



# THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

SUNDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2024

## HOLY BAPTISM

10:15 A.M.

### Prelude

Processional Hymn 135

“Songs of thankfulness and praise”

Salzburg

### THE WORD OF GOD

#### Opening Acclamation

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 299

*Celebrant*  
*People*

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
**And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**  
There is one Body and one Spirit;  
**There is one hope in God's call to us;**  
One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;  
**One God and Father of all.**  
The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Let us pray.

#### The Collect of the Day

p. 217

O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

#### The First Reading: 2 Kings 2:1–12

The Holy Bible; *NRSV*, p. 328

*Commentary: Elijah knew that he had come to his last day on earth. By granting Elisha permission to stay behind, Elijah was testing Elisha's commitment to Elijah and to his calling as Elijah's successor. Elisha did not want to speak of Elijah's departure, probably indicating his sorrow at losing his friend and mentor. It was not uncommon for prophets to bestow a significant parting blessing, something Elisha did not want to miss. Elijah's cloak was the symbol of his authority as God's spokesman. Elijah was miraculously swept up into heaven, but God's work in the world would continue through Elisha.*

When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?” And he said, “Yes, I know; keep silent.”

Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know; be silent.”

Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

People                      The Word of the Lord.  
                                    **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 50:1–6

*Deus deorum*

**Antiphon** (The antiphon is first sung by the Cantor, then repeated by all)



Wor - ship the Lord in the beau - ty of ho - li-ness.



The LORD, the God of gods, has / **spoken**; \*  
he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its / **setting**.  
Out of Zion, perfect in its / **beauty**, \*  
God reveals himself in / **glory**.

### ANTIPHON

Our God will come and will not keep / **silence**; \*  
before him there is a consuming flame,  
and round about him a raging / **storm**.  
He calls the heavens and the earth from a-/bove \*  
to witness the judgment of his / **people**.

### ANTIPHON

“Gather before me my loyal / **followers**, \*  
those who have made a covenant with me  
and sealed it with / **sacrifice**.”  
Let the heavens declare the rightness of his / **cause**; \*  
for God himself is / **judge**.

### ANTIPHON

## The Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:3–6

*NRSV*, p. 1054

*Commentary: In the verses immediately preceding this passage, Paul reminded the Corinthian church that his mission was to proclaim the truth, nothing more and nothing less. By 'veiled', Paul meant 'obscure'. The reason some people failed to understand and appreciate the gospel was that Satan had blinded their minds. It takes the work of the Holy Spirit to reveal the meaning and riches of the gospel to an unbelieving world. Jesus Christ visibly and accurately represented the invisible God. Paul never promoted himself; instead, he proclaimed Jesus Christ, the sovereign Lord. God had dispelled the darkness in Paul's heart and mind. Now, Paul's motivation for all he did was the desire to share the Light of the world with others.*

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

*People*            The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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

**Sequence Hymn 7**            "Christ, whose glory fills the skies"            *Ratisbon*

**The Holy Gospel: Mark 9:2–9**            *NRSV, p.921*

*People*            The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.  
**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

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

**The Sermon**            The Reverend C. Phillip Craig, Jr.

**Hymn 295**            "Sing praise to our Creator"            *Christus, der ist mein Leben*

**THE HOLY BAPTISM**  
**OF**  
**DAVIE ELIZABETH LYON DAWSON**            *Child of Edward and Jamie Dawson*  
**CAMILA APARECIDA McMERTY**            *Child of Thomas and Julia McMerty*  
**EMILY MACNAB THEISS**            *Child of Brian and Alison Theiss*

**Presentation and Examination of the Candidates**            The Book of Common Prayer, p. 301

The Candidates for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

*Parents and Godparents*  
**I present \_\_\_\_\_ to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.**

*Priest*  
Will you be responsible for seeing that these children you present are brought up in the Christian faith and life?

*Parents and Godparents*  
**I will, with God's help.**

*Priest*  
Will you by your prayers and witness help these children to grow into the full stature of Christ?

*Parents and Godparents*  
**I will, with God's help.**

*Then the Priest asks the following questions of the candidates who can speak for themselves, and of the parents and godparents who speak on behalf of the infants and younger children*

*Question* Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?  
*Answer* **I renounce them.**

*Question* Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?  
*Answer* **I renounce them.**

*Question* Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?  
*Answer* **I renounce them.**

*Question* Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?  
*Answer* **I do.**

*Question* Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?  
*Answer* **I do.**

*Question* Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?  
*Answer* **I do.**

*The Priest addresses the congregation, saying*

*Priest* Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?  
*People* **We will.**

*Priest* Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

## **The Baptismal Covenant**

p. 304

*Priest* Do you believe in God the Father?  
*People* **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

*Priest* Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?  
*People* **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

*Priest* Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?  
*People* **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

