



# THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

SUNDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2021

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

9:30 A.M. AND 10:30 A.M.

**Gathering Music** (*The gathering music at 10:30 a.m. will be sung by the soloist; the congregation is invited to listen.*)

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great Name we praise.

*St. Denio*

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest, to both great and small;  
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
we blossom and flourish, like leaves on the tree,  
then wither and perish; but nought changeth thee.

Thou reignest in glory, thou rulest in light,  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
all laud we would render: O help us to see  
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.

**Welcome and Announcements**

## THE WORD OF GOD

### Opening Acclamation

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
**And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

### Collect for Purity

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.**

Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers; \*  
you are worthy of praise; glory to you.  
Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name; \*  
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Glory to you in the splendor of your temple; \*  
on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.  
Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim; \*  
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Glory to you, beholding the depths; \*  
in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.  
Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; \*  
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

### **The Collect of the Day**

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **The Lessons**

#### **A reading from Isaiah (40:21–31)**

##### *Commentary:*

*Isaiah's emphasis in these verses is God as the Ruler of all creation. God has given both the objective revelation of Himself and the ability to understand its implications to human beings. The same God who created the world presides over its affairs. All decision makers in the world are really under God's authority, He is superior as well as sovereign. The Jewish people thought God had forgotten them, but Isaiah encouraged them to open their eyes and ears to what they knew about their God. He is eternal, the covenant keeper, the untiring creator and beyond human comprehension. Circumstances may overcome even the strongest young people, but those who wait on the Lord will receive divine strength with which to face all obstacles.*

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God"? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## A reading from 1 Corinthians (9:16–23)

### *Commentary:*

*Paul defended his right to the Corinthians' support (see 1 Corinthians 9:1-15), and now he argued for his right to do without that support. Paul had made the decision to support himself while he preached freely, the Lord did not require this of him. Since Paul chose not to receive pay for his ministry, he was indebted to no one, leaving him free to become the slave of all. Paul's decisions about what he did or did not do were based on two things: obedience to God and the welfare of others. The work of the gospel was Paul's divine calling. As the Lord's servant, Paul made himself subject to all so that he might win some to Christ.*

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel. For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sequence Hymn** (10:30 a.m. only. Sung by the soloist; the congregation is invited to listen)

McKee

In Christ there is no East or West, in him no South or North,  
but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.

Join hands, disciples of the faith, whate'er your race may be!  
Who serves my Father as his child is surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both East and West, in him meet South and North,  
all Christly souls are one in him, throughout the whole wide earth.

## The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark (1:29–39)

*Priest* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

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

After Jesus and his disciples left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

*Priest* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## The Homily

Rhonda Thomas, Parish Postulant

## The Nicene Creed

*Officiant and People together*

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## Prayers of the People

*The response to each petition:*

Lord, in your mercy... **Hear our prayer.**

## Confession of Sin and Absolution

*Officiant 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.

### **The Peace**

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

## **THE HOLY COMMUNION**

**Offertory Solo:** *(10:30 a.m. only. Sung by the soloist; the congregation is invited to listen)*

*Raquel*

As we gather at your Table, as we listen to your Word,  
help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;  
teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's victory known.

Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;  
send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.  
Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;  
may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.

Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that Feast  
where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.  
There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy,  
as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

### **Eucharistic Prayer C**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

**Glory to you for ever and ever.**

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

**By your will they were created and have their being.**

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.

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

*The Eucharist Prayer continues overleaf.*

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.

**By his blood, he reconciled us.**

**By his wounds, we are healed.**

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:

*Celebrant and People*

**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.**

*The Celebrant continues*

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

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

**We celebrate his death and resurrection,**

**as we await the day of his coming.**

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. 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.

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

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**

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 Fraction**

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for  
us.  
**Therefore let us keep the feast.**

### **The Communion of the People.**

**Communion Music** (10:30 a.m. only. Sung by the soloist; the congregation is invited to listen)

*Sharpe*

Heal me, hands of Jesus, and search out all my pain;  
restore my hope, remove my fear, and bring me peace again.

Cleanse me, blood of Jesus, take bitterness away;  
let me forgive as one forgiven and bring me peace today.

Know me, mind of Jesus, and show me all my sin;  
dispel the memories of guilt and bring me peace within.

Fill me, joy of Jesus; anxiety shall cease,  
and heaven's serenity be mine, for Jesus brings me peace!

### **Post-Communion Prayer** (Celebrant and People)

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.

### **Blessing**

### **Dismissal**

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**



*Celebrant: The Reverend Michael Singer*

*The flowers today are given to the Glory of God and in honor of  
North Carolina's healthcare workers, first responders and other providers of essential services.*

MT. LEBANON CHAPEL

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