



# THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

SUNDAY 29 JANUARY 2023

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I

8:00 A.M.

## THE WORD OF GOD

### Opening Acclamation

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 323

### The Collect for Purity

p. 323

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Kyrie eleison

Lord, have mercy upon us.

p. 324

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

### The Collect of the Day

p. 164

Almighty and everlasting God, who dost govern all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of thy people, and in our time grant us thy peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### The Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:18–31

The Holy Bible; *NRSV*, p. 1040

*Commentary: Paul pointed out that the gospel message of a crucified Messiah did not appeal to human wisdom and he quoted Isaiah to show that God's method had always been to expose the folly of merely human wisdom. Human reasoning is incapable of understanding God and our relationship to Him. The message of the Cross, of Christ crucified, seemed to be a demonstration of weakness, not strength. However, Christ is the instrument of God's power in conquering the forces of evil and delivering people from their control. Christ is also the instrument of God's wisdom, enabling people to know God and to come to Him. Paul tells us the glory of the gospel is that God extends loving mercy to those whom the world considers of little consequence.*

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where 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? For 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. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. Consider 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. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

The Word of the Lord.

People

**Thanks be to God.**

*People* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
**Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

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

*People* The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

**The Sermon**

The Reverend C. Phillip Craig, Jr.

**The Nicene Creed**

p. 327

**The Prayers of the People**

p. 328

**Confession of Sin**

p. 330

**The Peace**

p. 332

**Welcome and Announcements**

## **THE HOLY COMMUNION**

**Eucharistic Prayer II**

p. 340

**Sanctus**

p. 341

**The Lord’s Prayer**

p. 336

**The Breaking of the Bread**

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**Prayer of Humble Access**

p. 337

**The Communion of the People**

*Gluten-free wafers available upon request*

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**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

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**The Blessing**

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**The Dismissal**

p. 339



*Celebrant & Preacher: The Reverend C. Phillip Craig, Jr.*

*The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of  
Dorothy Costello and Kathryn van Arsdale Young.*

## **ST. JAMES PARISH**

THE REVEREND C. PHILLIP CRAIG, JR., RECTOR

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