THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

23 JANUARY 2022



THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE I 10:00AM



ST. PETER'S BY-THE-SEA EPISCOPAL CHURCH

500 South Country Road • Bay Shore, New York 11706 Phone 631-665-0051 Fax 631-665-0052

www.stpetersbayshore.org

WELCOME TO ST. PETER'S BY-THE-SEA EPISCOPAL CHURCH

We extend a warm welcome to everyone,

and especially any visitors who may be worshiping with us today.

If you do not already have a church home, please feel welcome to join this Parish family.

In the Episcopal Church, all baptized persons are welcomed to the table to receive Holy Communion.

Our Services begin with the Opening Voluntary. You are invited to enter quietly into the spirit of worship as the music is played.

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES.

Notice of Annual Meeting and Elections

OFFICIAL NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE 133RD ANNUAL MEETING OF ST. PETER'S BY-THE-SEA EPISCOPAL CHURCH, BAY SHORE, NEW YORK, WILL TAKE PLACE ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 23RD BEGINNING AT 10:00 AM.



The Agenda for this Meeting is:

I. ELECTIONS

- . SENIOR WARDEN AND MEMBERS TO THE VESTRY
- . ONE DELEGATE AND ONE ALTERNATE TO DIOCESAN CONVENTION

II. REPORTS of the Wardens and Treasurer, and receipt of the Reports of Departments (by title).

To be eligible to vote in this election, you must be a member in good standing and fulfill the following criteria:

- · You are at least eighteen (18) years of age by January 23, 2021.
- You have received Holy Communion in this church at least three times in the past twelve months; and
- You are a contributor of record to the financial support of the parish.
 This is normally taken to mean a pledging member of the parish whose pledge for the year 2021 has been fulfilled.

In order to serve on the vestry, a person must be a member in good standing, and fulfill the same requirements as that of a voting member of the parish. The additional requirement to be eligible for election as a warden is that a warden must be a confirmed communicant in good standing.

Nominations may also be made from the floor of the meeting, provided

- that the person to be so nominated is present
- · signifies the intention to stand for election
- has fulfilled all requisite requirements as stated above.

There are no provisions for ballots by proxy or absentee ballots at the Annual Meeting.

- Prayers for the Week -

We pray for those seeking healing: Abigail, Andrea, Ann, Annette, Autumn, Betty C., Bill, Chris, Cindy, Corey, Deanna, Diane, Donna, Elinor, Felix (Sr.), Gary, Greg, Hannah, Jim, Joel, Joy, June, Kamryn, Lorraine, Matthew, Michelle, Mother Vivian, Muriel, Paul, Rick, Bishop Rodney Michel, Roger, Sarah Grace, Shanti, Sister Joy, Steve, Sue, Theresa, Vincent, and William;

We pray for those who have died; and all those grieving the death of a loved one, that they may they find comfort and peace;

We pray for those in military service, and especially for Christian, Erik, John, Matt, Robert, and Stephen;

We pray for the unemployed and underemployed; for all who suffer from addictions; for all who suffer chronic illness, and for all caregivers;

We pray for our companion diocese of Torit of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan; and for mercy, peace, and justice among all peoples, especially those whose lives have been devastated by natural disasters, terrorism, war, famine, tyranny, or injustice;

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for Hispanic Ministry Commission; Iglesia de la Santa Cruz, Brooklyn; St. John's, Southampton; All Souls' Church, Stony Brook; St. Mark's, Westhampton Beach; St. Andrew's, Yaphank; The Standing Committee of the Diocese;

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui; and these Dioceses of Churches of the Anglican Communion: Kafanchan (Nigeria); Kagera (Tanzania); Kajiado (Kenya); Kajo-Keji (South Sudan); Kamango (Congo); Kampala (Uganda).

- Parish Notices -

BIBLE STUDY IS BACK ON SCHEDULE: Tuesdays at 10:30am and Sundays at 9am; in the Lounge, and all are invited!

DUE TO THE PRESENT TREND OF SPIKING CASES OF COVID19, the members of the parish choir have reluctantly elected to suspend singing until it seems safer. This is especially appropriate given the high risk of the spread of the virus through choral singing which requires time in rehearsal as well as in service. We hope to be back soon!

BISHOP RODNEY MICHEL, FORMER RECTOR OF ST. PETER'S CHURCH, and retired Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of Long Island is now receiving therapy in a rehabilitation center. Please pray that he may soon be restored to good health. Those wishing to send cards and notes to Bishop Michel may send to: Lorien Health Services, 6334 Cedar Lane, Room 204, Columbia, MD 21044.

