

THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Sunday 28 January 2024

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II 9:00 A.M.

Prelude

Processional Hymn 376

"Joyful, joyful we adore thee"

Hymn to Joy

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation

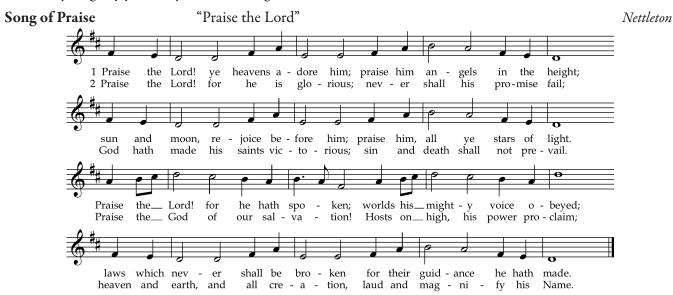
The Book of Common Prayer, p. 355

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

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

Collect for Purity p. 355

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.**



The Collect of the Day p. 215

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**.

The Holy Bible; NRSV, p. 174

Commentary: Moses knew his death was imminent. Deuteronomy records his farewell addresses as he prepared to transfer leadership to Joshua before the people crossed the Jordan River into Canaan. In this passage, Moses predicted that after his death, God would send other prophets to provide guidance for the nation. Prophets would be important mediators between God and His people. The promise of a mediator was ultimately fulfilled by Jesus Christ, who not only revealed God's message, but also provided salvation through His death on the cross.

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.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 111 read responsively by whole verse

Confitebor tibi

1 Hallelujah!

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

- 2 Great are the deeds of the LORD! * they are studied by all who delight in them.
- 3 His work is full of majesty and splendor, * and his righteousness endures for ever.
- 4 He makes his marvelous works to be remembered; * the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.
- 5 He gives food to those who fear him; * he is ever mindful of his covenant.

6 He has shown his people the power of his works * in giving them the lands of the nations.

- 7 The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; * all his commandments are sure.
- 8 They stand fast for ever and ever, * because they are done in truth and equity.
- 9 He sent redemption to his people; he commanded his covenant for ever; * holy and awesome is his Name.
- 10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; * those who act accordingly have a good understanding; his praise endures for ever.

The Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:1–13

NRSV, p. 1045

Commentary: In these verses, Paul instructed the Corinthians regarding an area of controversy within their church, whether or not it was permissible to eat food that had been sacrificed to idols. The tone of Paul's response indicates the Corinthian Christians valued knowledge more highly than love, a viewpoint Paul intended to correct. Knowledge without love is incomplete and by itself does not lead to right conduct. Paul's concern was that the church, which ought to be a loving and nurturing community, refrain from placing any barrier in the way of a person's relationship with God. Christ died for the weak believer as well as the strong, so the church's responsibility is to care for, respect and promote spiritual development for all who are united by faith in one Lord.

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.

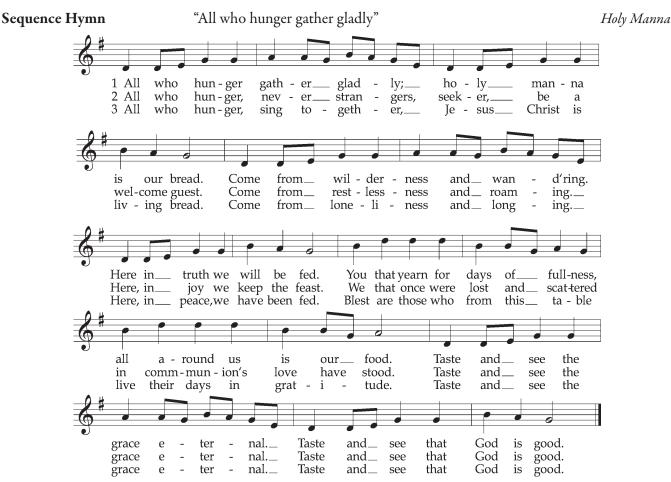
Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom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

During the Sequence Hymn, the children leave for Children's Chapel.



The Holy Gospel: Mark 1:21–28

NRSV, p.912

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ. The Nicene Creed p. 358

Celebrant and People

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:

...Hear our prayers,

Holy One of God.

