



## ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY – JANUARY 30, 2022

READINGS: FIRST CORINTHIANS 13:1-13; PSALM 71:1-6, 15, 17; LUKE 4:21-30

Organ: Arioso - Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750)

**Hymn 437, Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord**

### THE WORD OF GOD

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

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

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.**

Lord, open our lips. And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Alleluia. The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; **To bring good news to the poor. Alleluia.**

Solo: Glory to God in the Highest (Mass of Wisdom) – Steven Janco

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### A Reading from the Book of Corinthians

In this epistle lesson, Paul continues his discussion of spiritual gifts by placing them all within the context of the greatest gift of love. Faith and hope, too, are chief among the gifts, but the measure of all things is love.

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 71 is a prayer that God will continue to be one's refuge and stronghold. The cantor sings the refrain, all repeat, and repeat as indicated.

In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be ashamed. In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free; incline your ear to me and save me. **R.**

Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe; you are my crag and my stronghold. Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor. **R.**

For you are my hope, O Lord God, my confidence since I was young. I have been sustained by you ever since I was born; from my mother's womb you have been my strength; my praise shall be always of you. **R.**

My mouth shall recount your mighty acts and saving deeds all day long; though I cannot know the number of them. O God, you have taught me since I was young, and to this day I tell of your wonderful works. **R.**

In our Gospel we hear how Jesus encounters opposition in the synagogue of his own town Nazareth. The congregation admires his words, but is also perplexed because they know his human origins. Jesus recognizes that people are unlikely to expect a prophet from among their own, and he reminds them how Elijah and Elisha did certain of their miracles for non-Jews. These illustrations (which point to the later ministry of Christianity to the Gentiles) deeply disturb the congregation, and Jesus is forced to leave for Capernaum to continue his ministry.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to Luke.  
**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

After Jesus finished reading the passage from Isaiah, he said to those in the synagogue, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.' All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, 'Is not this Joseph's son?' He said to them, 'Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, "Doctor, cure yourself!" And you will say, "Do here also in your home town the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum." ' But I say to you that no prophet is accepted in the prophet's home town. The truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up for three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.'

When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

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

Sermon -- The Rev. Michael L. Bradley, rector

## Affirmation of Faith – From the Iona Community

### **We believe in God:**

**Whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives, whose love was made human in Jesus of Nazareth, whose love was crucified by the evil that can entrap us.**

**Therefore, though we sometimes are fearful and doubting, we trust in God, and in the Name of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves:**

**To the service of others, to seek justice, and to live in peace,  
To care for the earth, to share the commonwealth of God's goodness,  
To live in the freedom of forgiveness, the power of the spirit of Love,  
And in the company of the faithful, to be the Church. For the glory of God. Amen.**

### The Prayers of the People

To God who welcomes all in love, let us pray for the good of the church and the concerns of those in need, responding, "Lord, hear our prayer."

O Lord, guard and direct your Church in the way of unity, service, and praise. **R**

Give to all nations an awareness of the unity of the human family. **R**

Cleanse our hearts of prejudice and selfishness, and inspire us to hunger and thirst for what is right. **R.**

Teach us to use your creation for your greater praise, that all may share the good things you provide **R.**

Strengthen all who give their energy or skill for the healing of those who are sick in body or in mind. **R**

Set free all who are bound by fear and despair. **R**

Grant a peaceful end and eternal rest to all who are dying, and your comfort to those who mourn. **R**

*The people are invited to add their own petitions.*

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins. *Silence is kept.*

Loving God; **Have mercy upon us, in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

God of every land and nation, you have created all people and you dwell among us in Jesus Christ. Listen to the cries of those who pray to you, and grant that, as we proclaim the greatness of your name, all people will know the power of love at work in the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Holy Communion

Solo: Behold the Lamb of God - Hugh Benham

Behold the lamb of God! O thou for sinners slain, let it not be in vain that thou hast died: Thee for my Saviour let me take, my only refuge let me make Thy pierced side. Behold the Lamb of God! All hail, incarnate word, thou everlasting Lord, Saviour most blest! Fill us with love that never faints, grant us with all thy blessed saints eternal rest. Behold the Lamb of God! Worthy is He alone to sit upon the throne of God above; One with the ancient of all days, One with the comforter in praise, all light and love.

All things come of thee, O Lord; **And of thine own have we given thee.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **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, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. In Christ you have revealed your eternal plan of salvation and showed him as the light of all peoples. Now that his glory has shone among us, you have renewed our very humanity in his immortal image.

Therefore, we praise you joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

(Hymnal S-125) **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.**

*The celebrant continues with the Prayer of Consecration, Memorial Acclamation, and Great Amen.*

*After the breaking of the bread:*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

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 and with thanksgiving.

*All are invited to come forward and receive the Body of Christ.*

*Those who desire a blessing, please keep your hands folded as a sign to the celebrant.*

*After all have received Communion, please stand and pray together:*

Gracious God; **In this eucharist we are nourished by the bread of heaven and invigorated with new wine. May these gifts renew our lives, that we may show your glory to all the world, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.**

The blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you, now and forever. **Amen.**

Let us go forth in the Name of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn 671, Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound**

Organ: Te Deum - Marc-Antoine Charpentier (1643 - 1704)

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Our 75<sup>th</sup> Year!

We share the light of Christ by actively loving and serving our neighbors in the world.  
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