- For the Service -

Officiant and Preacher Lector Lay Eucharistic Minister and Intercessor Acolytes Organist

Ushers Altar Guild The Right Reverend Johncy Itty
Nancy Maia
Betsy Mayo
Camryn Alves, Cameron Gutwein
Mark Engelhardt
Sara Alves, Juanita Moon, Marc Johnston
Rosemary Johnson, Dawn Johnston, Irene Feola

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE I 10 O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING

Call to Order of the 133rd Annual Parish Meeting and Opening Business

Adjournment of the Meeting

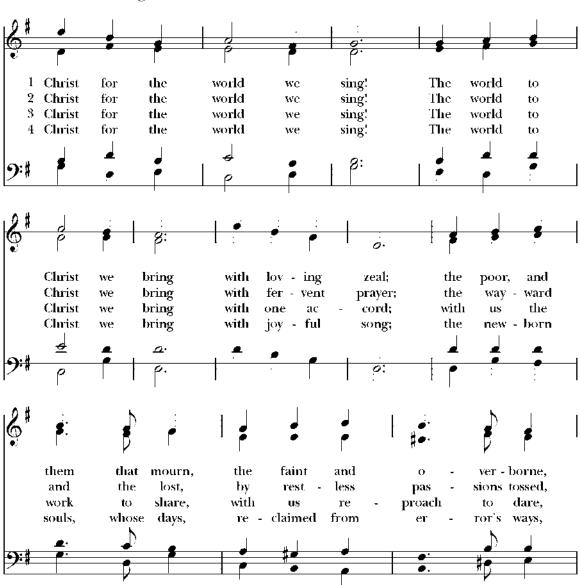
THE WORD OF GOD

The congregation stands to sing the Hymn.

Hymn at the Procession

Christ for the world we sing

The Hymnal 1982, #537 Moscow





Words: Samuel Wolcott (1813-1886) Music: Moscow, melody Felice de Giardini (1716-1796); harm. The New Hymnat. 1916 based on Hymns Ancient and Modern. 1875. and Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

The Opening Acclamation

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

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

The Collect for Purity

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.*

The Trisagion (said three times)

Celebrant Holy God,

Holy and Mighty,

Holy Immortal One,

People Have mercy upon us.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Celebrant 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 all the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The congregation is seated for the Lessons.

The Lessons

The First Lesson: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Lector A reading from the Book of the Prophet Nehemiah

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."

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

Psalm 19:1-6 Said by all

Lector 1 The heavens declare the glory of God,*

All 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.

The Epistle: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Lector A reading from the First Letter to the Corinthians

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.

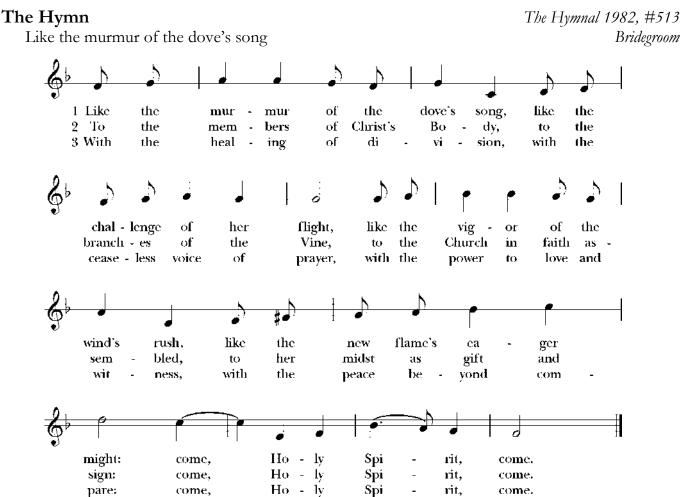
Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any 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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The congregation stands to sing the hymn and for the reading of the Gospel.



Phrase 1 of each stanza may be sung by one group, with a contrasted group singing phrase 2, and all joining for the final phrase.

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The Gospel: Luke 4:14-21

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People Glory be to thee, O Lord.

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."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Right Reverend Johncy Itty

The Nicene Creed 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;

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.

