



MISSION STATEMENT

A Worshipping Community serving as a beacon of God's love by exemplifying the two great commandments; love God with our whole heart and love our neighbors as ourselves.

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 12, 2023

Holy Eucharist:

Rite II Prayer B

St. John's Episcopal Church

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WORD OF GOD

PRELUDE: Traumerei

by S. Cago

ENTRANCE HYMN- *LEVAS 158- Make Me A Blessing (Red and Black Hymnal)*

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant and Congregation:

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 S 236 (Front of Blue Hymnal)- A Song of Praise- (Rutter)

All standing, as able.

SONG OF PRAISE- CANTICLE 20- S-236

1. Glo - ry to you, _____ Lord
God of our fa - thers; _____ you are wor - thy of praise;
glo - ry to you. _____ 2. Glo - ry to you _____
_ for the ra - di-ance of your ho - ly Name; _____ we will
praise you and high-ly ex - alt you for ev - er. _____
3. Glo - ry to you _____ in the splen - dor of your
tem - ple; _____ on the throne of your ma - jes - ty, glo - ry to

you. _____ 4. Glo - ry to you, seat - ed bet -
ween the Cher - u - bim; _____ we will praise you and
high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er. _____

5. Glo - ry to you, _____ be - hold - ing the
depths; _____ in the high vault of hea - ven, glo - ry to
you. _____ 6. Glo - ry to you, _____ Fa - ther,
Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit; _____ we will praise you and
high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er. _____

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (BCP p. 357)

Celebrant: God be with you.

People : And also with you.

Celebrant : Let us pray.

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in you: Mercifully accept our prayers; and because in our weakness we can do nothing good without you, give us the help of your grace, that in keeping your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The People are seated.

**FIRST READING:
Deuteronomy 30:15-20**

Flo Webster

Moses said, “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.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 119:1-8

Read responsively by whole verse, beginning with the celebrant

- 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.
- 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.*
- 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.

SECOND READING:

Lisa Norton-Rotella

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

All stand, as able

SEQUENCE HYMN LEVAS 175 Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen

GOSPEL- Matthew 5:21-37

All stand.

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

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."

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

THE SERMON- The Rev. Tim Black

THE NICENE CREED

All stand, as able.

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 and the Son. 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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pat Roberts

All remain standing.

Happy are they who walk in the law of the Lord! So let us come before the Lord, saying, “Righteous God, *direct our ways.*” Lord our God, bless your Church. May those who plant and those who water recognize their common purpose. Give abundant growth where your Church labors faithfully.

Silence

Righteous God,

Direct our ways.

Lord our God, bless the people of this and every nation. Draw nations and leaders to choose those ways that promote life and not death.

Silence

Righteous God,

Direct our ways.

Lord our God, bless this planet—your very footstool. Give us the wisdom and will to allow the earth to prosper as you have intended—naturally bringing forth growth and prosperity.

Silence

Righteous God,

Direct our ways.

Lord our God, bless our city. Give us those things we need to live together as neighbors. Remove from our hearts anger, discord, and lust.

Silence

Righteous God,

Direct our ways.

Lord our God, bless our schools. We pray for all schools in East Point, College Park and Hapeville. We pray especially for our immediate neighbor school, Unbound Academy.

Give the students curiosity for learning, the teachers and administrators patience and wisdom. Give us new insight into how we can continue to support and love them.

Silence

Righteous God,

Direct our ways.

Lord our God, bless the sick and the struggling. May they find life in relationship with you. Make them happy as they seek you with all their hearts. We pray today for: Eleanor Buchanon, Barbarine Thorpe, Claude Lindsey, Frank Harrell and Joe Monti.

Invite the congregation to add their petitions and thanksgivings, followed by silence

Righteous God,

Direct our ways.

Lord our God, bless the dying and the dead. May they find peace and comfort at the foot of your heavenly throne. We pray today for:

Silence

Righteous God,

Direct our ways.

Priest: 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.*

CONFESSION OF SIN

Priest: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Minister and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Priest: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

THE PEACE (BCP p. 360)

All stand, as able

Priest: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

We close The Passing of the Peace by singing, together:

We are one in the bond of love
We are one in the bond of love
We have joined our spirits with the spirit of God
We are one in the bond of love

HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE (BCP p. 376)

Priest: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. (Ephesians 5:2)

OFFERTORY HYMN - LEVAS 143- Wade in the Water (Red and Black Hymnal)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The People remain standing, as able.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

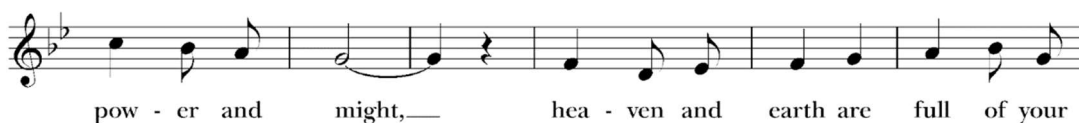
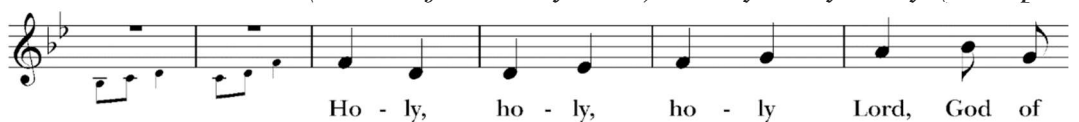
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE (BCP p. 361)

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, 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:

SANCTUS - S 127 (Front of Blue Hymnal) - Holy, holy, holy (Hampton)



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.

The People stand or kneel, as able

Celebrant: 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 Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, 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 Savior 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 Jesus 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 God,

Celebrant and People
We remember Christ's death,
We proclaim Christ's resurrection,
We await Christ's coming in glory;

Celebrant : And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior 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 in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, 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 the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed John and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the

firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER S 119 The Lord's Prayer (Traditional)

Priest: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we now sing:

Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed
be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our
dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,
as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead
us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us
from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the power,
and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

FRACTION

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Congregation: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Cantor or Choir

My flesh is food in - deed, and my blood is drink in -

1 *All* | 2 *Cantor or Choir*

deed, says the Lord. My Lord. Those who eat my

All

flesh and drink my blood dwell in me and I in them. My

flesh is food in - deed, and my blood is drink in - deed, says the Lord.

INVITATION

The Celebrant says: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on Christ in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving

DISTRIBUTION (BCP p. 365)

We will be sharing communion in both kinds available by either priest intinction (dipping the host in wine) or common cup. If you desire common cup, you can communicate this by holding out one hand for bread only, two hands for bread and wine. If you desire priest intinction, you can communicate your preference by holding your hands in a prayer position or simply by telling the Eucharistic minister.

COMMUNION HYMN *LEVAS 170- Yield Not to Temptation (Red & Black Hymnal)*

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (BCP p. 365)

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People: Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Savior. Amen.

BLESSING (BCP p. 366)

Celebrant: Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the way of those walk this journey with us, so be quick to love and slow to anger, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you now and always.

POST-COMMUNION HYMN *LEVAS 193- I will Trust in the Lord*

DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)

Celebrant: Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord, alleluia, alleluia.

People :Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia

POSTLUDE: Purple Moon

by D. Alexander