

THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II — 10:15 A.M.
SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Welcome to St. John's! We invite you to help create the experience of silence before our service. Our hope is to calm our hearts as we prepare to enter into an intensity of shared presence. To ensure newcomers feel welcomed, position prompts are provided throughout our bulletins. If standing or kneeling is uncomfortable for you, please know it is fine to remain seated.

Prelude **Voluntary VII in E Flat**
I. Largo

S. Wesley

All rise at the sound of the church bell.

Hymn 493, standing **O for a thousand tongues to sing**

AZMON

Presider Blessed are you, holy and living One.

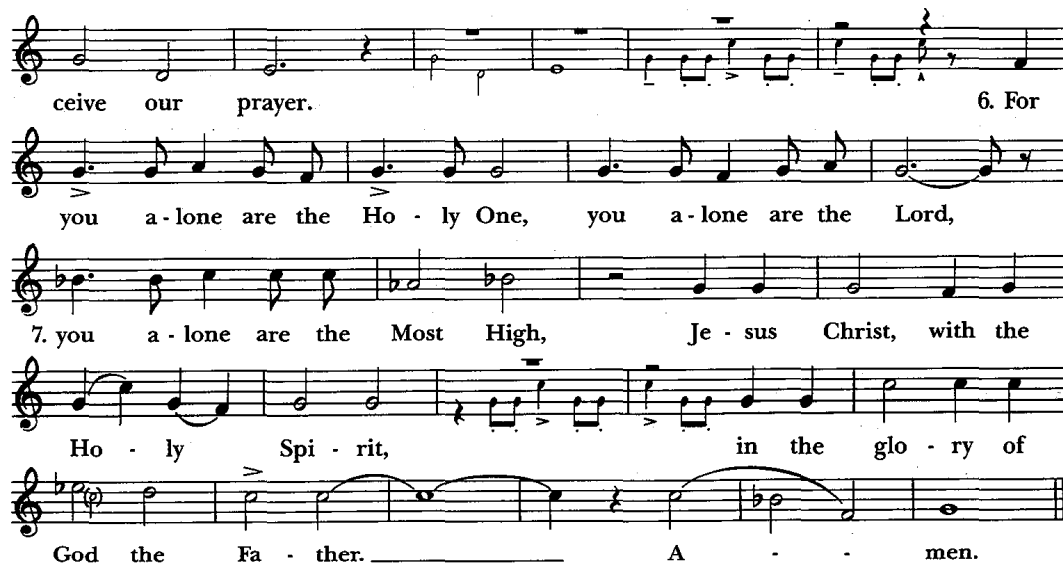
People **You come to your people and set them free.**

Presider 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.**

Glory to God S-278 *Gloria in excelsis*

W. Mathias

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



Setting: William Mathias (b. 1934)

The Collect of the Day

Presider God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Presider 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 LITURGY OF THE WORD

You may be seated.

The 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?

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

- 1 Hallelujah!
I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, *
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.
- 2 Great are the deeds of the LORD! *
they are studied by all who delight in them.
- 3 His work is full of majesty and splendor, *
and his righteousness endures for ever.
- 4 He makes his marvelous works to be remembered; *
the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.
- 5 He gives food to those who fear him; *
he is ever mindful of his covenant.
- 6 He has shown his people the power of his works *
in giving them the lands of the nations.
- 7 The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; *
all his commandments are sure.
- 8 They stand fast for ever and ever, *
because they are done in truth and equity.
- 9 He sent redemption to his people;
he commanded his covenant for ever; *
holy and awesome is his Name.
- 10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; *
those who act accordingly have a good understanding;
his praise endures for ever.

The Second Lesson: 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.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 593, standing Lord, make us servants of your peace

DICKINSON COLLEGE

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:21-28, standing

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

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus and his disciples 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.

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Kate E. Wesch

Silence and stillness are kept after the sermon.

The Nicene Creed, standing

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 worshipped 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.

Prayers of the People, *standing*

Intercessor The kingdom of God is near at hand. Let us earnestly call on God for the needs,
 concerns, and hopes of all peoples. For the church of Jesus Christ in every place.
 Lord of Light,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Jeff and Laura our bishops, Kate our priest, and for
 liturgical ministers, and all the baptized who minister in Christ.
 Lord of Light,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor For this holy gathering and for all who are called to follow Jesus.
 Lord of Light,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor For this country, for all nations and their leaders, and for those who guard
 the peace. For ourselves, our families, and those we love.
 Lord of Light,

People **Hear our prayer**

Intercessor For all those in danger and need; the sick and the suffering, the hungry and the
 oppressed, and those in prison. For the special needs and concerns of this congregation,
 especially Charlie Alford, Kathy Arthur, Bill Bevan, Jinny Buracchi, Connie Cliffe, Tony
 Custodio, Roger Deakin, Robert Gabelman, Nancy Gould, Raymond Guarino, Joanne L.,
 Yolanda Lowe, Chris Miller, Marjorie Misch, Caleb Penniman, Dorothy Rider, Barry S.,
 Joan Squelia, and those we now name either silently or aloud.