*Priest* Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?  
*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Priest* Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?  
*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Priest* Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?  
*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Priest* Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?  
*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Priest* Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?  
*People* **I will, with God's help.**

## Prayers for the Candidates

p. 305

*Priest* Let us now pray for these persons who are to receive the Sacrament of new birth.  
*Leader* Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.  
*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**  
*Leader* Open their hearts to your grace and truth.  
*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**  
*Leader* Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.  
*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**  
*Leader* Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.  
*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**  
*Leader* Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.  
*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**  
*Leader* Send them into the world in witness to your love.  
*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**  
*Leader* Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.  
*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**  
*Priest* Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. **Amen.**

## Thanksgiving over the Water

p. 306

*Priest* The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Priest* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life. We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*At the following words, the Priest touches the water*

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The Baptism

p. 307

*Priest* \_\_\_\_\_, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**  
\_\_\_\_\_, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever.  
**Amen.**

*Priest* Let us pray.  
Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

*Priest and People*

**We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.**

**The Peace**

p. 308

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

**Welcome and Announcements**

**THE HOLY COMMUNION**

**Offertory Anthem**

“Holy is the True Light”

William H. Harris

Holy is the True Light, and passing wonderful,  
lending radiance to them that endured in the heat of the conflict,  
from Christ they inherit a home of unfading splendour,  
wherein they rejoice with gladness evermore.  
Alleluia!

**Presentation Hymn**

*Stuttgart*



God, my King, thy might con - fess - ing, ev - er will I bless thy name;  
All thy works, O Lord, shall bless thee: thee shall all thy saints a - dore:  
day by day thy throne ad - dress - ing, still will I thy praise pro - claim.  
King su - preme shall they con - fess thee, and pro - claim thy sov - ereign power.

**The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A**

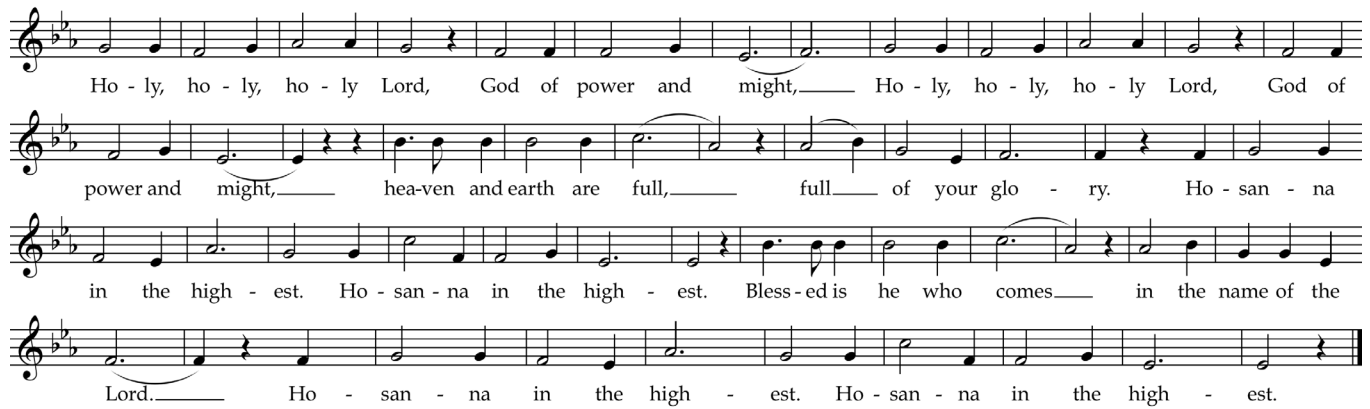
p. 361

*Celebrant*      The Lord be with you.  
*People*          **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;  
*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

## The Communion of the People

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

### Communion Hymns

Hymn 305	"Come, risen Lord, and deign to be our guest"	<i>Rosedale</i>
Hymn 133	"O Light of Light, Love given birth"	<i>Elmhurst</i>
Hymn 383	"Fairest Lord Jesus"	<i>St. Elizabeth</i>

### 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 137** "O wondrous type! O vision fair" *Wareham*

### The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**



*Celebrant: The Reverend Cheryl Brainard*

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

*Children's Chapel: The Reverend Gray Hodsdon*

*Organist and Choir Director: John Sullivan*

*The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of  
Bishop Thomas H. Wright, Hannah K. Wright, James B. Lindsey, Ruth Lindsey,  
Kay Lindsey Ellington, and James B. Lindsey Jr.*

## ST. JAMES PARISH

THE REVEREND C. PHILLIP CRAIG, JR., RECTOR

25 South Third Street ♦ Wilmington, NC 28401 ♦ (910) 763-1628 ♦ [admin@stjamesp.org](mailto:admin@stjamesp.org)

[@stjamesp](https://www.facebook.com/stjamesp) [@stjamesparish](https://www.instagram.com/stjamesparish)

**stjamesp.org**