



The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

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

February 12, 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: Andante from *Sonata VI*

Felix Mendelssohn

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

AT THE PROCESSION, HYMN 594 “God of grace and God of glory”

Cwm Rhondda

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

Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

God of Israel old and new, write in our hearts the lesson of your law; prepare our minds to receive the gospel made visible in your Son Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

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

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

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 Happy are they whose way is blameless, *
who walk in the law of the LORD!
- 2 Happy are they who observe his decrees *
and seek him with all their hearts!
- 3 Who never do any wrong, *
but always walk in his ways. [Ref.]
- 4 You laid down your commandments, *
that we should fully keep them.
- 5 Oh, that my ways were made so direct *
that I might keep your statutes!
- 6 Then I should not be put to shame, *
when I regard all your commandments. [Ref.]
- 7 I will thank you with an unfeigned heart, *
when I have learned your righteous judgments.
- 8 I will keep your statutes; *
do not utterly forsake me. [Ref.]

THE SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human? What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

AT THE SEQUENCE, HYMN 512 "Come, gracious Spirit, heavenly Dove"

Mendon

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 5:21-37

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Praise and glory to God.

Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not murder'; and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than

for your whole body to go into hell. It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.' But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No'; anything more than this comes from the evil one."

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ, the Word.

THE SERMON The Rev. Jon C. Strand

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: "O for a closer walk with God"

Charles Villiers Stanford

O for a closer walk with God,

Return, O holy Dove, return!

A calm and heavenly frame;

Sweet messenger of rest;

A light to shine upon the road

I hate the sins that made thee mourn,

That leads me to the Lamb!

And drove thee from my breast.

So shall my walk be close with God,

Calm and serene my frame;

So purer light shall mark the road

That leads me to the Lamb.

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 hope 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 Communion. 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 312 "Strengthen for service, Lord"

Malabar

HYMN 440 "Blessèd Jesus, at thy word"

Liebster Jesu

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 347 "Go forth for God; go to the world in peace"

Litton

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: Fuga from Sonata II

Felix Mendelssohn