

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

The Last Sunday after the Epiphany

Sunday, February 14, 2021 at 11am

Livestreamed worship available at [facebook.com/stpaulsnorwalk/videos](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsnorwalk/videos).

St. Paul's on the Green | 60 East Avenue, Norwalk, Connecticut 06851

THE GATHERING RITE

Gathering Music *Prelude on "Wareham"* by Henry Coleman (1888-1965)

The Opening Acclamation

The people's responses are in bold.

Blessed be God, who is the light of the world.

**Blessed is the One who scatters the darkness before us,
that we may walk in newness of life.**

O God of love, you are the true sun of the world, evermore risen and never going down: We pray you to shine in our hearts and drive away the darkness of sin and the mist of error. We pray that we may this day and all our lives long, walk without stumbling in the way you have prepared for us, Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God in glory everlasting. **Amen.** —Erasmus of Rotterdam, 15th c.

Song of Praise

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to God's 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.

setting: Robert Powell (b. 1932)
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The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Upon a high mountain, O God of majestic glory, you revealed Jesus in the mystery of his transfiguration as your Son, the Beloved, to whom we must listen. By the word of his gospel, shining for ever as a light in the darkness, give us hope in the midst of suffering and faith to perceive, even in the passion and cross, the glory of the risen Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Lesson *2 Kings 2:1-12*

When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

The Response *sung by the choir*

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true and only Light,
Sun of righteousness, arise!
Triumph o'er the shade of night:
Day-spring from on high, be near;
Day-star, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn
unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return,
till thy mercy's beams I see,
till they inward light impart,
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine!
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief!
Fill me, Radiance Divine;
scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display,
shining to the perfect day. Amen.

words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)
music: T. Frederick H. Candlyn (1892-1964)

The Gospel *Mark 9:2-9*

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

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

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

The Sermon *The Rev. Daniel Simons, Priest-in-charge*

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

The Creed and Baptismal Covenant

Creed is translated "I believe" though it is rooted in an ancient word for heart, and carries the sense "I give my heart to." Ours is more than a statement of mental or doctrinal belief; this is an invitation to embrace the mystery of divinity in all things, the flow of the Trinity's self-giving love at the heart of all creation.

In Epiphanytide this year we will use the Church's earliest creed, the Apostles Creed, which was used in the primitive church especially at baptisms, as it still is today. As part of our weekly credal statement we will include the baptismal promises that follow it in the prayer book, which articulate our intention to live our lives following the way of Jesus.

As we renew this covenant during the six weeks of Epiphanytide, allow it to lead you more deeply into your own self offering, and ponder specific ways God may be calling you into further action through this renewal.

The Celebrant says

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

I will, with God's help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

I will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

I will, with God's help.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

I will, with God's help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

I will, with God's help.

Will you cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect the beauty and integrity of all creation?

I will, with God's help.

The Prayers of the People

Our version of the Prayers of the People this week is adapted from Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Commitment Card" for the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights.

The intercessor says

Grant, Almighty God, that we be united in your truth, as we walk and talk in the manner of love; for God is love.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, that we may honor one another and serve the common good, observe with both friend and foe the ordinary rules of courtesy and sacrifice personal wishes as our lives are used by You so that all may be free.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Guide us as we strive to be in good spiritual and bodily health and comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

For those who rest in the peace of Christ, and for all the departed.

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; eradicate the violence of fist, tongue, or heart; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. Bring to mind always that the non-violent movement seeks justice and reconciliation — not victory.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

The people add their own prayers aloud, silently, or via a Facebook comment.

The Celebrant concludes the prayers with a Collect.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Please share the peace wherever you are: with a comment posted on Facebook, a bow to those nearby, or some other distanced gesture of peace.

The Announcements available at stpaulsnorwalk.org/sundaymorning

GIVING TO ST. PAUL'S

Now more than ever, the work and mission of St. Paul's depend on the generous support of its friends and members.

Please consider making an offering to St. Paul's by credit card. Visit stpaulsnorwalk.org/givebycard, or use the QR code to the right.

For other means of giving, visit stpaulsnorwalk.org/donate.

Thank you for your generous support!



THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

The Offertory

The Altar-Table is prepared with gifts of bread and wine for Communion. During this time, give thanks for all the ways God blesses you, and consider ways you can extend that blessing to others. Learn more ways to give in the "Giving to St. Paul's" box above.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. Your light has shone throughout the world and brought all nations to feast at your Table. Daily we are baptized into new life; daily we see your miracles among us. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus and Benedictus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow - er and might, — hea - ven and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

setting: Calvin Hampton (1938-1984)
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The Celebrant continues

Blessed are you, for the birth of creation. Blessed are you, in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you, for the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you, for signs and wonders we see of your work in the world. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our brother Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

