

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Religious Life Sunday

January 22, 2023 10:00 a.m.

Holy Eucharist Rite II

THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn 537 Christ for the world we sing

1 Christ for the world we sing!
The world to Christ we bring
with loving zeal;
the poor and them that mourn,
the faint and overborne,
sin-sick and sorrow-worn,
whom Christ doth heal.

2 Christ for the world we sing!
The world to Christ we bring
with fervent prayer;
the wayward and the lost,
by restless passions tossed,
redeemed at countless cost,
from dark despair.

3 Christ for the world we sing!
The world to Christ we bring
with one accord;
with us the work to share,
with us reproach to dare,
with us the cross to bear,
for Christ our Lord.

4 Christ for the world we sing!
The world to Christ we bring
with joyful song;
the newborn souls, whose days,
reclaimed from error's ways,
inspired with hope and praise,
to Christ belong.

Celebrant 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.

The Celebrant says the Collect.

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.*

The Lessons

A Reading from Isaiah 49: 9:1-4

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

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

Psalm 27:1, 5-13 *Dominus illuminatio*

- 1 God is my light and my salvation;
whom then shall I fear? *
God is the strength of my life;
of whom then shall I be afraid?
- 5 One thing have I asked of you, O God;
one thing I seek: *
that I may dwell in your house all the days
of my life;
- 6 To behold your fair beauty, O God *
and to seek you in your temple.
- 7 For in the day of trouble you shall keep me safe
in your shelter; *
you shall hide me in the secrecy of your dwelling
and set me high upon a rock.
- 8 Even now you lift up my head *
above my enemies round about me.
- 9 Therefore I will offer in your dwelling an oblation
with sounds of great gladness; *
I will sing and make music to you.
- 10 Harken to my voice, O Most High, when I call; *
have mercy on me and answer me.
- 11 You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." *
Your face, O God, will I seek.
- 12 Hide not your face from me, *
nor turn away your servant in displeasure.

13 You have been my helper;
cast me not away; *
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.

A Reading from 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.)

For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Hymn 126 The people who in darkness walked

1. The people who in darkness walked
have seen a glorious light;

on them broke forth the heavenly dawn
who dwelt in death and night.

2. To hail thy rising, Sun of life,
the gathering nations come,
joyous as when reapers bear
their harvest treasures home.

3. To us the promised Child is born,
to us the Son is given;
him shall the tribes of earth obey,
and all the hosts of heaven.

4. His name shall be the Prince of Peace
for evermore adored,
the Wonderful, the Counsellor,
the mighty God and Lord.

5. His power increasing still shall spread,
his reign no end shall know;
justice shall guard his throne above,
and peace abound below.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Matthew 4:12-23

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great

light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

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

The Sermon **The Reverend Nancy L. Threadgill**

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.
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 IV

Deacon or other leader

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name
may be united in your truth, live together in your love,
and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the
ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another
and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation,
that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others
and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant
that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he
loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or
spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and
bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that
your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that
we may share with all your saints in your eternal
kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Collect For Monastic Orders and Vocations

O Lord Jesus Christ, you became poor for our sake, that we might be made rich through your poverty: Guide and sanctify, we pray, those whom you call to follow you under the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, that by their prayer and service they may enrich your Church, and by their life and worship may glorify your Name; for you reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Confession of Sin

Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
Hebrews 4:14,16

The Celebrant says

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 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

The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

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

THE HOLY COMMUNION

I appeal to you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. *Romans 12:1*

Anthem

Choir and Organist

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

*The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them
and says*

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 him 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.

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become

subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, In this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people The Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also

that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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,

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.*

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread.

A period of silence is kept.

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

*Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.*

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

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following instruction.

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 to receive the physical Communion at this time please pray the following with us:

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.

Hymn LEVAS 151 One bread, one body

Refrain

One bread, one body
one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless
And we, though many throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.

1. Gentile or Jew,
servant or free
woman or man,
no more.

[Refrain]

2. Many the gifts,
many the works,
one in the Lord,
of all.

[Refrain]

3. Grain for the fields,
scattered and grown,
gathered to one
for all.

[Refrain]

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

*Almighty and ever living God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.*

The Blessing

The peace of God, which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love
of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the
blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the
Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you 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.

