



The Last Sunday after the Epiphany

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

February 11, 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 in G Major

Felix Mendelssohn

THE ENTRANCE

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

Salzburg

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, MASS OF THE HOLY COMFORTER

David Kelley

Sung by all.

1. Glo - ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. 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.
3. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of
God,
4. you take a - way the sin of the world:
have mer - cy on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the

Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer. 6. For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One,
 you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus
 Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. 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.*]

2 Kings 2:1-12

Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you

yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?” And he said, “Yes, I know; keep silent.” Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know; be silent.” Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

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

Our hearts and minds are open.

PSALM 50:1-6 *Deus deorum*

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 de-si - re mer - cy more than sac - ri - fice, and the know - ledge of God more than burnt of - fer - ings.

- 1 The LORD, the God of gods, has spoken; *
he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.
- 2 Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, *
God reveals himself in glory. [Ref.]
- 3 Our God will come and will not keep silence; *
before him there is a consuming flame,
and round about him a raging storm.
- 4 He calls the heavens and the earth from above *
to witness the judgment of his people. [Ref.]
- 5 “Gather before me my loyal followers, *
those who have made a covenant with me
and sealed it with sacrifice.”
- 6 Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause; *
for God himself is judge. [Ref.]

THE SECOND LESSON

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

If our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake. For it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

God be in our listening, God in our understanding.

Amen.

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.

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



Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Amen! Thanks be to God.

SERMON The Rev. Jackie Thomson

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: “Holy is the true light”

William H. Harris

Holy is the true light, and passing wonderful, lending radiance to them that endured in the heat of the conflict: from Christ they inherit a home of unfading splendor, wherein they rejoice with gladness evermore. Alleluia.

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, MASS OF THE HOLY COMFORTER

David Kelley

Sung by all.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of pow - er and might, heaven and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a-way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

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 122 "Alleluia, song of gladness"

Urbs beata Jerusalem

HYMN 134 "O Light of Light, Love given birth"

Jesu dulcis memoria

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 137 “O wondrous type! O vision fair”
Sung by all, standing.

Wareham

DISMISSAL [*The people respond,*]

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY: “Ite, missa est” (“Go, the mass is ended”) *from Missa Brevis*

Zoltán Kodály