred story. I am humbled for the opportunity to bring my experiences to participate in the leadership of St. Lawrence Church.

Jenny Speers

Nominee for Vestry (term until January 2025)

My daughter Natalie and I have been members of St. Lawrence for over 15 years since we moved to Vernon Hills shortly after I adopted Natalie from Russia. I am a lifelong Episcopalian, growing up attending Grace Episcopal Church in Sandusky, Ohio, where my family has belonged since the early 1900s. I also attended various Episcopal churches as I moved from Columbus to Cleveland to Cincinnati after college, and then to Chicago.

I earned a BA in Mathematics and Economics from Miami University in Ohio, and an MA in Economics from Ohio State University. My professional background is in Consumer Products and Financial Services IT. I'm currently a Business Systems Analyst focusing on data conversions and systems integration for banking products.

At St. Lawrence I taught Sunday School for 7 years, joined the Book Club last year, and have been involved in various outreach programs and parish activities through the years.

Brian Bowers

Nominee for Vestry (term until January 2025)

I am Brian Bowers and our family (Linda, Rick and Alex) have been with St. Lawrence since 2003 when we moved here from Tulsa, OK. God has given me the knack to fix things and a voice to sing his praises. I have been a member of the choir since joining St. Lawrence. I have been a member of the IT and Facility Maintenance team for many years. I have served on the vestry before and look forward to serving in whatever capacity in the future. If you want to learn about me professionally, you can check me out on LinkedIn.

Visioning our Future

We are entering an exciting period of discernment as a congregation. Who is God calling St. Lawrence to become? What does the future hold for us? We want to hear from you as we consider these questions and much more in a series of four listening sessions in early February. Both zoom and in person options are available - please see the sign-up link on the website, stlawrencechurch.org, for more information. Please note that, in order to facilitate genuine dialogue, space in each session is limited. These conversations are just one step among many that we hope to take together this year as we listen for God's voice and discover what the future holds for us. Please join us.

Clergy and staff to take the sabbath week

February 16th -February 22nd

Assisting Bishop Chilton is asking "our diocesan community to come together in loving support of our clergy – both deacons and priests — and church workers through what [she is] calling the "Mini-Sabbatical" program." Out of love and concern for health and well-being of clergy and lay staff, this program provides for a week where the meetings, worship, and activities facilitated by clergy and staff are cancelled to allow for a time of respite and renewal – a sabbath rest most critically needed. Sabbath is a vital part of our lives of faith, so it is important for the church to set an example of caring for each other and valuing the biblically established rhythm of work and rest. Please visit the website for the full letter from Rev. Kristin Saylor.

Free COVID test kits are available through a new government website.

Here's how to order the at-home tests

COVID-19 tests will start shipping in late January. The Postal Service will send one set of four free at-home coronavirus tests to valid residential addresses. Visit www.covidtests.gov for your free tests.

Lost Music Bag

Sharon Starr had a black canvas bag at church on Christmas Eve and she hasn't seen it since. It contains a black leather music folder, a pitch pipe and a few other things. The canvas bag has Alpha Chi Omega printed on the front. After an exhaustive search at church and at home, she is asking anyone who might have seen it to contact her at sharonstarr3@gmail.com. Many thanks!

On the Calendar

Sunday, January 23	Third Sunday After the Epiphany, 9 AM in person and on Zoom Sunday School, 10:15 AM in person and on Zoom
Saturday, January 29	HOPE Food Pantry, 8 AM
Sunday, January 30	Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany, 9 AM in person and on Zoom St. Lawrence Church Annual Meeting, 10:15 AM
Wednesday, February 2	Visioning Our Future Listening Session, 7 PM on Zoom
Saturday, February 5	Seeking Sophia, 7 AM on Zoom
Sunday, February 6	Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany, 9 AM in person and on Zoom Sunday School, 10:15 AM in person and on Zoom Visioning Our Future Listening Session, Noon
Sunday, February 13	Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany, 9 AM in person and on Zoom
Monday, February 14	St. Lawrence Book Club, 7 PM on Zoom
Tuesday, February 15	Vestry Meeting, 7 PM on Zoom
Saturday, February 19	Seeking Sophia, 7 AM on Zoom
Sunday, February 20	Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany: Sunday School, 10:15 AM in person and online ●St. Lawrence Sabbath Week please join St. Gregory's Deerfield or Trinity Highland Park, details on the website
Saturday, February 26	HOPE Food Pantry, 8 AM
Sunday, February 27	The Last Sunday after the Epiphany, 9 AM in person and on Zoom

Parish Office: 847 362-2110

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The Rev. Hal Toberman

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Our Mission:
Growing relationships, serving in community,
empowered through worship

Our Vision:
A vibrant, engaged community feeding those who hunger in body, mind
or spirit, celebrating God's love and offering a spiritual home for all

Our Promise:
Wherever you are in your spiritual journey,
St. Lawrence welcomes you. We celebrate diversity and,
following Jesus' example embrace ALL God's children.
As a community, we cherish your uniqueness as God has made you:
across cultural backgrounds, skin color, citizenship/immigration status,
political views, age, gender identity/expression/attraction, marital and
economic status, and physical and cognitive abilities.
Whoever you are, whomever you love,
wherever you are from, WE WELCOME YOU!



St. Lawrence
Episcopal Church

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