

St. John's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH



God thinks you are fabulous,
and so do we.

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 4, 2024 +Holy Eucharist+ Rite 1, Prayer II

Straight and gay, rich and poor, and every color and age, St John's is a place of Radical Kindness, warm and open Christ-Followers who celebrate God's grace and love and cherish one another. We are proud and grateful to serve as a "neighborhood church" for the tri-cities: College Park, East Point and Hapeville. Everyone needs a place to be cherished. We invite you to make St John's yours!

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Welcome to St. John's. We hope you will experience worship with your whole being. Your presence, however, is all that is required for you to be in prayer and worship with us on this Lord's Day. There are no "mistakes" in worshiping God. The bulletin is designed with you in mind, and most rubrics (directions) are in italics. If you find you're out of sync with whatever is going on, do not worry. It is all prayer.

Please fill out a visitor card so we can get to know you and invite you into life together at St. John's. We want to be known as a place that practices the radical kindness and hospitality of Jesus and where it is apparent that "God thinks you are fabulous - and so do we." Let us know on a visitor card if you are interested in membership or baptism, and we will be in touch about next steps. Please say hello, and come have some coffee in the Hospitality Suite after church. Take a look at our announcements for ongoing activities, and please come and join us on our journey as Christ-followers.

Children are always welcome. We even have a "kids' spot" in the lobby with books, coloring pages, and stuffed animals. The noise does not bother anyone. If you feel uncomfortable, you can sit with your child in the Kids Spot or find comfy seats in the hospitality suite.

Restrooms are through either of the doors at the front of the Church. Go down the hall (on the right) or across the hall (on the left) to the Hospitality Suite. Blessings and Peace!

Processional Hymn- *The God of Abraham Praise*- Hymnal 401

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

Congregation: *And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever, AMEN.*

Celebrant and Congregation pray, together:

The Collect for Purity : *Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Celebrant: Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Song of Praise- *Bless The Lord, O My Soul*- (*Sing the Refrain 3 times*)

LEVAS 65- (Red and Black Hymnal)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: *And with thy Spirit.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant:

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins and give us, we beseech thee, the liberty of that abundant life which thou hast manifested to us in thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The congregation is seated.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:21-31

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he who sits above the circle of the earth and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the

young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Reader : The Word of the Lord. **Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 147:1-12, 21c

Lisa Norton-Rotella, Cantor and Congregation

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Frederick A. Gore Ouseley



- 1 Hallelujah!
How good it is to sing ^{praises} to our ^{God}!
how pleasant it is to ^{honor} him with ^{praise}!
- 2 The LORD re^{builds} Je^{rusalem}; *
he ^{gathers} the ^{exiles} of ^{Israel}.
- 3 He heals the ^{broken} ^{hearted} *
and ^{binds} up their ^{wounds}.
- 4 He counts the ^{number} of the ^{stars} *
and ^{calls} them ^{all} by their ^{names}.
- 5 Great is our LORD and ^{mighty} in ^{power}; *
there is no ^{limit} to his ^{wisdom}.
- 6 The LORD lifts ^{up} the ^{lowly}, *
but casts the ^{wicked} to the ^{ground}.
- 7 Sing to the ^{LORD} with ^{thanksgiving}; *
make music to our ^{God} up ^{on} the ^{harp}.
- 8 He covers the ^{heavens} with ^{clouds} *
and pre^{pare}s ^{rain} for the ^{earth};
- †9 He makes grass to ^{grow} upon the ^{mountains} *
and green ^{plants} to ^{serve} man^{kind}.
- 10 He provides food for ^{flocks} and ^{herds} *
and for the young ^{ravens} when they ^{cry}.
- 11 He is not impressed by the ^{might} of a ^{horse}; *
he has no ^{pleasure} in the ^{strength} of a ^{man};
- †12 But the LORD has pleasure in ^{those} who ^{fear} him,
in those who ^{wait} his ^{gracious} ^{favor}.

- 21 He has not done so to ^{any} ^{other} ^{nation}; *
to them he has not revealed his ^{judgments}.
Halle^{lujah}!

