

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 31, 2021 10:00 am

Holy Eucharist Rite II

THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn 493

O for a thousand tongues to sing

1 O for a thousand tongues to sing
my dear Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!

2 My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honors of thy name.

3 Jesus! the Name that charms our fears
and bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life and health and peace.

4 He speaks; and, listening to his voice,
new life the dead receive,
the mournful broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.

5 Hear him, ye deaf; ye voiceless ones,
your loosened tongues employ;
ye blind behold, your Savior comes;
and leap, ye lame for joy!

6 Glory to God and praise and love
be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above,
the Church in earth and heaven.

The Celebrant says

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

People *And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.*
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*

The Gloria

*Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.*

*Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.*

*Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.*

*For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

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 anymore, 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
People *Thanks be to God*

Psalm 111

1 Alleluia!

I will give thanks to you, O God, with my whole heart, *
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

2 Great are your deeds, O God; *
they are studied by all who delight in them.

3 Your work is full of majesty and splendor, *
and your righteousness endures for ever.

4 You make your marvelous works to be remembered; *
you are gracious and full of compassion.

5 You give food to those who fear you; *
you are ever mindful of your covenant.

6 You have shown your people the power of your works *
in giving them the lands of the nations.

7 The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice; *
all your commandments are sure.

8 They stand fast for ever and ever, *
because they are done in truth and equity.

9 You sent redemption to your people;
you commanded your covenant for ever; *
holy and awesome is your Name.

10 The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom; *
those who act accordingly have a good understanding;
God's praise endures for ever.

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Now concerning food sacrificed 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
People *Thanks be to God*

Hymn 371

Thou, whose almighty word

1 Thou, whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard,
and took their flight;
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the Gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light!

2 Thou who didst come to bring
on thy redeeming wing
healing and sight,
health to the sick in mind,
sight to the in-ly blind:
now to all humankind
let there be light!

3 Spirit of truth and love,
life giving, holy dove,
Speed forth thy flight!
Move on the water's face
bearing the gifts of grace
and, in earth's darkest place,
let there be light!

4 Holy and blessed Three,
glorious Trinity,
wisdom, love, might;
boundless as ocean's tide,
rolling in fullest pride,
through the world, far and wide,
let there be light!

The Holy Gospel of our Savior, Jesus Christ according
To Mark.

People *Glory to you, Lord Christ*

Mark 1:21-28

They 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.
People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

The Sermon

The Rev. Nancy L. Threadgill

As the Gospel of Mark moves right along, we have heard of Jesus calling disciples to his side by simply saying "Follow me". Now we hear of Jesus teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum and the people who heard him speak are amazed at his manner. They recognize that he is speaking with the authority of God. Then Jesus casts out a demon and the people see even more evidence of Jesus' authority. They look in wonder at his ability to command unclean spirits and, even more important, those spirits obey him! The demon in this case even says "I know who you are, the Holy One of God."

Immediately upon leaving the synagogue that day, the people went out and starting talking among themselves about this stranger who taught them with such authority and even cast out demons. Mark tells us that his fame began to spread throughout Galilee. In those days it would have taken days or weeks for this knowledge to be spread about. Can you imagine what that would be like today? Even before leaving the synagogue, the news would be spread using smart phones and tablets and repeated instantaneously via Facebook, twitter

and other social media. It would be picked up by news feeds around the world. The information would be fact checked and many would believe it and many would not. The person from whom the unclean spirit had been cast would be interviewed over and over again. The unclean spirit would be searched for and interviewed, if found. I shutter to even think about it.

Would this information about Jesus be used for good or for evil? Would his authority be recognized at face value or would it be questioned until the story is blown way out of proportion? Would we take Jesus at face value today or not? I think it takes faith to answer that question. Stay tuned.

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.*

The Prayers of the People

Form V

Deacon or other leader

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy"

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, for Dorsey, our own Bishop, for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who do not yet believe, and for those who have lost their faith, that they may receive the light of the Gospel, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those in positions of public trust especially Joe, our president, and Tom, our governor, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who live and work in this community [especially _____], we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For a blessing upon all human labor, and for the right use of the riches of creation, that the world may be freed from poverty, famine, and disaster, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this congregation for those who are present, and for those who are absent, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our enemies and those who wish us harm, and for all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For ourselves; for the forgiveness of our sins, and for the grace of the Holy Spirit to amend our lives, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For _____, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, blessed St. Mark and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

To you, O Lord our God.

