

# Welcome to St. John's Church



*"Christ healing the Poor,"* Bartolomé Esteban Murillo, (1667-70)

## The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

*February 1, 2026*  
*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](mailto:stjohnschurch@snet.net)

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

**St. John's YouTube Page:**

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

# THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Choral Prelude

*Cantate Domino*

Heinrich Schutz (1585-1672)

Translation: *I will sing to the Lord of my life, I will sing psalms to my God as long as I live.*

Opening Hymn # 117

*Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning*

1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,  
2 Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing,  
3 Shall we then yield him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion,  
4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple o - bla - tion,  
5 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,

1 dawn on our dark - ness, and lend us thine aid;  
2 low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;  
3 o - dors of E - dom, and of - ferings di - vine,  
4 vain - ly with gifts would his fa - vor se - cure,  
5 dawn on our dark - ness, and lend us thine aid;

1 star of the east, the hor - i - zon a - dorn - ing,  
2 an - gels a - dore him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,  
3 gems of the moun - tain, and pearls of the o - cean,  
4 rich - er by far is the heart's a - dor - a - tion,  
5 star of the east, the hor - i - zon a - dorn - ing,

1 guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.  
2 Ma - ker and Mon - arch and Sa - vior of all.  
3 myrrh from the for - est, and gold from the mine?  
4 dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.  
5 guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.

*Celebrant* Blessed be our God.

*People* **For ever and ever. Amen**

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 Kyrie** *Missa Prima Sexti Toni*

Giovanni Croce (c.1557-1609)

Translation: *O Lord, have mercy upon us.*

*O Christ, have mercy upon us.*

*O Lord, have mercy upon us.*

**The Song of Praise, Hymn # 135** *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*

1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Jes - us, Lord, to thee we raise,  
2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, Pro-phet, Priest, and King su - preme;  
3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole pal - sied limbs and faint - ing soul;  
4 Man - i - fest on moun - tain height, shin - ing in re - splen - dent light,

man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far;  
and at Ca - na, wed - ding - guest, in thy God - head man - i - fest;  
man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell - ing all the dev - il's might;  
where dis - ci - ples filled with awe thy trans - fi - gured glo - ry saw.

branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem;  
man - i - fest in power di - vine, chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine;  
man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring - ing good from ill;  
When from there thou led - dest them stead - fast to Je - ru - sa - lem,

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The music is in a key with two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system. The lyrics describe the birth of Jesus and his miracles, such as the wedding at Cana and the transfiguration.

an - thems be to thee ad-dressed, God in man made man-i - fest.  
 an - thems be to thee ad-dressed, God in man made man-i - fest.  
 an - thems be to thee ad-dressed, God in man made man-i - fest.  
 cross and Eas - ter Day at - test God in man made man-i - fest.

God be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

### **The Collect of the Day**

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 Readings**

*INTRODUCTION: In our reading from the Hebrew Bible God contends with the people of God, reminding them of the saving acts done for them and instructing them in the good that God expects.*

#### **A Reading from the Scroll of Micah (6:1-8)**

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?

The Word of God.

*People Thanks be to God.*

**Psalm 15** *the congregation is invited to join in the Refrain.*

Refrain



The right - eous shall a - bide up - on God's ho - ly hill.

- 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.
- 7 Whoever does these things \*  
shall never be overthrown.

*INTRODUCTION: In this reading Paul directs the Corinthians' attention to God's way of using what is weak and lowly – even what the world regards as foolish – to accomplish the divine purposes.*

**A Reading from 1 Corinthians (1:18-31)**

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 God.

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

**Gradual Hymn # 440**

*Bless'd Jesus, at Thy Word*

1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at thy word we are gath - ered all to  
2 All our know - ledge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est dark - ness  
3 Gra - cious Lord, thy - self im - part! Light of Light, from God pro -

hear thee; let our hearts and souls be stirred  
 shroud - ed, till thy Spi - rit breaks our night  
 ceed - ing, o - pen thou our ears and heart,  
  
 now to seek and love and fear thee; by thy teach - ings  
 with the beams of truth un - cloud - ed; thou a - lone to  
 help us by thy Spi - rit's plead - ing. Hear the cry thy  
  
 pure and ho - ly, drawn from earth to love thee sole - ly.  
 God canst win us; thou must work all good with - in us.  
 Church up - rais - es; hear, and bless our prayers and prais - es.

