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St. Paul's Episcopal Church
The Third Sunday after the Epiphany
January 21, 2024

A bell is sounded to begin the liturgy followed by a brief period of silence.

Prelude

A brief period of silence

Land Acknowledgement *please stand as you are able*

We acknowledge that the place on which we worship this morning is the unceded land of the Abenaki people. We are grateful for their stewardship of the earth and thankful for their example of creation care. We also acknowledge the tragic history lived out among our peoples and hope that as we share these neighborhoods we may live into greater justice and understanding.

A Collect for Diversity

O God, who created all peoples in your image, we thank you for the wonderful diversity of races and cultures in this world. Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of fellowship, and show us your presence in those who differ most from us, until our knowledge of your love is made perfect in our love for all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord¹.
Amen.

Opening Acclamation

Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be God's Kingdom now and forever. Amen.

Collect for Purity

**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.**

¹ 1979 Book of Common Prayer. *Collect For the Diversity of Races and Cultures*

God be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray together.

Collect of the Day

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 and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

First Lesson *Jonah 3:1-5, 10*

NRSV

A reading from the book of Jonah

The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, “Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

A period of silence follows the reading

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
Thanks be to God.

A period of silence follows

For God alone my soul in silence waits; *
truly, there is my hope.

God alone is my rock and my salvation, *
my stronghold, so that I shall not be shaken.

In God is my safety and my honor; *
God is my strong rock and my refuge.

Put your trust in God always, O people, *
pour out your hearts before the One who is our refuge.

Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath, *
even those of low estate cannot be trusted.

On the scales they are lighter than a breath; *
all of them together.

Put no trust in extortion;
in robbery take no empty pride; *
though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.

God has spoken once, twice have I heard it, *
that power belongs to God.

Steadfast love is yours, O God, *
for you repay everyone according to their deeds.

Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

NRSV

A reading from the first letter to the Corinthians

I mean, brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as

though they had no possessions, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

A period of silence follows the reading

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn *They Cast their nets in Galilee* *1982 Hymnal # 661*

Third Lesson *Mark 1:14-20* *NRSV*

The Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Mark.

After John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

A period of silence follows

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord
People: Praise to you Lord Christ

Homily

The Prayers of the People *Book of Common Prayer, Form III*

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons; for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Shannon, our Bishop; for Rob and Thomas, her New Hampshire and Maine colleagues; for Scott, our priest; and Jenny and Geof his constellation partners, for the people of this parish, for St. Barnabas', St. John's and St. Martin's;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble; remembering all those on our parish prayer list;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

The people is invited to share the own needs and concerns

I invite your prayers of thanksgivings.

The people is invited to share the own thanksgivings

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give- to you; my own peace I leave with you:" Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

**God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

Absolution

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 us in eternal life. Amen.

The Peace

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The Holy Communion

Offertory Interlude

The offering is collected

Offertory Hymn *Doxology*

The offering is brought forward and placed on the altar

The Great Thanksgiving

God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

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

Presider 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, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 Sanctus and Benedictus

Holy, holy, holy

WLP #858



might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. * Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, the Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Savior 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 for the 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, according to his command, O God,

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this fruit of the vine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Blessed Virgin Mary, Martin, St. Paul, our Patron, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the

head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed by your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence follows

Fraction Anthem (Sung together)

WLP #876

Antiphon
Cantor, then all



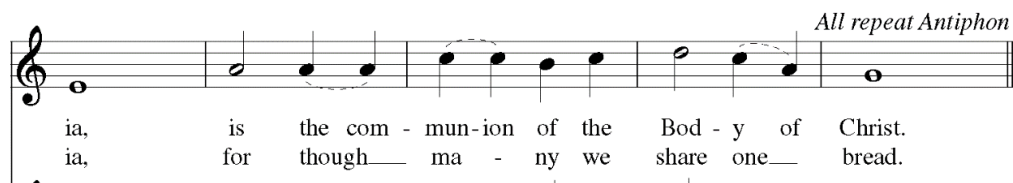
The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus in the break - ing

Fine *Verses*



— of the bread.

1. The bread which we break, Al - le - lu -
2. One bo - dy are we, Al - le - lu -



About Communion: ***This is God's Altar - All are welcome.***

- *All who come to this place seeking God are welcome to receive Holy Communion. The bread is gluten-free and we use grape juice in individual cups in a celebration of radical hospitality.*
- *If you are unable to come forward for Communion, please let an usher know, and we will be happy to bring Communion to you in your seat.*
- *Those who do not wish to receive Communion are always welcome to come forward for a blessing, indicated by crossing your arms over your chest.*

This is God's altar, it is not the altar of the Episcopal Church or of St. Paul's.
This is God's table and all people are welcome to receive communion in this place.

Communion Music

Prayer of Thanksgiving *the presider and people pray together*

**Eternal and heavenly God,
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 *Christ for the world we sing* *1982 Hymnal #537*

Announcements

Dismissal

Postlude

+ + + + +

The Worship is over. Now the Service begins.

**Please join us following the liturgy for coffee and fellowship
in the parish hall – all are welcome.**

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