Silence

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

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.*

The Priest, stands and says

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

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People *And also with you.*

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

The Holy Communion

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty. For everything in heaven and on earth is yours. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom, and you are exalted as head over all.

1 Chronicles 29:11

Hymn 380

From all that dwell below the skies

1 From all that dwell below the skies,
let the Creator's praise arise;
Let the Redeemer's name be sung,
Through every land, by every tongue!

2 Eternal are thy mercies, Lord;
and truth eternal is thy word;
thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,
till suns shall rise and set no more.

3 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise him above, you heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

All things come from you, O God, and of your own have we given you. *Amen.*

Eucharistic Prayer B

The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant 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.*

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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

Celebrant and People

*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Then the Celebrant continues

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 him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, 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 Lord 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 he 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 Father,

Celebrant and People

*We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;*

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord 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 to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, 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 [_____ and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

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

As our Savior Christ
has taught us,
we now pray,

People and Celebrant

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.*

*Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.*

Give us this day our daily bread. Give us today our daily bread.

*And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.*

*Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.*

*And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.*

*Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.*

*For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.*

*For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.*

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

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

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

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.

For those unable or unwilling to receive the physical Communion at
this time please pray the following with me:

*My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed
Sacrament of the Altar. I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving as
I proclaim your resurrection. I love you above all things, and long for
you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your
Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and
strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be
separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in
the life to come. Amen*

Communion Hymn 567 **Thine arm, O Lord in days of old**

1 Thine arm, O Lord, in days of old
was strong to heal and save;
it triumphed o'er disease and death,
o'er darkness and the grave.
To thee they went, the blind, the deaf,
the palsied, and the lame,
the leper set apart and shunned,
the sick with fevered frame.

2 And lo! thy touch brought life and health,
gave hearing, strength, and sight;
and youth renewed and frenzy calmed
owned thee, the Lord of light;

and now, O Lord, be near to bless,
almighty as of yore,
in crowded street, by restless couch,
as by Genesaret's shore.

3 Be thou our great deliverer still,
thou Lord of life and death;
restore and quicken, soothe and bless,
with thine almighty breath:
to hands that work and eyes that see,
give wisdom's heavenly lore,
that whole and sick, and weak and strong,
may praise thee evermore.

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

*Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son 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 Lord. Amen.*

Blessing

May the peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts
and minds in the knowledge of God and of God's son Jesus Christ, our
Lord, and the blessing of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you
now and always. Amen.

Hymn 530

Spread, O spread thou mighty word

1 Spread, O spread, thou mighty word,
spread the kingdom of the Lord,
that to earth's remotest bound
all may heed the joyful sound.

2 word of how the Father's will
made the world, and keeps it still;
how his only Son he gave
earth from sin and death to save.

3 word of how the Savior's love,
earth's sore burden doth remove;
how forever, in its need
through his death the world is freed;

4 word of how the Spirit came
bringing peace in Jesus' name;
how his never failing love
guides us on to heaven above.

5 Word of life, most pure and strong,
word for which the nations long,
spread abroad, until from night
all the world awakes to light.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

From *Book of Common Prayer 1979*
Hymns from *Hymnal 1982*

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

The Nominating and Transition Committees
searching for our ninth Bishop

Altar Candles Given to the Greater Glory of God

In Loving Memory of
Roberta "Bobbie" Clawson
6th Anniversary
January 31st
From sister, Bonnie Murray

Altar Flowers Given to the Greater Glory of God

As A Loving Birthday Remembrance
January 31st
for
The Rev. Charles P. Martin
Perpetual Flowers

Next Week's Readings

Isaiah 40:21-31
1 Corinthians 9:24-27
Mark 1: 29-39
Psalm 147:1-12, 21c

*Sharing Christ's love unconditionally through transformational
worship and service.*