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel. For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under

the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

Reader : The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: *Thanks be to God.*

Please stand, as able, for the hymn and Gospel reading.

SEQUENCE HYMN: *Holy Spirit Ever Living*- Hymnal 511

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ, according to Mark..

Congregation: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Mark 1:29-39

When Jesus and the disciples left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord

Congregation: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

THE HOMILY- The Rev. Tim Black

The congregation stands for the Nicene Creed.

THE NICENE CREED: 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.

Remain standing or kneel for the Prayers of the People.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

All remain standing.

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Lord Jesus, hear us.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

Lord Jesus, hear us.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

Lord Jesus, hear us.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land especially Joseph our president, Brian our governor and Bianca, our mayor, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Lord Jesus, hear us.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty. And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor Eleanor Buchanon, Barbarine Thorpe, Claude Lindsey, Frank Harrell, Vicky Tucker, Fonda and Charles Howland, Mary Graves, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, David Gibbs, and Sherran Davis. all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

We also pray for the people of Ukraine and of Israel and Palestine and an end to bloodshed there and other places where there is violent conflict.

The congregation is invited to add their petitions.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, especially Patricia Thomas, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed John and all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

The congregation is invited to add their petitions.

Celebrant: Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Celebrant: Ye who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: Draw near with faith, and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling, as able.

Celebrant and Congregation: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all men: We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us, the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him. Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you.
Matthew 11:28

THE PEACE

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

People: And with thy Spirit.


We conclude the Passing of the Peace by singing:

God is so good, God is so good, God is so good God's so good to me (3X)


ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

Celebrant: Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts. Psalm 96:8

Offertory Hymn- *Lord Speak To Me*- VF 98



1 Lord, speak to me, that I may speak in
2 O lead me, Lord, that I may lead the
3 O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the



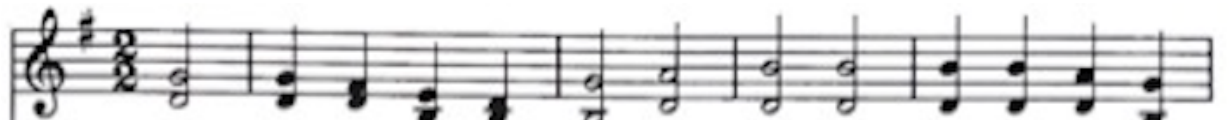
liv - ing ech - oes of thy tone; as thou has sought, so
wand - ering and the wav - ering feet; O feed me, Lord, that
pre - cious things thou dost im - part; and wing my words, that




let me seek thy err - ing child - ren lost and lone.
I may feed thy hun - gry ones with man - na sweet.
they may reach the hid - den depths of many a heart.

The congregation stands as the offering is brought forward during the Doxology.


DOXOLOGY- *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*- Old 100th



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all crea - tures



here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye heaven - ly



host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est.

Celebrant: All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

Celebrant: For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me." Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory. And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ. And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

People and Celebrant

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.

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

People: Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Celebrant and People: We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving. Whoever you are, wherever you are on your journey, you are welcome at God's table.

DISTRIBUTION INSTRUCTIONS: We share communion in both kinds available by either intinction (dipping the host in wine) or drinking from the common cup. Hold out one hand for bread only, two hands for bread and wine, or put your hands in a prayer position for a blessing. For healing prayers, simply remain at the rail after receiving and we will pray for you. If you cannot come to the rail, a Eucharistic Minister will bring communion to you.

COMMUNION HYMN- *The King of Love My Shepherd is-* Hymnal 645

The people stand or kneel, as able.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People: Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end.

Amen.

The Celebrant blesses the people.

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, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION HYMN: *In Christ There is no East or West-* LEVAS 62

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

People: Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.

Join us for coffee hour after the service in the Hospitality Suite. Go through the doors on the left at the front of the church and across the hall.



Ash Wednesday at St. John's

February 14



12 PM Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes

5:30 PM Community Meal

7:00 PM Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes

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