



The Last Sunday after the Epiphany

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

February 19, 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: Introitus from *Missa Brevis*

Zoltán Kodály

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

AT THE PROCESSION, HYMN 135 “Songs of thankfulness and praise”

Salzburg

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

One thing I have asked of the Lord, which I long for: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on your beauty O Lord: and to seek you in your temple.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

God of glory, you gave the vision of your Son to those who watched on the mountain; grant that by our glimpses of him we may be changed into his glorious likeness; for he is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON [The people are seated.]

Exodus 24:12-18

The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them." Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 2 *Quare fremuerunt gentes?*

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.

I my-self have set my king up - on my ho - ly hill of Zi - on.

- 1 Why are the nations in an uproar? *
 Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?



- 2 Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt,
and the princes plot together, *
against the LORD and against his Anointed?
- 3 “Let us break their yoke,” they say; *
“let us cast off their bonds from us.”
- 4 He whose throne is in heaven is laughing; *
the LORD has them in derision. *[Ref.]*
- 5 Then he speaks to them in his wrath, *
and his rage fills them with terror.
- 6 “I myself have set my king *
upon my holy hill of Zion.”
- 7 Let me announce the decree of the LORD: *
he said to me, “You are my Son;
this day have I begotten you.
- 8 Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance *
and the ends of the earth for your possession.
- 9 You shall crush them with an iron rod *
and shatter them like a piece of pottery.” *[Ref.]*
- 10 And now, you kings, be wise; *
be warned, you rulers of the earth.
- 11 Submit to the LORD with fear, *
and with trembling bow before him;
- 12 Lest he be angry and you perish; *
for his wrath is quickly kindled.
- 13 Happy are they all *
who take refuge in him! *[Ref.]*

THE SECOND LESSON

2 Peter 1:16-21

We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain. So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

AT THE SEQUENCE, HYMN 129 “Christ upon the mountain peak”

Mowsley

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 17:1-9

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Praise and glory to God.

Six days after Peter had acknowledged Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face

shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ, the Word.

THE SERMON The Rev. Jackie Thomson

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: "My eyes for beauty pine"

Herbert Howells

My eyes for beauty pine,	One splendor thence is shed	And every gentle heart
My soul for Goddes grace,	From all the stars above:	That burns with true desire,
No other care nor hope is mine,	'Tis named when God's name is said,	Is lit from eyes that mirror part
To heaven I turn my face.	'Tis Love, 'tis heavenly Love.	Of that celestial fire.

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 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.

AT THE DISTRIBUTION, HYMN 307 "Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendor"

Bryn Calfaria

Sung by all.

SENDING OF EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

Presider In the name of God and of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the Communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

People **We who are many are one body because we share one bread, one cup.**

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 137 "O wondrous type! O vision fair"

Wareham

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: Prelude in A Minor

Hermann Schroeder