*INTRODUCTION: The gospel reading is the opening sayings of the Sermon on the Mount, words of both comfort and challenge.*

## The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew (5:1-12)

*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.”

*After the Gospel, the Reader says*

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

## **The Sermon**

The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman, Rector

## **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**

Let us offer our prayers to God, who calls us to do justice, and to love kindness, and to humbly walk in his footsteps, responding, "Hear us, God of Glory."

+ For the grace to balance worldly life with divine wisdom, seeing in holy foolishness the strength and conviction that overpowers our attachments to false treasures; let us pray.

***Hear us, God of Glory.***

+ For those who are prisoners throughout the world, especially in our community; those whom society has spurned; those in the darkness of despair; all who are living with disease and pain; and those who are unable to share burdens too deep to reveal, that God's love may be found by all who wait in hope; let us pray.

***Hear us, God of Glory.***

+ That we will open our hands and hearts to do God's work, reaching out to others so that God's love is revealed through our ministry and devotion; let us pray.

***Hear us, God of Glory.***

+ For our President, those who serve in our national and local legislative bodies, and those who sit on courts of justice, that they may be given godly wisdom and insight for those decisions which fall into shadows of uncertainty; let us pray.

***Hear us, God of Glory.***

+ For those considering the rites of baptism and confirmation during the season of Easter, that they may consider seriously what it means to be transformed by God's word, revealed through holy scripture and the Church; let us pray.

***Hear us, God of Glory.***

+ In thanksgiving for the new life that awaits all who engage in the daily reality of death and resurrection, remembering especially all who have died; let us pray.

***Hear us, God of Glory.***

***The congregation may wish to sit or kneel for the prayers***

In purity of heart and generosity of spirit, let us continue our prayers, either silently in our hearts or aloud in our midst.

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget: the homeless and the destitute, the old and the sick, and all who have none to care for them. Help us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit, and to turn their sorrow into joy. Grant this, Father, for the love of your Son, who for our sake became poor, 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** *Blessed Are the Pure in Heart*

Henry Walford Davies (1869 - 1941)

Text: *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.*

## **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 Prima Sexti Toni*                   Giovanni Croce (c.1557-1609)

*Text: 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."

*Celebrant and People*



There - fore we pro - claim the mys - ter - y of faith:  
*Celebrant and People*  
 Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

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**

*Missae Prima Sexti Toni*

Giovanni Croce (c.1557-1609)

Text: *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 # 314**      *Humbly I Adore Thee, Verity Unseen*



1 Hum - bly I a - dore thee, Ver - i - ty un - seen,  
2 Taste and touch and vi - sion to dis - cern thee fail;  
3 O me - mo - rial won - drous of the Lord's own death;  
4 Je - sus, whom now hid - den, I by faith be - hold,



who thy glo - ry hid - est 'neath these sha - dows mean;  
faith, that comes by hear - ing, pierc - es through the veil.  
liv - ing Bread that giv - est all thy crea - tures breath,  
what my soul doth long for, that thy word fore - told:



lo, to thee sur - ren - dered, my whole heart is bowed,  
I be - lieve what - e'er the Son of God hath told;  
grant my spi - rit ev - er by thy life may live,  
face to face thy splen - dor, I at last shall see,



tranced as it be - holds thee, shrined with - in the cloud.  
what the Truth hath spo - ken, that for truth I hold.  
to my taste thy sweet - ness nev - er - fail - ing give.  
in the glo - rious vi - sion, bless - ed Lord, of thee.

Let us pray.

*Loving God,  
we give you thanks  
for restoring us in your image  
and nourishing us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.  
Now send us forth  
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;  
that we may proclaim your love to the world  
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.*

*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 # 657**

*Love, Divine, All Loves Excelling*

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to  
2 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy  
3 Fi - nish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy  
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - way bless - ing,  
ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.  
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

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 Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman: *Celebrant & Preacher*

Tom Brand: *Organist & Choirmaster*

Tom Hollinger: *8:00 Reader*

Worth Bracken: *10:00 Reader*

Sara Coles: *Chalicer*

Fr. Geoff: *VeeJay*

MB Witt, Susie Magee: *Altar Guild*

Karen Saxe; Natalie Dyer: *Ushers/Greeters*

Annual Parish Meeting – Potluck Luncheon: *Coffee Hour*



## SPECIAL AND ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS

Sunday, February 1, 2026

in the Parish Hall

Luncheon, following the 10:00 Service