

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

The First Sunday after the Epiphany

Sunday, January 10, 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 *Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam* by Dieterich Buxtehude (c. 1637-1707)

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.

God of salvation, in the river Jordan you bathed your Son Jesus in glory and revealed him as your obedient servant. In spirit and in power rend the heavens and come down to us. Strengthen us to acknowledge your Christ, that we who are reborn in his likeness may walk with him the path of obedience. Grant this through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in the splendor of eternal light, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Lesson *Genesis 1:1-5*

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

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

Thanks be to God.

The Response *sung by the choir*

Jesus autem hodie regressus est a Jordane. (Today Jesus emerges from the Jordan.)

When Jesus Christ baptized was,
the Holy Ghost descended with grace;
the Father's voice was heard in the place:

Hic est filius meus, ipsum intende. (This is my Son, listen to him.)

There were Three Persons and one Lord,
the Son baptized with one accord,
the Father said this blessed word:

Hic est filius meus, ipsum intende. (This is my Son, listen to him.)

Now, Jesus, as thou art both God and man,
and were baptized in from Jordan,
at our last end, we pray thee, say then:

Hic est filius meus, ipsum intende. (This is my Son, listen to him.)

words: medieval text
music: Peter Hallock (b. 1924)

The Gospel *Mark 1:4-11*

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

Glory to you, O Christ.

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

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.

The Prayers of the People

The intercessor says

Let us pray.

Deliver us, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Open our hearts to your grace and truth.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Fill us with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Keep us in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Teach us to love others in the power of the Spirit.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Send us into the world in witness to your love.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Bring us to the fullness of your peace and glory.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for the special concerns of this community.

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

The Celebrant concludes

Grant, O Lord, that we who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and walk in newness of life; who lives and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

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 on the previous page.

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.

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 - o - wed 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 Crash - ing wa - ters at cre - a - tion, or - dered by the Spir - it's breath,
2 Part - ing wa - ter stood and trem - bled as the cap - tives passed on through,
3 Cleans - ing wa - ter once at Jor - dan closed a - round the one fore - told,
4 Liv - ing wa - ter, nev - er end - ing, quench the thirst and flood the soul.

first to wit - ness day's be - gin - ning from the bright - ness of night's death.
wash - ing off the chains of bond - age—chan - nel to a life made new.
o - pened to re - veal the glo - ry ev - er new and ev - er old.
Well - spring, source of life e - ter - nal, drench our dry - ness, make us whole.

words: Sylvia Dunstan (1955-1993)
music: *Stuttgart*, attr. Christian F. Witt (1660-1716); adapt. Henry Gauntlett (1805-1876)
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After a period of silent reflection the Celebrant prays the following

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 *Prelude on "Caithness" by Healey Willan (1880-1968)*

THE WORSHIP IS OVER. THE SERVICE BEGINS.

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

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