Confession of Sin and Absolution

p. 360

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Celebrant 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 Priest stands and says

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. **Amen**

The Peace p. 360

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Anthem "Lead gently, Lord"

John Rutter

Look at the world, everything all around us: Look at the world, and marvel every day. Look at the world: so many joys and wonders, so many miracles along the way. Praise to thee, O Lord, for all creation, Give us thankful hearts, that we may see: All the gifts we share, and every blessing, All things come of thee.

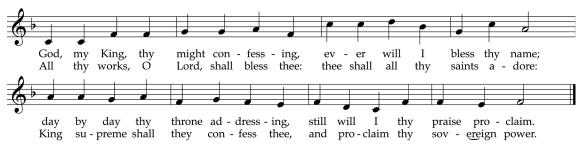
Look at the earth bringing forth fruit and flower; Look at the sky, the sunshine and the rain; Look at the hills, look at the trees and mountains, Valley and flowing river, field and plain. *Refrain*.

Think of the spring, think of the warmth of summer Bringing the harvest before the winter's cold. Everything grows, everything has a season, till it is gathered to the Father's fold. Refrain.

Every good gift, all that we need and cherish Comes from the Lord in promise of his love; We are his hands, stewards of all his bounty; His is the earth, and his the heavens above. *Refrain*.

Presentation Hymn

Stuttgart



The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A

p. 361

Celebrant People

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

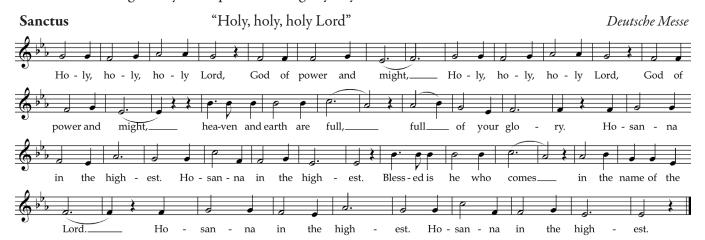
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

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:



The people stand or kneel.

The Eucharistic Prayer continues until the Celebrant says the following words

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

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

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. **AMEN**.

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

The Lord's Prayer p. 364

> 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

p. 364

The Fraction

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia People

The Communion of the People

Gluten-free wafers are available at the main altar upon request.

Communion Hymns

"I come with joy to meet my Lord" **Hymn 304** Land of Rest "Let us break bread together" **Hymn 326** Let Us Break Bread "I want to walk as a child of the light" Hymn 490 Houston

The Postcommunion Prayer

p. 365

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

Closing Hymn 473

"Lift high the cross"

Crucifer

p. 366

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Postlude







Preacher: The Reverend C. Phillip Craig, Jr. Guest Organist & Choir Director: Martha Hayes Celebrant: The Reverend Gray Hodsdon Oboist: Sarah Parker

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

THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

MON.- FRI., JAN. 29 - FEB. 2

• MORNING PRAYER 8:00-8:30 AM | Zoom

MONDAY, JANUARY 29

- BRUNSWICK STEW SALE OPEN! All Day | Order online
- FELLOWSHIP A.A. 7:00 PM | Great Hall

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30

•EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY 9:00-11:30 a.m. - Registration Required

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31

- YOUTH BIBLE STUDY 7:00 AM | 16th St. Starbucks
- CREATIVE CONNECTIONS 8:30 - 11:00 AM | Stephen Ministry Room
- THE ARTS & THE BIBLE 11:00 AM | Stephen Ministry Room
- HOLY EUCHARIST 12:10 PM | St. James Chapel

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

- PRAYING SHAPES BELIEVING
 5:30 p.m. | Lippitt Room
- EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY 6:30 - 8:00 PM | Registration Required
- CHOIR REHEARSAL 7:00 PM | Choir Room

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

• SJDS 4's DONUTS WITH DEAR ONES 9:30-10:30 AM | SJDS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

• THE MINISTRY OF THE VERGER -WITH MR. MARTIN CASTLEDINE 10:00 am | Registration Req.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

- HOLY EUCHARIST RITE I 8:00 AM | St. James Parish
- FAMILY BREAKFAST 8:30 - 9:10 AM| Great Hall
- FAITH FORMATION HOUR 9:10 - 10:00 AM| St. James Parish
- HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II THE REV. JAMIE HAWKEY PREACHES 10:15 AM | St. James Parish & Livestream
- IGNITE! YOUTH GATHERING 5:00 - 6:30 PM | Youth Room

