



THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany

January 29, 2023 · 10:30 A.M.

Saint Peter's Episcopal Church · Cambridge, Massachusetts

Worship lies at the heart of the Christian life. It is in worship that we express our theology and define our identity. It is through encountering God within worship that we are formed and transformed as the people of God. One of the glories of the Episcopal Church is its liturgical worship. Liturgy refers to the patterns, forms, words, and actions through which public worship is conducted.

The people's responses are in bold.

This type of note, offering directions about the service is called a "rubric," which comes from the Latin word rubrica (red)—referring to a time when these instructional notes were always written in red.

When the service is accompanied by music, it often begins with an instrumental piece of music, during which the congregation can prepare for worship.

PRELUDE

Praeludium pedaliter – J.P. Sweelinck (1562-1621)

OPENING HYMN *Sung by all*

The Hymnal 1982 No. 629 We limit not the truth of God

All stand as we begin our worship as a gathered community by praising God in song.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

All remain standing.

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

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

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

This prayer was an English rendering of a Latin prayer that began the liturgy in the medieval church before the Reformation. It remains a distinctive part of Episcopal worship to this day.

Celebrant says:

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.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS *Sung by all*

The Hymnal 1982 S-280 Glory to God

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

THE COLLECT FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

The collect is the prayer appointed for each Sunday that “collects” or captures the theme of the day or season of the Church year. It summarizes the attributes of God as revealed in the scriptures for the day.

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 LESSONS

The people sit.

THE FIRST READING

Micah 6:1-8

This reading is typically from the Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures) which Jesus knew and from which he often referred or quoted.

Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the LORD has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!
For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

“With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,
with calves a year old?
Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

People The Word of the Lord
 Thanks be to God

THE RESPONSE

Psalm 15

The psalms are prayers that Jesus used and cover every mood of humanity's relationship with God and one another.

The choir chants the psalm

David Hurd



- 1 LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? *
who may abide upon your holy hill?
- 2 Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, *
who speaks the truth from his heart.
- 3 There is no guile upon his tongue;
he does no evil to his friend; *
he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.
- 4 In his sight the wicked is rejected, *
but he honors those who fear the LORD.
- 5 He has sworn to do no wrong *
and does not take back his word.
- 6 He does not give his money in hope of gain, *
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.
- 17 Whoever does these things *
shall never be overthrown.

THE SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

This reading, taken from the New Testament, is typically from a letter (epistle) to the early Church, the Acts of the Apostles, or the Revelation to John.

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**

The people stand as able at the introduction to the hymn.

GRADUAL HYMN

The Hymnal 1982 No. 488 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart

The sequence hymn moves us toward the summit of the Liturgy of the Word—the reading of the Holy Gospel. Gospel means “good news”—specifically the “good news of Jesus.”

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 5:1-12

Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel.

This reading is taken from one of the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John), which depict the life, teachings, death, resurrection, and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. We stand for the Gospel reading to show the particular importance placed on Jesus' words and actions.

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

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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The people are seated at the invitation of the preacher.

THE SERMON

Br. James Koester

The sermon directly follows the Gospel because it is to be grounded in the scriptures. The sermon is to "break open" the Word of God and proclaim the gospel in the context of the readings from scripture, the liturgical occasion, the congregation gathered, and the pastoral needs of the situation.

THE NICENE CREED

The people stand as able.

The word "creed" comes from the Latin "credo" for "I believe." First formulated at the Council of Nicaea in 325 ad and confirmed in 381 ad, the Nicene Creed is said at the Holy Eucharist and reflects what Christians believe regarding the relationship between the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit: The Holy Trinity.

**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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(Adapted from the Anglican Church of Canada Book of Common Prayer.)

In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

Periods of silence may be kept.

God of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ you promise to hear us when we pray to you in faith with thanksgiving.

We pray for one another, for our families and friends, through whom we learn to love and to be loved. Thank you for all who care for us. Give us grace to serve Christ by serving our neighbors and our community, loving others as he loves us.

Give thanks to our God who is gracious
Whose mercy endures for ever.

We pray for your Church throughout the world, thanking you for all who serve Christ and his kingdom. By your Spirit strengthen your people for their work and witness in the world. Unite us in your truth and love, that we who confess your name may also reflect your glory.

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, for Alan and Gayle our own Bishops, for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God.

Give thanks to our God who is gracious
Whose mercy endures for ever.

We remember with gratitude your many gifts to us in creation and the rich heritage our world. Help us and people everywhere to share with justice and peace the resources of the earth. Give wisdom to those in authority among us and to all leaders of the nations.

For the President of the United States, the Governor of our Commonwealth, and the Mayor of our City, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person.

Give thanks to our God who is gracious
Whose mercy endures for ever.

We thank you for the unfailing love you hold out to everyone in Jesus Christ. Comfort and heal those in sorrow, need, sickness or any other trouble.

For Athelston Alleyne, Karen Anderson and Family, Irma Bickerstaff, Mary Gillis, Bernadette Montasse, Ora, Claude J. Soones, Jr., Kristin Torres, Stacie Turner

For whom else should we pray today? *Please lift aloud the names of those on your heart, if so moved.*

Give them courage and hope in their distress, and bless those who minister to them.

Give thanks to our God who is gracious
Whose mercy endures for ever.

