

Welcome to St. John's Church



'Christ Teaching at Nazareth,' Gerbrand van den Eekhout (1621-1674)

The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

*January 26, 2025
8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.*

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Parish Office Telephone: (860) 868-2527

Parish Office Hours: *Wednesdays and Fridays, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.*

St. John's Email: stjohnschurch@snet.net

St. John's Website: <http://stjohnswashington.com/>

St. John's YouTube Page:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoOwTnqIRss4BT8VwFul4qg>

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

*The Liturgy of the Word of God
and Celebration of the Holy Communion*

Choral Prelude *The Heavens Declare the Glory of God*

Thomas Tomkins (1572-1656)

*Text: The heavens declare the glory of God: and the firmament shews his handywork.
One day telleth another: and one night certifieth another.
There is neither speech nor language: but their voices are heard among them.
Their sound is gone out into all lands: and their words into the ends of the world.
(Psalm 119: 1-4)*

The Call to Worship with the tolling of the church bell

Opening Hymn # 531 *O Spirit of the Living God*

1 O Spi - rit of the liv - ing God, in
2 Give tongues of fire and hearts of love, to
3 Be dark - ness, at thy com - ing, light; con -
4 Con - vert the na - tions! far and nigh the

all thy plen - i - tude of grace, wher - e'er the foot of
preach the rec - on - cil - ing word; give power and unc - tion
fu - sion, or - der in thy path; souls with - out strength in -
tri - umphs of the cross re - cord; the Name of Je - sus

man hath trod, de - scend on our a - pos - tate race.
from a - bove, when - e'er the joy - ful sound is heard.
spire with might, bid mer - cy tri - umph o - ver wrath.
glo - ri - fy, till ev - ery peo - ple call him Lord.

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

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 Gloria S# 280

Powell

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,

you a-lone are the Lord, 7. you a-lone are the Most
 High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spi-rit, in the
 glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

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 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.**

The Readings

INTRODUCTION: This reading from the Hebrew Scriptures recalls a great day in the history of Israel: in the restored city of Jerusalem as Ezra gathers the people to hear and understand the law of Moses.


A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Nehemiah (8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10)

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."

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

Psalm 19 *the congregation is invited to join in the Refrain.*

Refrain



The stat-utes of the Lord re - joice the heart.

- 1 The heavens declare the glory of God, *
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.
- 7 The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; *
the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.
- 8 The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; *
the commandment of the Lord is clear
and gives light to the eyes.
- 9 The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever; *
the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, *
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.
- 11 By them also is your servant enlightened, *
and in keeping them there is great reward.
- 12 Who can tell how often he offends? *
cleanse me from my secret faults.
- 13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
let them not get dominion over me; *
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.
- 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my

heart be acceptable in your sight, *
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

INTRODUCTION: This New Testament reading, Paul describes Christians as the body of Christ. Each individual is a necessary part of the body.

A Reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians (12:12-31a)

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.

The Word of the Lord.

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

Gradual Hymn # 632

O Christ, the Word Incarnate

1 O Christ, the Word In - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
2 The Church from our dear Mas - ter re - ceived the word di - vine,
3 O make thy Church, dear Sa - vior, a lamp of pur - est gold,

O Truth, un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky;
 and still that light is lift - ed o'er all the earth to shine.
 to bear be - fore the na - tions thy true light as of old;

we praise thee for the ra - diance that from the scrip - ture's page,
 It is the chart and com - pass that o'er life's surg - ing sea,
 O teach thy wan - dering pil - grims by this their path to trace,

a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.
 mid mists and rocks and quick - sands, still guides, O Christ, to thee.
 till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, they see thee face to face.

INTRODUCTION: In the Gospel story, Jesus returns to Galilee and enters the synagogue in Nazareth, where he reads the Hebrew Scriptures and gives his inaugural sermon.

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to St. Luke (4:14-21)

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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.”

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Reverend Canon Rebekah Hatch
Canon for Lay & Ordained Vocations, ECCT

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.*

*For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,*

*who 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

On this holy day, the day of Sabbath and the feast of resurrection, let us offer our prayers to the Lord, responding to each petition saying, "Hear us, O God of glory."

The congregation may wish to sit or kneel for the prayers

+ That the Holy Spirit may always descend upon us, giving us the conviction to proclaim the truth of the gospel, the courage to reach out to those who differ from us, and the willingness to open our hearts and minds to the painful truths of our daily lives; for this we pray.

Hear us, O God of Glory.

+ That there may be a more just balance of the world's resources, providing opportunity for the poor to eat, the unemployed to use their skills, and the oppressed to find avenues to liberation; for this we pray.

Hear us, O God of Glory.

+ That we may hold fast to the eternal truths of our tradition while allowing the character and ministry of the Church to evolve so that the message of holy scripture and the truth of Jesus may be authentically expressed for our time and culture; for this we pray.

Hear us, O God of Glory.

+ That Donald, our President, and all who offer counsel in the chambers of government may share a global vision and a local commitment to the economic and social needs of people across all social, and tribal differences; for this we pray.

Hear us, O God of Glory.

+ That our bishops, priests, and deacons may guide the Church to spiritual rebirth, and open the eyes of people to understand the saving message of Christ, and our role in his ministry of salvation; for this we pray.

