



# The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Church of the Holy Comforter – Vienna, Virginia  
The Holy Eucharist Rite II

January 29, 2023 at 9:30 A.M.

*During the last weeks of Epiphany, the revelation of Christ to the whole world, at Holy Comforter we are using liturgies of the Anglican/Episcopal communion from around the world: as the gospel was sent out, so it returns back to us in new forms. These prayers are from our sisters and brothers in the Province of New Zealand, in their prayer book revision ten years following our 1979 Book of Common Prayer. They can be found online at <https://anglicanprayerbook.nz/index.html#contents>.*

**OPENING VOLUNTARY:** Prelude on *Simple Gifts* (Hymn 554)

David Kelley

## **THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY**

**AT THE PROCESSION, HYMN 569** “God the Omnipotent! King, who ordainest”

*Russia*

*Sung by all, standing.*

*Presider* Welcome to this holy table; welcome to you, for we are Christ’s body, Christ’s work in the world. Welcome to you whose baptism makes you salt of the earth and light to the world. Rejoice and be glad. Praise God who gives us forgiveness and hope.

*People* **Amen. Christ is our light, the joy of our salvation.**

*Presider* Praise and glory to Christ, God’s new beginning for humanity making ritual water gospel wine, cleansing all our worship.

*People* **Love and loyalty to Christ, who gives us the gospel. Praise to Christ who calls us to holiness.**

**GLORIA IN EXCELSIS, HYMN 899** [*green hymnal*]

Carl Haywood

*Sung by all.*

Glo - ry,  
Glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah, Lord we praise your Ho - ly name, Glo - ry,  
Glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah, Lord we praise your Ho - ly name...  
Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth...  
Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we

wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for — your glo-ry.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of  
God. Glo - ry, Glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah, Lord we praise your Ho - ly name,  
— Glo - ry, Glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah, Lord we praise your Ho - ly name.

You take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us; you are

seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our — prayer. For

you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are — the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the  
Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of — the Fa - ther. Glo - ry,

*Descant*  
Lord, — Lord — we praise — you, —  
Glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah, Lord we praise your Ho - ly name,

Lord, Lord, hal - le - lu - jah.  
 Glo - ry, Glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah, Lord we praise your  
 Ho - ly name. A - - - men.

**FORGIVENESS** *[All kneel.]*

*The Presider says*

We come seeking forgiveness for all we have failed to be and do as members of Christ's body. *[All keep silence.]*

*The Presider continues*

In God there is forgiveness.

*People* **Loving and all-seeing God, forgive us where we have failed to support one another and to be what we claim to be. Forgive us where we have failed to serve you; and where our thoughts and actions have been contrary to yours we ask your pardon.**

*Presider* God forgives us; be at peace. *[All keep silence.]*

Rejoice and be glad, for Christ is resurrection, reconciliation for all the human race.

*People* **We shall all be one in Christ, one in our life together. Praise to God who has created us, praise to God who has accepted us, praise to God who sends us into the world.**

**THE SENTENCE OF THE DAY**

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

**THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

Teach us, Jesus, how to live and worship without being worldly or greedy. Drive from our lives what spoils them and make us temples of the Spirit; for the glory of your holy name. **Amen.**

**THE WORD OF GOD**

**THE FIRST LESSON** *[The people are seated.]*

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 ten 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?.

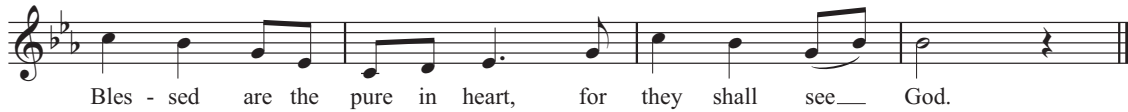
Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 15** *Domine, quis habitabit?*

David Kelley

*The cantor sings the refrain, which is then repeated by all. Thereafter, the cantor sings the verses, and all join on the refrain, as indicated.*



- 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. [Ref.]
- 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. [Ref.]
- 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. [Ref.]

**THE SECOND LESSON**

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."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

**AT THE SEQUENCE, HYMN 441** "In the cross of Christ I glory"

*Rathbun*

*Sung by all, standing. During the singing of the Sequence Hymn, children through second grade may follow the Dove Cross to Children's Chapel.*

**THE HOLY GOSPEL**

Matthew 5:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Praise and glory to God.**

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."

This is the Gospel of Christ.  
**Praise to Christ, the Word.**

**THE SERMON** The Rev. Ann Gillespie

*A brief period of silence is observed for reflection on the sermon. The people stand for the Affirmation of Faith.*

**THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *[Said by all.]*

**You, O God, are supreme and holy. You create our world and give us life. Your purpose overarches everything we do. You have always been with us. You are God.**

**You, O God, are infinitely generous, good beyond all measure. You came to us before we came to you. You have revealed and proved your love for us in Jesus Christ, who lived and died and rose again. You are with us now. You are God.**

**You, O God, are Holy Spirit. You empower us to be your gospel in the world. You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.**

**You are our God. We worship you.**

*The Presider says*

Let us pray for the Church and for the world, giving thanks for God's goodness. *[All remain standing.]*

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*The leader and people pray responsively. Particular intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered before any section. Periods of silence may be kept.*

*Intercessor* Blessed are you eternal God,

*People* **to be praised and glorified for ever.**

*Intercessor* Heavenly Father, hear us as we pray for the unity of the Church.

*People* **May we all be one that the world may believe.**

*Intercessor* Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you,

*People* **that the life of Christ may be revealed in us.**

*Intercessor* We remember those who have died.

*People* **Father, into your hands we commend them.**

*Intercessor* We praise you for all your saints who have entered your eternal glory.

