

**ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, NORTHAMPTON MA**  
**Holy Eucharist for the First Sunday after Epiphany**  
**January 10, 2021**

**Organ Prelude**

Dr. Grant Moss

**Welcome and Announcements**

*Presider*      Blessed be the one holy and living God.

*People*        **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

**Collect for Purity**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known,  
And from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
By the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you,  
And worthily magnify your Holy Name through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Song of Praise H393**

*Praise our great and gracious Lord, call upon his holy name;  
Raising hymns in glad accord, all his mighty acts proclaim:  
How he leads his chosen unto Canaan's promised land,  
How the word we have heard firm and changeless still shall stand.*

*God has given the cloud by day, given the moving fire by night;  
Guides his Israel on their way from darkness into light.  
God it is who grants us sure retreat and refuge nigh;  
Light of dawn leads us on: 'tis the dayspring from on high.*

**The Collect of the Day**

*Presider*      The Lord be with you.

*People*        **And also with you.**

*Presider*      Let us pray.

Creating God, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting.  
**Amen**

## The Liturgy of the Word

### First Lesson

*Genesis 1:1-5*

A reading from the book of Genesis.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 29 *Afferte Domino*

1 Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, \* ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

**2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his Name; \***

**worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.**

3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; \*  
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

**4 The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; \***

**the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.**

5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; \* the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

**6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, \* and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

7 The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire; the voice of the Lord shakes the  
wilderness; \* the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

**8 The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe \* and strips the forests bare.**

9 And in the temple of the Lord \* all are crying, "Glory!"

**10 The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; \***

**the Lord sits enthroned as King for evermore.**

11 The Lord shall give strength to his people; \*

the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

### Second Lesson

*Acts 19:1-7*

A reading from the book of Acts.

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— altogether there were about twelve of them.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **The Gospel**

*Mark 1:4-11*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

*People Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The Gospel of the Lord. *People Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

## **Sermon**

**Guest preacher: The Rev. Canon Rich Simpson**

Canon to the Ordinary

Episcopal Diocese of Western MA

## **The Nicene Creed** *recited in unison* **BCP pg 358-359**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:**

**by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate  
from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **Prayers of the People Form IV BCP page 388**

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, gracious God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. We remember especially our presiding bishop Michael Curry, our bishop Douglas Fisher and all who minister in the name of Christ.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy                   **Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. We pray especially for those afflicted by injustice and violence and that we may work for an end to oppression, systemic racism, greed and exploitation.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy                   **Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy                   **Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. We pray especially for our families, friends and neighbors, health care workers and first responders, teachers and students.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy                   **Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. We pray for those on our parish prayer list: David Rosenberger, Lorna, Nancy Elliott, Janet, the Brandt family, Dan and Christ Higgins, Betty and Donnie Willard, Christa Holden, Norma Keough, Bre, BettyLou DeTurck, Melissa, Vanessa, Jeanette, the Winternitz family, Mary Thurber, Mary Wozniak and her mother Mildred Lindsay, and our Manna guests and volunteers.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy                   **Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy                    **Hear our prayer.**

Hasten, O God, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

**Sign of Peace**

The peace of God be with you.                    **And also with you.**

**Offertory Music      339 Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness**

*1 Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness,  
leave the gloomy haunts of sadness;  
come into the daylight's splendour,  
there with joy thy praises render  
unto him whose grace unbounded  
hath this wondrous banquet founded:  
high o'er all the heavens he reigneth,  
yet to dwell with thee he deigneth.*

*2. Sun, who all my life dost brighten,  
light, who dost my soul enlighten,  
joy, the sweetest heart e'er knoweth,  
fount, whence all my being floweth,  
at thy feet I cry, my Maker,  
let me be a fit partaker  
of this blessed food from heaven,  
for our good, thy glory, given.*

*3. Jesus, Bread of Life, I pray thee,  
let me gladly here obey thee;  
never to my hurt invited,  
be thy love with love requited:  
from this banquet let me measure,  
Lord, how vast and deep its treasure;  
through the gifts thou here dost give me,  
as thy guest in heaven receive me.*

## Liturgy of the Eucharist

*Presider:* The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Presider* Lift up your hearts.  
*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**  
*Presider* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People* **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty Creator of heaven and earth. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Presider and People*  
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,  
**We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection,  
we await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. Mary the God-bearer, St. John and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Gracious God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

*Presider:* As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

**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.**

### **Fraction Anthem**

*Presider:* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.  
*People:* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**  
*Presider:* The gifts of God for the People of God.

### **Prayer of Spiritual Communion** *(adapted from the Prayer Book for the Armed Services)*

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people and your Church, we delight to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. We remember your death, Lord Christ; we proclaim your resurrection; we await your coming in glory. Since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. Heal and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Christ, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. **Amen.**

## **Post Communion Prayer** *in unison*

**Almighty and ever-living God,  
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.  
And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

## **Epiphany Blessing**

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, mother of us all, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*Presider:* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, Alleluia, alleluia!

*People:* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

## **Postlude Music**

**Dr. Grant Moss**