Hear us, O God of Glory.

+ That those who have died may obtain the riches of everlasting life, especially remembering today all our own beloved ones who have passed on before us; for this we pray.

Hear us, O God of Glory.

The weak and the strong are one, the lowly are granted honor, and there is charity amongst those who now continue their prayers in the faith and unity of the Church, either aloud in our midst or silently in our hearts.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

The congregation may wish to sit or kneel for the confession

*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

May the Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, but also time for true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

The Peace

The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of God be always with you.

People ***And also with you.***

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

The Holy Communion

The Celebrant may begin the Offertory with one of the sentences of Scripture.

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us,
an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2.*

Offertory Anthem *How Lovely Are the Messengers*

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Text: How lovely are the messengers that preach us the gospel of peace.

To all the nations is gone forth the sound of their words, throughout all the lands their glad tidings.

The Great Thanksgiving

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

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

You have filled us and all creation with your blessing
and fed us with your constant love;
you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ
and knit us into one body.
Through your Spirit, you replenish us
and call us to fullness of life.
Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels
and with the faithful of every generation,
we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

Sanctus *Missa Alleluia* Jean-Marie Plum (1899-1944)

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The congregation may wish to sit or kneel for the consecration prayer

Then the Celebrant continues

Blessed are you, gracious God,
creator of the universe and giver of life.
You formed us in your own image
and called us to dwell in your infinite love.
You gave the world into our care
that we might be your faithful stewards
and show forth your bountiful grace.
But we failed to honor your image
in one another and in ourselves;
we would not see your goodness in the world around us;
and so we violated your creation,
abused one another, and rejected your love.
Yet you never ceased to care for us,
and prepared the way of salvation for all people.
Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you.
You delivered us from slavery,
sustained us in the wilderness,

and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation.
Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word,
made mortal flesh in Jesus.
Born into the human family,
and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory.
Giving himself freely to death on the cross,
he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and 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 friends,
and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me."
As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all
for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me."
Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Remembering his death and resurrection,
we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine.
By your Holy Spirit may they be for us
the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.
Grant that we who share these gifts
may be filled with the Holy Spirit
and live as Christ's Body in the world.
Bring us into the everlasting heritage
of your daughters and sons,
that with the Ever-Blessed Virgin Mary, St. John, our Patron,
and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come,
we may praise your Name for ever.
Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

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.*

Fraction Anthem S # 154

Christ Our Passover

Hurd

This setting is not used in Lent.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;
there - fore let us keep the feast.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Agnus Dei

Missa Alleluia

Jean-Marie Plum (1899-1944)

*O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy 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 baptized Christians of all ages and denominations are welcome to receive Communion in this place. This is God's house and the Lord's table, not ours

INSTRUCTIONS: Those wishing to receive Communion should come forward to the Altar rail as directed. Please speak with an Usher if you need to receive Communion in the pew. The consecrated host will be placed in the hands or upon the tongue of the recipient, as desired. If one wishes intinction, then either the chalice bearer or the communicant may take the host and dip it in the wine. Otherwise, communicants may sip from the chalice, assisting by taking hold of its base. If the communicant does not wish to receive the wine, one can simply cross their arms across their chest after receiving the bread so to indicate.

Communion Hymn # 332 Father, We Thank Thee Who Has Planted

1 Fa - ther, we thank thee who hast plant - ed thy ho - ly Name with -
 2 Watch o'er thy Church, O Lord, in mer - cy, save it from e - vil,
 in our hearts. Know - ledge and faith and life im - mor - tal Je - sus thy
 guard it still, per - fect it in thy love, u - nite it, cleansed and con -
 Son to us im - parts. Thou, Lord, didst make all for thy plea - sure,
 formed un - to thy will. As grain, once scat - tered on the hill - sides,
 didst give us food for all our days, giv - ing in Christ the
 was in this bro - ken bread made one, so from all lands thy



Bread e - ter - nal; thine is the power, be thine the praise.
Church be gath - ered in - to thy king - dom by thy Son.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

*Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.*

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, gives the blessing

May the blessing of the God of Abraham and Sarah, and of Jesus Christ born of our sister Mary, and of the Holy Spirit, who broods over the world as a mother over her children, be upon you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Closing Hymn # 533

How Wondrous and Great



1 How wondrous and great thy works, God of praise!
2 To na - tions of earth thy light shall be shown;

How just, King of saints, and true are thy ways!
 their wor - ship and vows shall come to thy throne:

O who shall not fear thee, and hon - or thy Name?
 thy truth and thy judg - ments shall spread all a - broad,

Thou on - ly art ho - ly, thou on - ly su - preme.
 till earth's ev - ery peo - ple con - fess thee their God.

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Worship Ministers Today:

The Reverend Canon Rebekah Hatch: *Celebrant & Preacher*

Tom Brand: *Organist & Choirmaster*

Tom Hollinger: *8:00 Reader*

Penny Bardel: *10:00 Reader*

MB Witt: *Chalicer*

Joseph Claro: *VeeJay*

MB Witt, Sara Coles: *Altar Guild*

Bob Futh, Natalie Dyer: *Ushers/Greeters*

Joseph Claro, Justin Ormand: *Coffee Hour*