*People* **May we also come to share your heavenly kingdom.**

*Intercessor* Have compassion on those who suffer from sickness, grief or trouble.

*People* **In your presence may they find strength.**

*Intercessor* Look with your kindness on our homes and families.

*People* **Grant that your love may grow in our hearts.**

*Intercessor* Make us alive to the needs of our community.

*People* **Help us to share one another's joys and burdens.**

*Intercessor* Inspire and lead those who hold authority in the nations of the world.

*People* **Guide us and all people in the way of justice and peace.**

*Intercessor* Strengthen all who minister in Christ's name.

*People* **Give us courage to proclaim your Gospel.**

*Intercessor* We pray in silence for our own needs. *[A period of silence is kept.]*

*The Presider proceeds*

God our hope, may your blessing empower our thanksgivings and our prayer; for we put our trust in you the living God, risking disappointment, risking failure, working and waiting expectantly. **Amen.**

**THE PEACE**

*Presider* Blessed be Christ the Prince of Peace

*People* **who breaks down the walls that divide.**

*Presider* The peace of God be always with you.

*People* **Praise to Christ who unites us in peace.**

*The people greet one another with a sign of God's peace and are then seated.*

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

## THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

*The people remain seated while an offering is received to support Holy Comforter's work of sharing God's love with the world. As the offering is brought forward to the altar, all stand.*

AT THE OFFERTORY, ANTHEM: "Blest are the pure in heart"

H. Walford Davies

Blest are the pure in heart,	Still to the lowly soul
For they shall see our God:	He doth himself impart,
The secret of the Lord is theirs,	And for his dwelling and his throne
Their soul is Christ's abode.	Chooseth the pure in heart.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *[The people stand.]*

*Presider* Christ is risen!

*People* **He is risen indeed.**

*Presider* Lift your hearts to heaven

*People* **where Christ in glory reigns.**

*Presider* Let us give thanks to God.

*People* **It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

*The Presider proceeds*

It is the joy of our salvation, God of the universe, to give you thanks through Jesus Christ.

You said, 'Let there be light'; there was light. Your light shines on in our darkness. For you the earth has brought forth life in all its forms.

You have created us to hear your Word, to do your will and to be fulfilled in your love. It is right to thank you.

You sent your Son to be for us the way we need to follow and the truth we need to know.

His star, mysterious and inviting, calls us to worship the Christ who is born. For he is Emmanuel, God revealed in human form for all the human race; to him we offer our homage and our gifts.

You sent your Son to give his life to release us from our sin. His cross has taken our guilt away.

You send your Holy Spirit to strengthen and to guide, to warn and to revive your Church. Therefore, with all your witnesses who surround us on every side, countless as heaven's stars, we praise you for our creation and our calling, with loving and with joyful hearts:

SANCTUS *[Said by all.]*

**Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and just,  
glory and goodness come from you.**

**Glory to you most high and gracious God.**

*The Presider proceeds*

Blessed are you, most holy, in your Son, who washed his disciples' feet. 'I am among you,' he said, 'as one who serves.'

On that night before he died he took bread and gave you thanks. He broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said: Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me.

After supper, he took the cup, and gave you thanks. He gave it to them and said: Drink this. It is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you, shed for all, to forgive sin; do this to remember me.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

*Presider* Therefore, with this bread and wine we recall your goodness to us.

*People* **God of the past and present, we your people remember your Son.**

**We thank you for his cross and rising again, we take courage from his ascension;**

**we look for his coming in glory and in him we give ourselves to you.**

*The Presider continues*

Send your Holy Spirit, that we who receive Christ's body may indeed be the body of Christ, and we who share his cup draw strength from the one true vine.

*People* **Called to follow Christ, help us to reconcile and unite. Called to suffer, give us hope in our calling.**

*Presider* For you, the heavenly one, make all things new; you are the beginning and the end, the last and the first.

*People* Praise, glory and love be yours, this and every day, from us and all people, here and everywhere. Amen.  
*A period of silence may be kept.*

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Presider* As Christ taught us we pray

*People* **Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven; The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our home and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.**

#### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*Presider* Christ's body was broken for us on the cross.

*People* **Christ is the bread of life.**

*Presider* His blood was shed for our forgiveness.

*People* **Christ is risen from the dead.**

*Presider* Come God's people, come to receive Christ's heavenly food.

#### INVITATION *[The People are seated.]*

*As Jesus welcomed all to his table, so do we at Holy Comforter. The bread and the wine are the central symbols of God's presence and we invite you to share in the Eucharist in whatever way feels comfortable to you, regardless of age or tradition. We also offer gluten-free bread and unfermented grape juice as alternatives—just let the priest know. If you prefer to receive a blessing, cross your arms in front of your chest. The Holy Eucharist is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace, a mutual indwelling of Christ in us and us in him. Come to the table and be joined into Christ's ministry of love and reconciliation.*

#### COMMUNION MUSIC *[Sung by all.]*

HYMN 554 "Tis the gift to be simple"

*Simple Gifts*

HYMN 656 "Blest are the pure in heart"

*Franconia*

#### THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *[Said by all.]*

**May we who have been your guests at this communion reveal your life to all the world. May we be no longer your servants, but know your will, and be your friends. You give us your life, may we be worthy of it; you give us yourself, may we embody you.**

**Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name. AMEN.**

#### THE BLESSING

AT THE CLOSING, HYMN 556 (stanzas 1-5) "Rejoice, ye pure in heart!"

*Marion*

*Sung by all, standing.*

#### DISMISSAL

Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace.

**Amen. We go in the name of Christ.**

CLOSING VOLUNTARY: Præludium in F Major

Dietrich Buxtehude