



The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

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

January 28, 2024 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 Iona Community in Scotland, in their Iona Abbey Worship Book. <https://iona.org.uk>

OPENING VOLUNTARY: Prelude on *Schmücke dich* (Hymn 339)

Johannes Brahms

THE ENTRANCE

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

Russia

Sung by all, standing.

OPENING RESPONSES

Presider With nature in its power and beauty, with rain and wind and sunshine, with the ancient rocks and the budding flower,

People **we gather in praise of God.**

Presider With believers and seekers the whole world wide, with people in every land, and speakers of every language,

People **we gather in praise of God.**

Presider With the angels and saints in heaven, with all who have built community here and with all who have worshipped in this place,

People **we gather in praise of God.**

Presider With Jesus who promised his presence and the Spirit who showers her blessings,

People **we gather in praise of God.**

Presider Here let heaven and earth embrace;

People **here may God’s people find home.**

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.

CALL TO PRAYER

Presider Eternal God, Maker of the skies above, lowly Christ, Lover of the earth and its people, unfettered Spirit, Giver of gracious gifts,

People **you are present among us.**

Presider O hidden mystery, sun behind all suns, soul within all souls, in all we touch, in all we meet,

People **you are present among us.**

Presider As bearers of your image, we come to be reshaped;

People **dependent on your mercy, we ask to be made new.**

PRAYER [*All kneel.*]

Presider For the right roads we avoided traveling, and the kindly words we refused to share; for the false gods who received our worship and the true selves we have starved of love ... God, by your grace,

People **forgive us.**

Presider For the hidden hurts we have held too tightly, and the promises which we never kept; for the careless use of our time and money and the lame excuses we should never have made, God, by your grace,

People **forgive us.**

Silence is kept.

Presider For all we should be and all we can amend, God, in your love,

People **renew us.**

Presider For all you have in store for us and all you may demand of us, God, in your love,

People **prepare us.**

Presider For the life of the world and the love of its people, God, in your love,

People **commit us.**

Kyrie eleison

Christe eleison

Kyrie eleison

Presider Hear and believe these words of Jesus: Your sins are forgiven. Go in peace. Come and follow me.

Silence is kept.

Presider Glory to the Creator who gives us life,

People **Glory to Jesus whose love remakes us,**

Presider Glory to the Spirit, companion on our journey.
People **Glory be to God. Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

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

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Moses summoned all Israel and said to them, “The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: ‘If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.’ Then the Lord replied to me: ‘They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.’”

Listen for God’s word coming to us in Scripture.

Our hearts and minds are open.

PSALM 111 *Confitebor tibi*

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 Hallelujah!
I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, *
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.
- 2 Great are the deeds of the LORD! *
they are studied by all who delight in them.
- 3 His work is full of majesty and splendor, *
and his righteousness endures for ever.
- 4 He makes his marvelous works to be remembered; *
the LORD is gracious and full of compassion. [*Ref.*]
- 5 He gives food to those who fear him; *
he is ever mindful of his covenant.
- 6 He has shown his people the power of his works *
in giving them the lands of the nations.
- 7 The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; *
all his commandments are sure.
- 8 They stand fast for ever and ever, *
because they are done in truth and equity. [*Ref.*]
- 9 He sent redemption to his people;
he commanded his covenant for ever; *
holy and awesome is his Name.
- 10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; *
those who act accordingly have a good understanding;
his praise endures for ever. [*Ref.*]

THE SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him. Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord,

Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. "Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

God be in our listening, God in our understanding.

Amen.

AT THE SEQUENCE, HYMN 593 "Lord, make us servants of your peace"

Dickinson College

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

Mark 1:21-28

We greet the Gospel of Jesus the Christ by singing Alleluia.



Jesus and his disciples went into Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Amen! Thanks be to God.

SERMON The Rev. Jon Strand

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

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH [*Said by all.*]

We believe in God above us, Maker and Sustainer of all life, of sun and moon, of water and earth, of male and female.

We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, born of a woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree. A man of compassion, he died forsaken; he descended into the earth to the place of death. On the third day he rose from the tomb; he ascended into heaven to be everywhere present; and his kingdom will come on earth.

We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire, life-giving breath of the church, spirit of healing and forgiveness, source of resurrection and eternal life. Amen.

PRAYERS OF CONCERN [*All remain standing.*]

The leader of the Prayers will begin with prayers for the church and the world. In the course of the silence after each bidding, you are invited to add your own prayers, either silently or aloud.

Intercessor God, in your mercy,

People **hear our prayer.**

The Intercessor concludes

And because we are here to meet with Jesus, we join our words to those he taught us, saying

People **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.**

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you. [*The people greet one another with a sign of God's peace and are then seated.*]

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

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 Savior of the world"

John Goss

O Savior of the world, who by thy Cross and precious Blood hast redeemed us,
save us, and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord. Amen.

OFFERING PRAYER

Presider All that we have and all that we are are God's gifts to us. So here we return a token of our wealth asking that it and all we possess be used to God's glory.

People **Blessed be God for ever.**

THE INVITATION

Presider We are here because Jesus has called us – strangers and friends, locals and visitors, believers and doubters, the certain and the curious. It is always a mixed company that Jesus gathers and invites to his table where, in bread and wine, he meets us and through him we, who are different, are joined to each other. So come, not because you understand, but because you are understood. Come, not because of how you feel, but because God has food for you. Come, not because you deserve a place, but because Jesus invites you, just as you are.

THE STORY [*The people are seated.*]

Presider This sacrament began on the night of Jesus' arrest, when he and his disciples gathered round a table.

