



ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY – JANUARY 23, 2022

READINGS: NEHEMIAH 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; PSALM 19:7-14; LUKE 4:14-21

Organ Prelude: Cathedral Shadows - Dennis Eliot

Hymn 632, O Christ, the Word Incarnate

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.

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Reading from the Prophet Nehemiah

Our first lesson recalls a great day in the history of Israel: in the restored city of Jerusalem, Ezra gathers the people together so that they may hear and understand the law of Moses.

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen', lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.'

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

Psalm 19 is a hymn which glorifies the Creator God, with special praise for God's law. The cantor sings the refrain, all repeat, and then sing as indicated:

The law of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent. The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes. **R.**

The fear of the LORD is clean and endures for ever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb. **R.**

By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward. Who can tell how often he offends? Cleanse me from my secret faults. **R.**

Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer. **R.**

In our Gospel story Jesus returns to Galilee and enters the synagogue in Nazareth. Here he gives what has been called his inaugural sermon.

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

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.' And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

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

Let us pray with confidence to the Lord, saying, "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.**

Holy God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring healing to all wounds, make whole all that is broken, speak truth to all falsehood, and shed light in every darkness, that all creation will see your glory and know your Christ. **Amen.**

Holy Communion

Solo: The Spirit of the Lord is Upon Me – J. William Green

The spirit, the spirit of the Lord is upon me, is upon me, upon me, upon me, because he has anointed me, because he has anointed me. To bring good news, good news to the poor, to the poor. He has sent me, He has sent me to proclaim release, to proclaim release, to proclaim release, to the captives, to the captives, and recovery of sight, of sight to the blind, and recovery of sight, of sight, sight to the blind. To let the oppressed, the oppressed go free, to let the oppressed, the oppressed go free. To proclaim the year, to proclaim the year, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. The spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me, to bring good news, bring good news to the poor, to the poor.

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; **Our hands have taken holy things; our lives have been nourished by the body of your Son. May we who have eaten at this holy table be strengthened for service in your world. We ask this 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 616, Hail to the Lord's Anointed, Great David's Greater Son!

Organ: Paeon Exultant - Frederick Stanley Smith

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Our 75th Year!

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

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