We remember with thanksgiving all who have died in Christ, and we rejoice at the faithful witness of your saints in every age, praying that we may enter with them into the unending joy of your heavenly kingdom.

Give thanks to our God who is gracious
Whose mercy endures for ever.

For those celebrating birthdays this week: Joy Lucas

In the Saint Peter's Parish Cycle of Prayer: Kassi Underwood; Clarence White

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: St. John's Church, Jamaica Plain (Boston); Northeastern University Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry; St. Cyprian's Church, Roxbury (Boston); St. John and St. James Church, Roxbury (Boston); Veterans Ministries.

Give thanks to our God who is gracious
Whose mercy endures for ever.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, blessed Marcella of Rome, blessed Brigid of Kildare, blessed Bishop Anksar, blessed Cornelius the Centurian and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

Give thanks to our God who is gracious
Whose mercy endures for ever.

Merciful God, you look with compassion on all who turn to you. Hear the prayers of your people.
Grant that what we have asked in faith we may by your grace receive; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Celebrant concludes with the following collect.

God of mercy, you have given us grace to pray with one heart and one voice; and have promised to hear the prayers of two or three who agree in your name; fulfil now, we pray, the prayers and longings of your people as may be best for us and for your kingdom. Grant us in this world to know your truth, and in the world to come to see your glory.
Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Confessing our sins, receiving forgiveness (absolution), and showing signs of peace to one another prepare us to receive Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

**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.**

✠ 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

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

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

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord and then are seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OFFERTORY

Having listened to the Word of God, affirmed our faith, confessed our sins, received forgiveness and shared in the peace, we are prepared for the drama and miracle of the Holy Communion. At the offertory, we gratefully offer back to God some of what God has given us, symbolically in the bread and wine, and in the money we give.

The celebrant reads the offertory sentence

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.

Psalm 50: 14

An offering is collected to support Saint Peter's ministries. The ushers will pass the plate to collect any donations you may wish to make by cash or check. You may also donate through our PayPal link: <https://www.paypal.me/StPetersCambMA> or scan the QR code to the right.



The altar is prepared for Holy Communion.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Sicut cervus – G. P. Palestrina (1525-1594)

Anthem text (Psalm 42:1) and translation:

Sicut cervus desiderat ad fontes aquarum, ita desiderat anima mea ad te Deus meus.

As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.

DOXOLOGY

No. 380, v. 3 From all that dwell below the skies

The people stand as able at the introduction to the Doxology. Doxology, refers to words of glory (from the Greek *doxa logos*) or praise to God, usually in a trinitarian form.

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A

In the Great Thanksgiving, we do what Jesus himself asked us to do: thank God and recall all that God has done for us in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. The Great Thanksgiving, or Eucharistic Prayer, is a long prayer with four parts. Each of these four parts corresponds to a different action of Jesus at the Last Supper, where he took, blessed, broke, and gave bread and wine as sacraments of his body and blood. We begin the Great Thanksgiving with the *Sursum corda*, meaning "Lift up your hearts."

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to

make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. 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:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

S-129 Holy, holy, holy Lord

The Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy) is the hymn of praise that never ceases before God and is based on Isaiah 6:3.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and Earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

✠ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

We recall God's acts of salvation history. The presider says the "Words of Institution" that Jesus said at the Last Supper. At the Memorial Acclamation we remember Christ's death, resurrection, and promise to return at the end of the age. During the prayer, the Holy Spirit is invoked to bless and sanctify the gifts of bread and wine.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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 a 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 in 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.**

The Great Amen is when the congregation with a unified great voice concurs with all that the presider has prayed. It is the only "Amen" in all capitals found in the Book of Common Prayer, signifying the greatness of the congregation's response.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

We pray together the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray. The link between our daily bread and the spiritual food we receive in the Eucharist is an ancient connection.

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

**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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

A period of silence is kept.

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

AGNUS DEI

S-163 Jesus, Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **have mercy on us.**
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **have mercy on us.**
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **grant us peace.**

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.

All who seek God and a deeper life in Christ are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please receive the bread in open and outstretched hands and respond to receiving Communion by saying "Amen." Gluten-free wafers are available; please make your need known to the minister. Receiving the bread only is full participation in the Eucharist. Wine is also available. Please refrain from intinction (dipping the bread) into the common chalice. If you prefer to receive a blessing instead, please indicate your choice by crossing your hands across your chest. Those who wish to have Holy Communion brought to them at their seat should notify an usher. You may be seated after taking Holy Communion.

COMMUNION HYMN

Lift Every Voice and Sing II No. 158 Out in the highways and byways of life

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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

The Bishop, when present, or the Priest, may bless the people.

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the ☩ Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

People Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN

The Hymnal 1982 No. 381 Thy strong word did cleave the darkness

POSTLUDE

Benedictus Elevation – François Couperin (1668-1733)

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Director of Music *ad interim*: Adrian Cho

Parish Administrator: Ann MacDonald

Sexton: Clarence White

CommonCare Greeter: Walter Thompson

Vestry

Officers:

Kit Rawlins, Senior Warden

Carolyn Taylor, Junior Warden

Joy Lucas, Clerk

Joshua Anderson, Treasurer

Members-at-Large:

Ellyn Titterington Lang Haynes

Connor McCann Henry Soones

Stephanie Gale

Tam Neville