Reader During their meal, Jesus took bread, and when he had blessed it, he broke it and said, "This is my body. It is given for you. Do this to remember me." Later he took a cup of wine, and when he had blessed it he said, "This cup is the new relationship with God made possible because of my death. Drink it, all of you, to remember me. I shall not share this with you again until I do so in God's coming kingdom."

Presider So now we do as Jesus did and commanded us to do. We take this bread and wine, the ordinary things of the world which Christ, in his own way, will make special, and as he said a prayer before sharing we do so too.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER [*The people stand.*]

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to God.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the God our Maker.

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

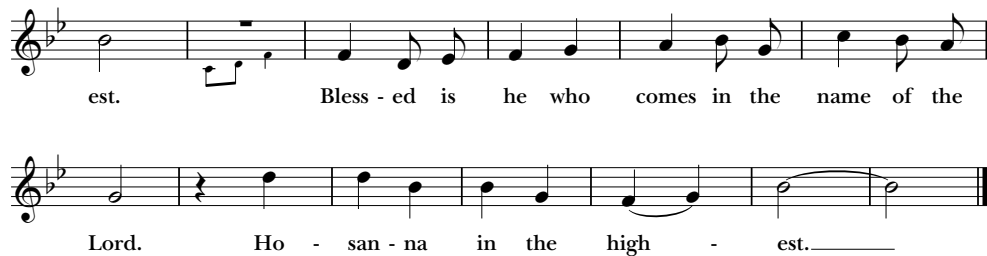
The Presider continues with the preface.

SANCTUS, HYMNAL, S 127

Calvin Hampton

Sung by all.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow - er and might, — hea - ven and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high -



Presider Because you, gracious God, have been faithful to us, we will be faithful to Jesus. He promised to be with those who met in his name:

People **this we believe.**

Presider He promised to hear the prayers of faithful people:

People **this we believe.**

Presider He said that in the communion of bread and wine he would be present to us as we remembered him:

People **this we believe.**

The Presider continues

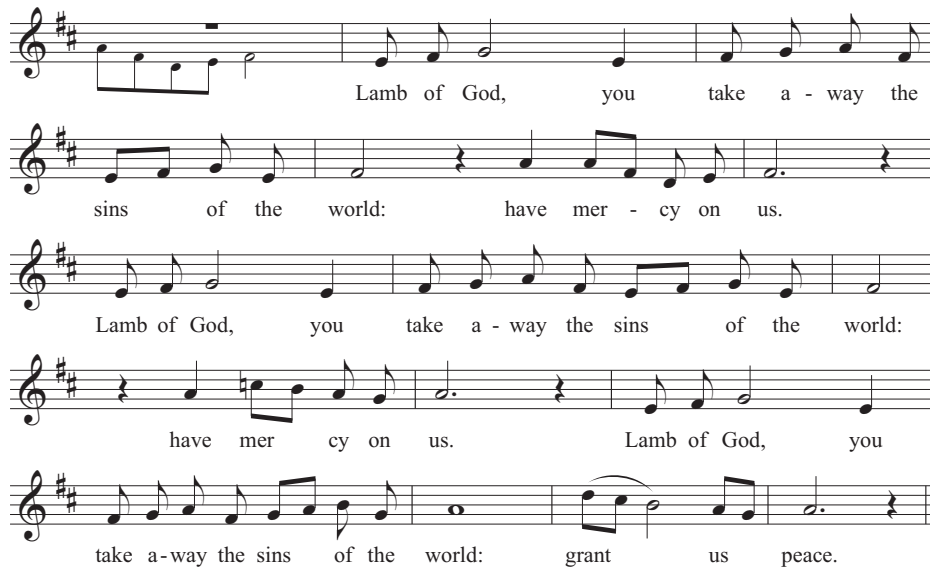
So, send now your Spirit among us and upon this bread and wine, that we may taste and see your goodness, be embraced by your love, and be engaged in your service. **Amen.**

As Jesus did, so we do. We break this bread. We share this wine. We believe that he who lived, died and rose again for us will meet us here. Graciously nourish us, O Christ, so that we who try to follow you may receive food for the journey and be bound in solidarity with all who walk in your way. **Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD, MASS OF THE HOLY COMFORTER

David Kelley

Sung by all.



The Presider says

Take this bread, share this wine. In these, Christ comes to us with love from God. The gifts of God for the people of God.

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 339 "Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness"

HYMN 577 "God is love, and where true love is"

*Schmücke dich
Ubi caritas (Murray)*

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Presider Give thanks for all God's goodness:

People **God's love shall last for ever.**

The Presider continues

Generous and faithful God, you have fed us at your table. May the nourishment we have received enable us to enrich the lives of others wherever we may go from here. Whether the future be dark or bright, the road be smooth or rough, whether our cares be light or heavy, our song be strong or weak, keep our hearts warm and our hands open, our lives ever embracing and ever embraced by your love. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

Presider May the everlasting God shield you wherever you go. And the blessing of God be upon you

People **the blessing of the Giver of life.**

Presider The blessing of God be upon you

People **the blessing of the Christ of love.**

Presider The blessing of God be upon you

People **the blessing of the Spirit of peace.**

Presider The blessing of the Trinity be upon you now and evermore.

People **Amen.**

AT THE CLOSING, HYMN 493 “O for a thousand tongues to sing”

Azmon

Sung by all, standing.

DISMISSAL [*The people respond,*]

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY: Fanfare in D Major

Jaak Nikolaas Lemmens