A period of silence is kept.

Lord of Light,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor We thank you, Lord, for the work of our ministry partners, locally and abroad, and we
 give thanks for the abundant blessings of this life.
 Lord of Light,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor We pray for those who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.
A period of silence is kept.

Lord of Light,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Presider O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Presider Let us confess our sins to God.

The people kneel as able. A moment of reflective silence is kept.

People **God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

Presider Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace, standing

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you!

People **And also with you!**

Then the ministers and people may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Welcome and Announcements

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

Offertory Sentence

Presider Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts.

The congregation's offering for the mission and ministry of the church is received. Please be seated.

Anthem O Savior of the World

J. Goss

O Saviour of the World, who by thy cross and precious blood hast redeemed us. Save us and help us, we humbly beseech Thee, O Lord. Amen

Presentation, standing

The congregation's gifts of bread, wine, and money are presented and placed on the Holy Table. Weekly donations to the Shoreline Pantry are placed before the Altar.

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer 3, Enriching Our Worship

Presider God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

Sanctus

from Deutsche Messe

F. Schubert

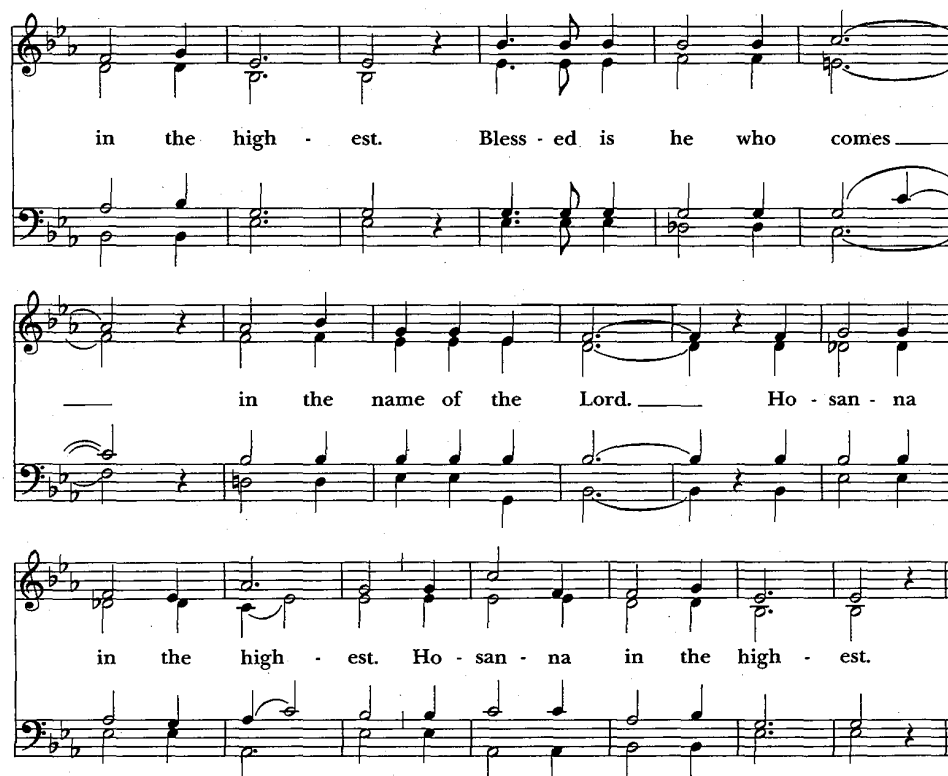
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

might, — Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of power and might, — hea - ven and earth are

full, — full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na



The people stand or kneel, as the Presider continues

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life. Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise. **Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN.**

Presider

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

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

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem *from Deutsche Messe*

F. Schubert

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

The Invitation to Communion

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God. Holy things for holy people.

All seeking God are welcome at Christ's Table to receive Holy Communion or a blessing. For a blessing, place your hands across your chest. Gluten-free bread is available for those requiring it. Please indicate this by holding one arm across your chest. If you are unable to come forward, ask an usher or someone nearby to request that communion be brought to you.

Hymn 339 Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness

SCHMÜCKE DICH

The Prayer after Communion, *standing*

Presider Let us pray.

People **God of abundance,
you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Sending of Eucharistic Visitors, *as requested*

Presider In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

People **We, who are many, are one body, for we all share one bread, one cup.**

Commissioning of Worship Service Ministers

The Presider prompts Worship Service Ministers with new roles to please stand for the Commissioning. The entire worship service ministry team will then be asked to stand and join them.

