

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - 28 JANUARY 2024 - THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

READINGS: DEUTERONOMY 18:15-20; PSALM 111; 1 CORINTHIANS 8:1-13; MARK 1:21-28

WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT YOU ARE WITH US THIS MORNING! THIS BULLETIN WILL GUIDE YOU THROUGH OUR WORSHIP. YOU CAN FIND THE NUMBERED HYMNS IN THE BLUE HYMNAL. AT COMMUNION TIME ALL ARE INVITED TO COME FORWARD AND SHARE IN THE EUCHARIST. THE BREAD IS TAKEN IN THE PALM OF THE RIGHT HAND; IF RECEIVING THE WINE, EITHER DIP (INTINCT) THE BREAD OR SIP FROM THE CUP. YOUR FOLDED HANDS WILL SIGNAL THE PRIEST THAT YOU WOULD PREFER A BLESSING.

Hymn 533, How Wondrous And Great Thy Works, God of Praise!

N.B., kindly sing the first verse again after verse two.

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.

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

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.

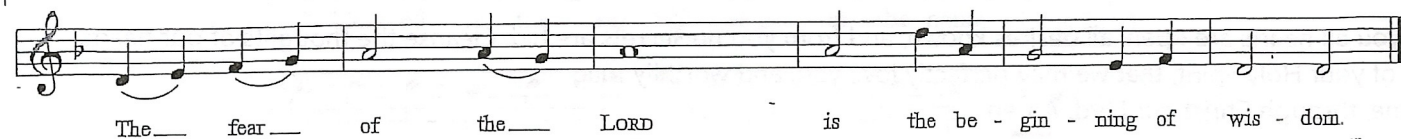
A Reading from the Book of Deuteronomy

In our opening reading, Moses promises the people that, after his death, God will raise up another prophet for them.

Moses said: The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 11 is a song of praise to the mighty and awesome Lord, who is steadfast and full of compassion.



Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation. Great are the deeds of the Lord! They are studied by all who delight in them. R. His work is full of majesty and splendor, and his righteousness endures for ever. He makes his marvelous works to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and full of compassion. R. The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; all his commandments are sure. They stand fast for ever and ever, because they are done in truth and equity. R. He sent redemption to his people; he commanded his covenant for ever; holy and awesome is his Name. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; those who act accordingly have a good understanding; his praise endures for ever.

R.

A Reading from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians

The church in Corinth proved to be a challenge for Paul; the libertarian tendencies and actions of the members conflicted with Christian ethics and Paul's explicit teachings. The First Letter to the Corinthians is his response to their letter to him asking for his guidance.

You have written me asking if Christians may eat food offered to idols. We know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him. Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. "Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

O friends in gladness, let us sing supernal anthems echoing. Alleluia, alleluia!

To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One. (5x)

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

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

Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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

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

What Do We Believe?

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.

Sisters and brothers, let us lift our hearts in faith to the one who hears all prayers and holds close all those in need.

By the good news of our salvation brought to Mary by the angel: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

By the mystery of the Word made flesh: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

By the birth in time of the timeless Son of God: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

By the manifestation of the King of glory to the shepherds and magi: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

By the baptism of the Son of God in the river Jordan: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

By the miracle of changing water into wine: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Grant that the kingdoms of this world may become the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ;
Lord, hear our prayer.

In our diocesan cycle of prayer, we remember the clergy and people of St. James', Dexter. Prayers are offered for those on our prayer list: Karen Schulze, Georgiana Solomon, Richard Simonds, Donald Burton, Lynn Kerber, Ed Haug, Jim Veit, Nina, Cheri. For the continuing recovery of Jada Rhein and Lori Pranior.

We pray also for the forgiveness of our sins. Silence is kept, then all pray together:

Have mercy upon us; **Most merciful God, 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 illusion, and shed light in every darkness, that all creation will see your glory and know your Christ. Hear our prayers and forgive our sins. All this we pray. Amen.

Holy Communion

Hymn 437, Tell Out, My Soul, The Greatness Of The Lord!

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.

God of glory and truth, we praise your holy name with thanksgiving, because you sent prophets to inscribe the story of creation . . . And so with angels and archangels, and all the company of heaven, we join with them in singing their everlasting hymn of praise:

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
2 Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score consists of two systems of staves. The first system has a treble and bass staff with lyrics underneath. The second system also has a treble and bass staff with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, 2 Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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

Cantor *All*
Al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;

Cantor *All*
There - fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia.

The musical score consists of two systems of staves. The first system has a treble staff with lyrics underneath. The second system also has a treble staff with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: Al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us; There - fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia.

After all have received, please stand and pray together:

Generous God; Source of all goodness, in this eucharist we are nourished by the bread of heaven and invigorated with new wine. May these gifts renew our lives for service to others, that we may show the light of your glory to all the world, in the name of Jesus Christ, who calls us all by name. Amen.

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

Let us go forth to love and serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Hymn 380, From All That Dwell Below The Skies

Our Mission: We share the light of Christ by loving and serving our neighbors in the world.

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