The Prayers of the People

The Intercessor says

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and ever living God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Lord, hear our prayer

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, especially Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Lawrence, our Diocesan Bishop; and Johncy, our Bishop-in-Residence, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

Lord, hear our prayer

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

Lord, hear our prayer

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, especially the President of the United States, the members of Congress, and all regional and local authorities, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Lord, hear our prayer

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

Lord, hear our prayer

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor Abigail, Andrea, Ann, Annette, Autumn, Betty C., Bill, Chris, Cindy, Corey, Deanna, Diane, Donna, Elinor, Felix (Sr.), Gary, Greg, Hannah, Jim, Joel, Joy, June, Kamryn, Lorraine, Matthew, Michelle, Mother Vivian, Muriel, Paul, Rick, Bishop Rodney Michel, Roger, Sarah Grace, Shanti, Sister Joy, Steve, Sue, Vincent, and William; and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

Lord, hear our prayer

We pray for those in military service, and especially for Christian, Erik, John, Matt, Robert, and Stephen;

Lord, hear our prayer

For the unemployed and underemployed; for all who suffer from addictions; for all who suffer chronic illness, and for all caregivers; . . . For our companion diocese of Torit of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan; and for mercy, peace, and justice among all peoples, especially those whose lives have been devastated by disease, natural disasters, terrorism, war, famine, tyranny, or injustice; and for the petitions in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer and the Anglican Cycle of Prayer this week.

Lord, hear our prayer

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear; beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Peter, St. Edmund, and of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Lord, hear our prayer

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

The Confession of Sin and Absolution

Celebrant

Ye who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: Draw near with faith, and make your humble confession to Almighty God.

All

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all men: We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us, the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Celebrant may then say one or more of the following sentences, first saying

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. Matthew 11:28

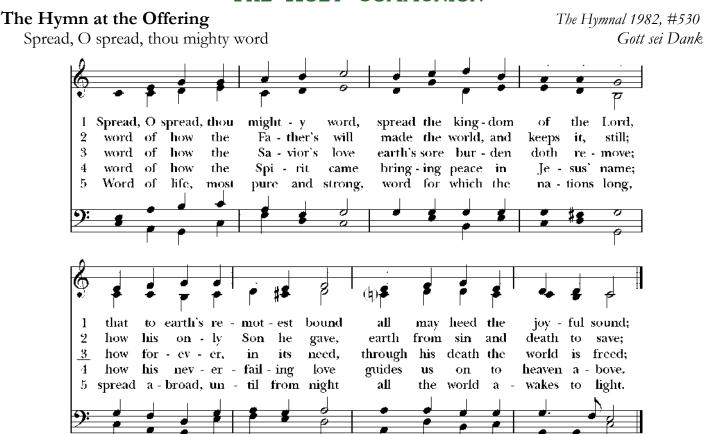
God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *John 3:16*

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

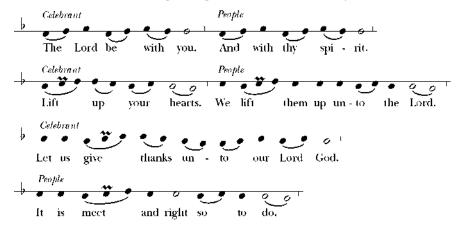
People And with thy spirit.

THE HOLY COMMUNION



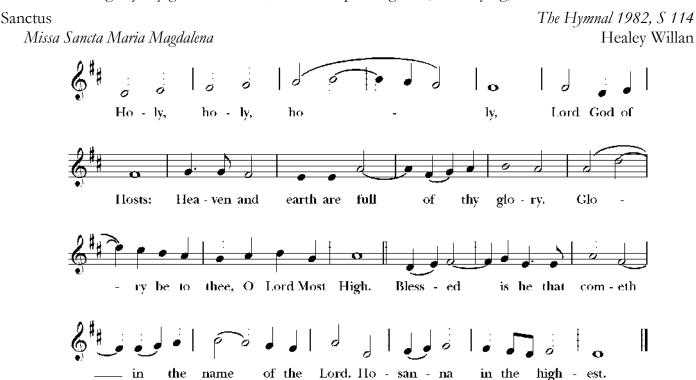
Words, Jonathan Friedrich Bahumaier (1774-1841), tr. Arthur William Farlander (1898-1952) and Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), alt. St. 4, F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984) Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Music: Gottset Dank melody from Getstretches Gesangbach. 1704: adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870)

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer II



The Celebrant continues

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God; because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, thou hast caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of thy glory in the face of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,



Then the Celebrant continues

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN**.

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

People and Celebrant

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 king, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast.

Fraction Anthem - O Lamb of God

Missa Sancta Maria Magdalena

The Hymnal 1982, S 158 Healey Willan



The Prayer of Humble Access (Said by all)

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

My God, thy table now is spread



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)

The Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

The Post Communion Hymn

Lift every voice and sing





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The Epiphany Blessing and Dismissal

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. *Amen.*

Bishop Let us bless the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Voluntary at the Procession

The 133rd Annual Parish Meeting will reconvene in the Church following a short interval.