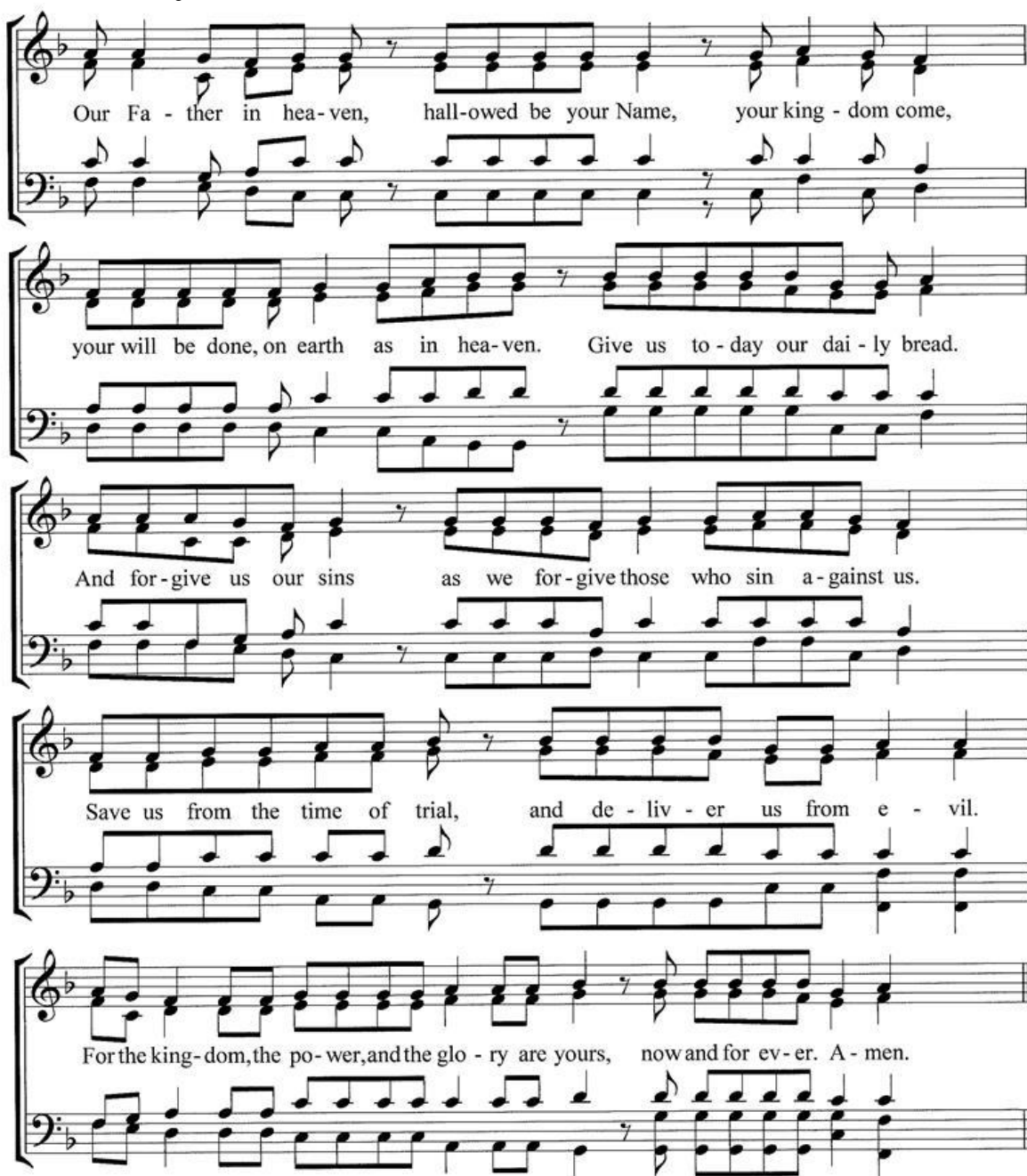
Christ will come in glory.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word, dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We rejoice in the miracle of God-with-us.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us and bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people; fill us with your light. Bring us the gift of peace on earth.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, One God, now and forever. AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer



Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hall - owed be your Name, your king - dom come,
your will be done, on earth as in hea - ven. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.
And for - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.
Save us from the time of trial, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.
For the king - dom, the po - wer, and the glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er. A - men.

setting: Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov (1844-1908); adapted.

The Communion

Bread of life, nourish our souls.

Light of the world, shine in our hearts.

Hymn at the Communion



1 Christ up - on the moun - tain peak stands a - lone in
 2 Trem - bling at his feet we saw Mo - ses and E -
 3 Swift the cloud of glo - ry came. God pro - claim - ing
 4 This is God's be - lov - ed Son! Law and pro - phets

glo - ry blaz - ing; let us, if we dare to speak,
 li - jah speak - ing. All the pro - phets and the Law
 in its thun - der Je - sus as his Son by name!
 fade be - fore him; first and last and on - ly One,

with the saints and an - gels praise him. Al - le - lu - ia!
 shout through them their joy - ful greet - ing. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Na - tions cry a - loud in won - der! Al - le - lu - ia!
 let cre - a - tion now a - dore him! Al - le - lu - ia!

words: Brian A. Wren (b. 1936)
 music: *Mowsley*, Cyril Vincent Taylor (1907–1991)
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After a period of silent reflection, all pray the following prayer together

O God, in love you have called us out of darkness into light, and in love we have shared this holy meal. By it, rekindle the flame of your love in our hearts, and may its light guide us on our journey and shine out in our lives, now and forever. AMEN.

THE SENDING RITE

The Blessing and Dismissal

The Light of Christ be in our hearts: the small light that becomes a burning flame; the warm light that grows into a great love; the bright light that leads us on our way.

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

Let us go forth into the world to share the light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude *Larghetto – Allegro moderato* by Kristian Geissler (1802-1869)

THE WORSHIP IS OVER. THE SERVICE BEGINS.

[Click here](#) to join in small group conversation and catching up on Zoom!

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