The Blessing, *standing*

Let us depart from this place in peace, and as we go on our way, forget not those who are poor, pray for those who are sick, make no peace with oppression, and love one another in God as Christ has loved us, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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

ST. MATTHEW

The Dismissal, *standing*

Presider Alleluia. Alleluia. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Postlude Voluntary VII in E Flat

S. Wesley

II. Andante quasi allegretto

Altar Flowers

Today's Altar Flowers are given by Bill Chatman in honor of Sarah Loether's birthday.

Coffee Hour

*You are warmly invited to join us in the Parish Hall for coffee right after the service.
Deborah and Darrell Jones are hosting this Sunday.*

ANNUAL MEETING
Sunday, January 28, 2024 at 9 AM

St. John's Annual Meeting is today, Sunday, January 28, 2024, at 9 AM, and will be held in the church sanctuary. All are welcome. If you missed the meeting, Annual Meeting packets are available to take home and review.

CHORAL EVENSONG
Thursday, February 1 at 7:00 PM

The Saint John's Bible Heritage Edition will be officially received into our parish with all seven volumes present. A festive reception will follow and the entire Bible will be displayed. Bishop Jeff Mello will be in attendance to bless the bibles.

THE REV. SCOTT GUNN VISITS ST. JOHN'S
Sunday, February 11

The weekend of February 10-11, Scott will lead the Vestry Retreat for St. John's. While he is here, Scott will preach at all three services on February 11th as well as lead a forum at 9 AM in the Parish Hall, entitled "Joy in Reading the Old Testament?"

SHROVE TUESDAY
Tuesday, February 13

Intergenerational Ash Wednesday Service — 5:30 PM, *Parish Hall*

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper — 6:00 PM, *Undercroft*

The Occasional Jazz Ensemble Concert — 7 PM, *Church*

CLERGY & PARISH STAFF

The Rev. Kate E. Wesch, *Rector*

kate@stjohnsessex.org / 860-767-8095 x.12

Chelsea DiDonato, *Communications Director & Parish Administrator*

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Anthony Pandolfe Jr., *Director of Music & Organist*

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Allison Fresher, *Liturgical Coordinator & Serving Ministry*

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Mairi Graham-Shaw, *Intern for Liturgy & Preaching*

mairi@stjohnsessex.org

Christina Rutland, *Seminarian Intern*

christina.rutland@yale.edu

Manuel Matute, *Sexton*

Dayle Larson, *Bookkeeper*

VOLUNTEER MINISTRY LEADERS

Nancy Haslam, *Prayer Shawl Ministry*

Marlene Going, *Weekly Food Collection*

Stephanie Patterson, *Altar Guild*

Peggy Tuttle, *Pastoral Care Card Ministry*

Jennifer Miller, *Meal Ministry*

Ernie Brainard, *Candle Master*

Nat Eddy, *Outreach Committee*

Clio Coles, *Rummage Sale*

VOLUNTEER PROFESSIONALS

Bill Scharfenstein, *Building and Grounds*

Greg Perruccio, *Stewardship Chair*

Dave Rogers, *Treasurer*

Clio Coles, *Assistant Treasurer*

SERVING TODAY AT 10:15 AM

Organist & Choir Director
Liturgical Coordinator & Eucharistic Minister
Verger
Ushers & Greeters
Crucifer
Videographer
Lector
Intercessor & Eucharistic Minister
Altar Guild

Counters
Seminarian Intern
Intern for Liturgy & Preaching
Presider & Preacher

Anthony Pandolfe, Jr.
Allison Fresher
Ernie Brainard
Dan and David Evangelisti
Avery Wesch
Ken Ewell
Scott Konrad
Deborah Jones
Allison Fresher &
Rob and Karen van der Horst
Bill Chatman & Brian Fresher
Christina Rutland
Mairi Graham-Shaw
The Rev. Kate E. Wesch

VESTRY Dan Evangelisti, *Warden*; Scott Konrad, *Warden*; Anne Littlefield, *Vestry Clerk*;
Dave Rogers *Treasurer*; Carol Beisser, Nat Eddy, Sandy Loether, Jim Myslik, Stephanie
Patterson, Ellen Pfarr, Patti Pickering, Patricia Pittsinger, Rob van der Horst

WORSHIP & STUDY TIMES

SUNDAYS | Holy Eucharist — 8:00 & 10:15 AM

“Come As You Are” Worship Service — 5 PM

TUESDAYS | Bible Study, *Parish Hall* — 10:00 AM & 5:30 PM

THURSDAYS | Zoom Bible Study — 2:00 PM

WEDNESDAYS | Morning Prayer — 10:00 AM