January 23, 2022 – Epiphany 3 (C) Global Partnerships *Lectio Divina*: The Ven. Paul Feheley and the Rev. Zhu Peijin

The season of Epiphany is when we celebrate the revealing of Christ to the world. We mark the arrival of the One who is the light of the world: a light that brings life, a light that brings hope. This light shines its brightest when we are in community—with God and with one another. The Office of Global Partnerships of The Episcopal Church invites individuals, small groups, congregations, and dioceses to use our weekly video series throughout the season of Epiphany to draw closer to each other and our Lord. Using an adaptation of *lectio divina* with the gospel passage for each Sunday, you'll meet and hear from Episcopalians and Anglican partners from around the world as they read and reflect on Jesus' revelation to us.

This week's *lectio divina* features the Ven. Paul Feheley, Episcopal Church Partnership Officer for the Middle East, and the Rev. Zhu Peijin, Assistant Priest in the Parish and Chaplaincy of St. Paul, Kuwait, in the Anglican Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf. Watch their discussion at *iam.ec/epiphany2022* and follow along by yourself or in a small group. To participate:

1. Read today's Gospel passage:

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." (Luke 4:14-21, NRSV)

2. Reflect:

Which word or short phrase caught your attention or came to mind? Whether you're alone or in a group, say it aloud.

3. Read:

Reread the passage, perhaps in a different translation. In this week's video, you'll hear the text in Portuguese.

4. Reflect:

Where does the passage touch your life today? If you're with a group, share your responses with each other, without discussing further. If you're alone, say your response aloud or write it down.

5. Read:

Reread the passage, perhaps in yet another translation.

6. Reflect:

From what I've heard and shared, what do I believe God wants me to do or be? Is God inviting me to change in any way? You might consider journaling out your response and meditating on it over the course of this week.

7. Pray:

In closing, say the Lord's Prayer, today's collect, or the Collect for Proper 28 in the Book of Common Prayer (p. 236).

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Epiphany 3C January 23, 2022

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

The book of Nehemiah is a continuation of the story found in the book of Ezra. These two books tell the story of the return of the Israelites to Jerusalem after exile. It is in these two books that they rebuild the Temple and the wall of Jerusalem. Ezra oversees the rebuilding of the Temple and Nehemiah, the wall. After rebuilding both of these important symbols of the religious power of God and the political

power of God, the people gather. That is where our portion of the reading today picks up the story. We are told that all the people (men, women, and anyone who can hear with understanding) gather together to hear the Torah read. What is significant is that this is the first public reading and teaching of scripture for the Hebrew people. Nehemiah is bearing witness to the first service of the word. The tradition of reading scripture and interpreting it begins in this passage. Although this group is celebrating the completion of the temple and the wall, by reading the Torah aloud to all people, they are also recognizing that the people share in God's power by understanding God's word. Their interpretation of the scripture focuses on the joy of God, not on the demands of God's law.

Psalm 19

This psalm is divided into two distinct parts; however, we are not reading the second part this morning. In verses 1-6, the text tells us that God is revealed and shown through the nature that God has ordained and created to show how powerful God is. Nature does not need words to tell of God's power, which can be seen in the rising and the setting of the sun every day. Verses 7-13 tell how wonderful God's law is, and that living according to God's law will bring joy and "light to the eyes." It also reminds us that God's law is more precious than gold. The things that we think are valuable in our society do not compare to a life lived following God; in verse 14, we hear the oft-quoted line: "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer." Many priests choose this prayer to open their sermons. This line reminds us that it is both our words and our thoughts that God knows and discerns.

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

This letter was written by Paul to an early Jesus-believing community in the city of Corinth. In this section of the letter, Paul is promoting egalitarianism despite differences. He uses a metaphor that was often used by the Romans in their political arguments. They would argue, unlike Paul, that certain parts of the body were more important than other parts. They used the body to prove that some people were more valuable than others. Paul uses their own metaphor to exalt the lowly and show the community of Jesus-followers that they needed to be different than the Romans. Growing up in the church, I have heard this passage many times, and it has become very familiar. But now that I realize that Paul was trying to use a familiar metaphor to do something new: to disturb the powerful assumptions about hierarchy.

Luke 4:14-21

Luke's account of the beginning of Jesus' ministry makes a passage from Isaiah (61:1-2) the focal point. Jesus has just been tempted and survived. He had been filled with the Holy Spirit. The Spirit then empowered him to enter his hometown and read this passage aloud. Here, Luke is showing us what has already been made clear in his Gospel account: Jesus has come for the poor and oppressed, those excluded from society. The song that Mary sang (Luke 1:46-55) when she found out she would bear God's son made clear that this was a Son of God who came to bring good news to the poor. Now, Jesus is telling us, using the scriptures, what the rest of his life will be about. However, Jesus only includes half of the final verse he quoted from Isaiah. The full verse of Isaiah 61:2 is: "to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn." God's favor also includes God's wrath.

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St. Peter's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church

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