Alleluia. Let us bless the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God. Alleluia.*

From *Book of Common Prayer 1979*
Hymns from *Hymnal 1982* and *Lift Every Voice and Sing II*
Psalm from *The Saint Helena Psalter 2004*

If you would like to support the ministries of St. Mark's, please go to the "Donate" page of our website (<https://saintmarksjohnstown.com/give-to-support-st-marks-and-its-ministries/>) to see the many ways that you can contribute and make your donation by Paypal or credit card. Pledge payments also can be made online through the "Donate" page.

Special Parish Meeting

We will have a brief parish meeting today in the Fellowship Hall following this worship service. We will elect a lay deputy and two alternate deputies to the Diocesan Convention, review the proposed budget for calendar year 2023, and vote on the allocation of funds from St. Mark's Trust Funds. Please attend either in-person or via Zoom.

Annual Stewardship Campaign

Our stewardship campaign is underway. If you have not received a stewardship letter and pledge card for 2023, please request one at the Parish Office or go to our website <https://stmarksjohnstown.files.wordpress.com/2023/01/pledge-card-for-year-2023.pdf> Please return your completed pledge card as soon as possible.

Religious Life Sunday

Are you seeking to deepen your relationship with God and to center your life on Jesus Christ? Are you longing for companionship along the way? Episcopalians living under vows (monks, nuns, sisters, brothers, friars) provide guidance, community, and resources for the sacred journey. We invite you to celebrate Religious Life Sunday and to learn more about the spiritual support that we offer.

What is "Religious Life Sunday"?

The General Convention of The Episcopal Church approved resolution 2022-B004, "Foundation of Religious Life Sunday,"

to be held each year on the 3rd Sunday of Epiphany. This Sunday focuses efforts to tell all Episcopalians that residential monastic and dispersed Christian communities exist, who we are, and how to connect with us.

What are the "religious" communities in The Episcopal Church?

Religious communities in The Episcopal Church include monastic communities, whose members live together under a rule of life and under vows such as poverty, chastity, and obedience. "Religious life" also includes dispersed Christian communities whose members are from all walks of life, who have jobs, who live in their own homes, some with families, and who live under religious vows.

What can religious life do for me and for my faith journey?

We have developed traditions and practices that assist in developing spiritual growth and discernment. We teach about prayer practices, lead retreats, give spiritual direction, assist in writing and living a rule of life, give presentations about the spiritual journey, and provide spiritual friendship. Many of our monastic communities offer hospitality for short visits or longer retreats. *Religiouslifesunday.org* includes resources, a video, a list of speakers, and much more.

You may perceive a call to a deeper commitment with one community, as an associate or oblate. Such commitments begin with discernment and preparation, followed by a formal service of commitment. Associates and oblates pray for the members of the community, as we also pray for them, and may offer financial support, commit to a rule of life, and attend retreats. You or someone you know may be experiencing a call to join a community; we welcome the opportunity to discern with you.

How can I connect with an Episcopal religious community?

Residential monastic communities: *caroa.net*.

Dispersed Christian communities: *naecc.net*.

More resources: *religiouslifesunday.org*.

Join webinars on racial reconciliation work of the Moravian and Episcopal churches

“Past Reckoning: Exploring the Racial History of the Moravian and Episcopal Churches,” a webinar series presented by the [Moravian-Episcopal Coordinating Committee](#) Racial Reconciliation Working Group, examines racial histories of the two churches and how new methods for racial reconciliation are working in ecumenical contexts.

All webinars will be on Wednesdays, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Eastern.

- Jan. 25: Evangelizing Enslaved People: Good News or Control?
- Feb. 1: The Silent Protest Parade: Responses to Racial Violence and Black Leadership in the Church
- Feb. 8: The Church and the City: Integration, Segregation, and White Flight

Each webinar includes a pre-recorded segment focusing on the specific historic topic, followed by discussion between the working group and two panelists that expands the focus and connects it to the present, and a Q&A with participants.

To register click https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_VMBE-wMoSp6DroQO9-1MjQ?mc_cid=e34a759d65&mc_eid=0cfad2f84a

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

Non-parochial clergy, including the Rev. Simon Barnes, the Rev. Mabel Fanguy, and the Rev. Daniel Hall, M.D.

Altar Flowers Given to the Greater Glory of God

No Flower Listing for this Week

Next Week's Readings

Micah 6:1-8

Psalm 15

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12

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