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5

• ST. JAMES SPEAKER SERIES: AN EVENING WITH WESTMINISTER ABBEY

7:00 PM | St. James Parish & Livestream Reception to follow

WESTMINSTER ABBEY COMES TO WILMINGTON

THE MINISTRY OF THE VERGER - WITH MR. MARTIN CASTLEDINE

Saturday, February 3 | 10:00 a.m. | RSVP Requested

Join us on Saturday, February 3 at 10:00 AM at St. James Parish for a special verger workshop with Mr. Martin Castledine, Dean's Verger at Westminster Abbey. Regardless of whether you are a verger or if your church has a verger ministry, we invite you to attend to hear Martin's story—how he became a verger, what it means to be a verger, his experience serving in the role (including at Westminster Abbey), and the lessons he has learned along the way. The workshop will be followed by a bagged lunch at 11:30 AM.

ST. JAMES SPEAKER SERIES: AN EVENING WITH WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Monday, February 5 | 7:00 p.m. | St. James Parish

St. James Episcopal Church in downtown Wilmington is thrilled to announce our first speaker event of 2024. On Monday, February 5, 2024, the St. James Speaker Series has invited The Rev. Dr. James Hawkey, Canon Theologian of Westminster Abbey, and Mr. Martin Castledine, Dean's Verger of Westminster Abbey, to share with us their experiences as clergy and staff of the royal church. Join us on Monday, February 5, at 7:00 p.m. at St. James Parish for this special presentation. A brief time of Q&A in the sanctuary and a reception will follow. This event is free to our community.

UPCOMING EVENTS

UPS CLOSE!

Signups Open Through February 6th!

One of our St. James traditions is the Guardian Angel Prayer experience. We invite adults to take time this Lent to pray for a young person in our parish. If you agree to be a "Guardian Angel" during Lent, you will receive information about the young person who will be assigned to you. Please remember to keep your identity as their "angel" a secret and to pray for them each day. Complete the form online or reach out to Cookie Cantwell at cookie@stjamesp.org to sign up!

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Tuesday, February 13 | 5:30 - 7:00 PM | Perry Hall February 13th is Shrove Tuesday. It's one of those days that we Episcopalians love to celebrate. Christians started celebrating Shrove Tuesday in the 16th Century. In the days preceding Lent, a season of fasting, was observed. Fatty foods, such as milk and butter, were consumed prior to the fasting. The goal was to use up these ingredients, as they wouldn't be able to be consumed during Lent. So, on Shrove Tuesday, we celebrate with pancakes, rich in butter and milk. We also eat meat, bacon and sausage, and indulge ourselves one last time before Lent.

Shrove Tuesday is an important time to join with your parishioners, have a meal, and enjoy each other's company. Bring a friend or two and join us on Tuesday, February 13 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. as we celebrate the last day before Lent with John Baldersons' delicious pancakes and bingo!. Proceeds from this event support the outreach efforts of our St. James Youth! Stay tuned for how to RSVP/donate.

PRAYING SHAPES BELIEVING

Returning February 1, 2024

Are you interested in deepening your faith? Learning more about the Episcopal Church? Or even discovering the meaning and purpose behind what we say and do in worship? If so, then Praying Shapes Believing is for you! Praying Shapes Believing (PSB) serves as a course for all adults who want to be baptized, confirmed, received, or reaffirmed in the Episcopal Church in May 2024. It is also open to anyone, parishioners or newcomers, who are seeking to discover and learn more.PSB begins Thursday, February 1, 2024, 5:30-7:15 p.m. in the Lippitt Room. This seven-week series will guide you through the history and traditions of our faith and our church. It shows us what it meansin the words of our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry—to be a part of the "Episcopal branch of the Jesus movement." During this class, you will be invited to read through Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs & Practices. You can expect each session to begin with prayer and icebreaker questions, to hear and learn from clergy on relevant topics, and, in so doing, get to know others within the St. James community—longtime members and newcomers alike. We invite you to come as you arecomfortable! We'll have some light refreshments. If you have any questions, want to register, or need a copy of the book, please contact the Rev. Gray Hodsdon at gray@stjamesp.org.

St. James Parish

THE REVEREND C. PHILLIP CRAIG, JR., RECTOR

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