

## **The Holy Eucharist: Rite II**

**February 1, 2026 – The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**  
**St. James Episcopal Church, Woodstock, Vermont**

Prelude: *Allegro* - Thomas Arne  
Dr. James E. Lorenz, Director of Music

### **Hymn 542 Christ Is the World's True Light**

*St. Joan*

1. Christ is the world's true Light,  
its Captain of salvation,  
the Day star clear and bright  
of every race and nation;  
new life, new hope awakes,  
for all who own his sway:  
freedom her bondage breaks,  
and night is turned to day.

2. In Christ all races meet,  
their ancient feuds forgetting,  
the whole round world complete,  
from sunrise to its setting:  
when Christ is throned as Lord  
all shall forsake their fear,  
to plough share beat the sword,  
to pruning hook the spear.

3. One Lord, in one great Name  
unite us all who own thee;  
cast out our pride and shame  
that hinder to enthrone thee;  
the world has waited long,  
has travailed long in pain;  
to heal its ancient wrong,  
come, Prince of Peace, and reign.

### **The Word of God**

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
*People* And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

*The Celebrant may say*

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.

### *Gloria in Excelsis (S280, *The Hymnal 1982*)*

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*

**People**  
**Celebrant**      The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
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.

*People*      Amen.

## First Lesson: Micah 6:1-8

Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth;  
for the LORD has a controversy with his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,  
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;  
and I sent before you Moses,  
Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,  
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,  
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

“With what shall I come before the Lord,  
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,  
with calves a year old?

Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?

## Psalm 15 (BCP, page 599)

- 1 LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? \*  
who may abide upon your holy hill?
- 2 Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, \*  
who speaks the truth from his heart.
- 3 There is no guile upon his tongue;  
he does no evil to his friend; \*  
he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.

- 4 In his sight the wicked is rejected, \*  
but he honors those who fear the LORD.
- 5 He has sworn to do no wrong \*  
and does not take back his word.
- 6 He does not give his money in hope of gain, \*  
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.
- 7 Whoever does these things \*  
shall never be overthrown.

### **Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

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. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

### **Sequence Hymn 656 Blest Are the Pure in Heart**

*Franconia*

1. Blest are the pure in heart,  
for they shall see their God;

the secret of the Lord is theirs,  
their soul is Christ's abode.

2. The Lord, who left the heavens  
our life and peace to bring,  
to dwell in lowliness with us,  
our pattern and our king,

3. he to the lowly soul  
will still himself impart

and for his dwelling and his throne  
will choose the pure in heart.

4. Lord, we your presence seek;  
may ours this blessing be;  
give us a pure and lowly heart,  
a temple fit for thee.

## The Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

*Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying*

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

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

## The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **The Sermon: The Rev. Amy Spagna**

## **The Nicene Creed (BCP, page 358)**

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 II (BCP, page 385)**

*In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.*

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishop, Shannon; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.  
Pray for the Church.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.

Pray for justice and peace.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.  
Pray for those in any need or trouble.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of God.  
Pray that they may find and be found by God.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for the departed [especially \_\_\_\_\_],  
Pray for those who have died.

*Silence*

*Members of the congregation may ask the prayers or the thanksgivings of those present*

I ask your prayers for \_\_\_\_\_.

I ask your thanksgiving for \_\_\_\_\_.

*Silence*

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored [especially \_\_\_\_\_ whom we remember today].

Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

*Silence*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

**Confession of Sin (BCP, page 360)**

*The Deacon or 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 Peace**

*All stand. The Celebrant says to the people*

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

### **The Holy Communion**

**Offertory Hymn 593 Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace**

**Dickinson College**

1. Lord, make us servants of your peace:  
where there is hate, may we sow love;  
where there is hurt, may we forgive;  
where there is strife, may we make one.
2. Where all is doubt, may we sow faith;  
where all is gloom, may we sow hope;  
where all is night, may we sow light;  
where all is tears, may we sow joy.
3. Jesus, our Lord, may we not seek  
to be consoled, but to console,  
nor look to understanding hearts,

- but look for hearts to understand.
4. May we not look for love's return,  
but seek to love unselfishly,  
for in our giving we receive,  
and in forgiving are forgiven.
5. Dying, we live, and are reborn  
through death's dark night to endless  
day;  
Lord, make us servants of your peace,  
to wake at last in heaven's light.

### **The Doxology: Hymn 380, vs. 3 (*Old 100<sup>th</sup>*)**

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

praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

**The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B**

**BCP, page 367**

*The People remain standing. The Celebrant sings or says*

Celebrant: 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 our thanks and praise.**

*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:

**Sanctus (S125, *The Hymnal 1982*)**

**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. 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 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 forever. **AMEN.**

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

*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.  
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,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
**People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

### **Agnus Dei (S163, *The Hymnal 1982*)**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

### **The Invitation to Holy Communion**

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*and may add*      Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him  
in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*Those unable to receive communion in person today are invited to say the following  
Prayer of Spiritual Communion.*

*In union, blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where  
your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, and remembering particularly my own  
parish and those worshiping there, I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving, for  
creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life,  
death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory.*

*And particularly for the blessings given me.... I believe that you are truly present in the  
Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come  
into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and  
my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your  
grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.*

(SOURCE:  
<https://news.forwardmovement.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Spiritual-Communion.pdf>  
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## Postcommunion Prayer (BCP, page 365)

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

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.**

*The Bishop when present, or the Priest, may bless the people*

### Hymn 477 All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine

*Engelberg*

1. All praise to thee,  
for thou, O King divine,  
didst yield the glory  
that of right was thine,  
that in our darkened hearts  
thy grace might shine.  
Alleluia!

2. Thou cam'st to us  
in lowliness of thought;  
by thee the outcast  
and the poor were sought;  
and by thy death  
was God's salvation wrought.  
Alleluia!

3. Let this mind be in  
us which was in thee,  
who wast a servant  
that we might be free,

humbling thyself  
to death on Calvary.  
Alleluia!

4. Wherefore, by God's  
eternal purpose, thou  
art high exalted  
o'er all creatures now,  
and given the Name  
to which all knees shall bow.  
Alleluia!

5. Let every tongue  
confess with one accord  
in heaven and earth  
that Jesus Christ is Lord;  
and God the Father  
be by all adored.  
Alleluia! Amen.

*The Deacon, or the Celebrant, dismisses them with these words*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**People    Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: *Engelberg* - Craig Phillips  
Dr. James E. Lorenz, Director of Music