SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II — 10:15 A.M. SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2025

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 Lobe den Herren, den mächtigen König der Ehren

J.G. Walther (1684 - 1748)

All rise at the sound of the church bell.

Hymn 390, standing Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation LOBE DEN HERREN

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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.

Canticle 13 S-236 Bened

Benedictus es, Domine

J. Rutter





The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

Presider O Lord, you

O Lord, you have taught us that without love whatever we do is worth nothing: Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts your greatest gift, which is love, the true bond of peace and of all virtue, without which whoever lives is accounted dead before you. Grant this for the sake of your only Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

You may be seated.

The First Lesson: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and LORD of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, "Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me LORD of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay.

You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there--since there are five more years of famine to come--so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'"

And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. *People* **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 37:1-12, 41-42 Noli aemulari Sung by the choir.

J. Joubert

- 1 Do not fret yourself because of evildoers; * do not be jealous of those who do wrong.
- 2 For they shall soon wither like the grass, * and like the green grass fade away.
- 3 Put your trust in the LORD and do good; * dwell in the land and feed on its riches.
- 4 Take delight in the LORD, * and he shall give you your heart's desire.
- 5 Commit your way to the LORD and put your trust in him, * and he will bring it to pass.
- 6 He will make your righteousness as clear as the light * and your just dealing as the noonday.
- 7 Be still before the LORD * and wait patiently for him.
- 8 Do not fret yourself over the one who prospers, * the one who succeeds in evil schemes.
- 9 Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; * do not fret yourself; it leads only to evil.
- 10 For evildoers shall be cut off, * but those who wait upon the LORD shall possess the land.
- 11 In a little while the wicked shall be no more; * you shall search out their place, but they will not be there.
- 12 But the lowly shall possess the land; * they will delight in abundance of peace.

41 But the deliverance of the righteous comes from the LORD; * he is their stronghold in time of trouble.

42 The LORD will help them and rescue them; * he will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because they seek refuge in him.

The Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38,42-50

Someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

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

People Thanks be to God.

Hymn 568, standing Father all loving, who rulest in majesty

WAS LEBET

Holy Gospel: Luke 6:27-38, standing

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even

sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Wilbert "Wilk" Miller

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 Form III, standing

BCP 387

Intercessor Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

People That we all may be one.

Intercessor Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

People That your Name may be glorified by all people.

Intercessor We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

People That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

Intercessor We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

People That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Intercessor Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

People That our works may find favor in your sight.

Intercessor Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

People That they may be delivered from their distress.

Intercessor Give to the departed eternal rest;*People* Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Intercessor We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy; People May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Intercessor Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. We especially pray

for Amanda Archangelo, Janet Schuman-Andrew, Jen Benevento, Jinny Buracchi, Bill Chatman, Connie Cliffe, Tony Custodio, Roger Deakin, Sherley Furgueson, Pedro Frigola, Melvin Gillus, Raymond Guarino, Nancy Gould, Mindy Hoffman, Erna Jensen, Ken Kezer, Vicki Morrison, Gianna Porcelli, Marguerite Quigley, Dorothy Rider, Chantal Volcy, Jerry Williams, Kathe Woodside and others whom we name, silently or aloud.

Silence.

Intercessor Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the

prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our

Lord. Amen.

Confession of Sin

Presider Let us confess our sins to God and our neighbors.

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

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.

Presider 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.

Thanksgiving for the Ministry of Allison Fresher

The Peace, standing

Presider The peace of the Lord 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 Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *The congregation's offering for the mission and ministry of the church is received. Please be seated.*

Anthem A New Commandment

R. Shephard (1949 - 2021)

A new commandment I give unto you: that you love one another as I have loved you. By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

Let not your heart be troubled: believe in God, believe also in me.

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 B

Presider The Lord be with you.

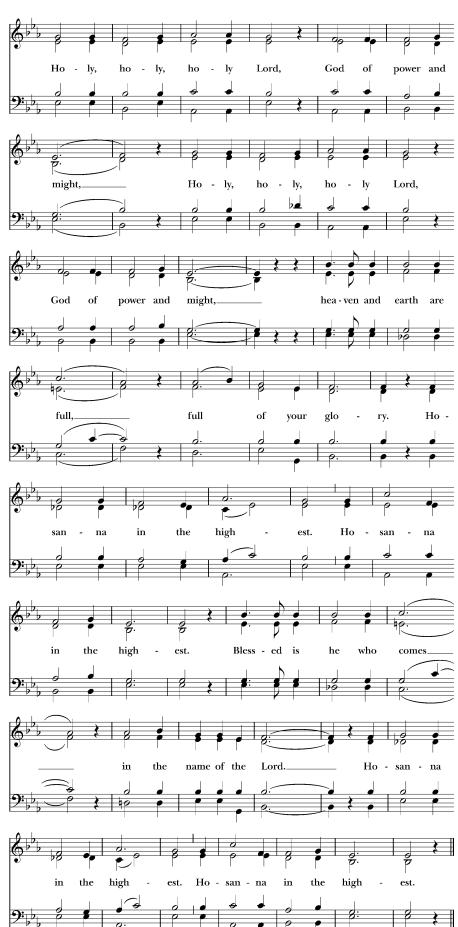
People And also with you.

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 God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every- where 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:



The people stand or kneel, as the Presider 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,

Presider and People

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory.

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 for ever. **AMEN**.

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

The Lord's Prayer, said by all

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.



The Invitation to Communion

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 581 Where charity and love prevail

CHESHIRE

The Prayer after Communion, standing

Presider Let us pray.

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.

Sending of Eucharistic Visitors, as requested

The Blessing, standing

Hymn 657, standing Love divine, all loves excelling

HYFRYDOL

The Dismissal, standing

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

J. D. Payne (b. 1980)

Altar Flowers

The Altar flowers today are given to the Glory to God in thanksgiving for Allison Fresher's ministry.

Coffee Hour

Directly following the service, all are invited to attend coffee hour in the Parish Hall.

CLERGY & PARISH STAFF

The Rev. Carol Gadsden, *Interim Co-Pastor* carol@stjohnsessex.org/860-767-8095 x.12

The Rev. Wilk Miller, *Interim Co-Pastor* wilk@stjohnsessex.org/860-767-8095 x.12

Chelsea DiDonato, Communications Director & Parish Administrator

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Anthony Pandolfe Jr., *Director of Music & Organist* anthony@stjohnsessex.org/ 860.767.8095 x.17

Meghan Wrinn, *Program & Events Coordinator* meghan@stjohnsessex.org

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
Paulette Rider, Outreach Committee
Jan Perruccio, Newcomers Committee

VOLUNTEER PROFESSIONALS

Bill Scharfenstein, Building and Grounds Greg Perruccio, Stewardship Chair John Rogers, Treasurer Clio Coles, Assistant Treasurer Shawn Honan, Investment Oversight Committee

VESTRY Scott Konrad, *Warden*; Sandy Loether, *Warden*; Anne Littlefield, *Vestry Clerk*; John Rogers *Treasurer*; Carol Beisser, Lois Blood Bennett, Tony Custodio, Nat Eddy, Wesley Henry, Stephanie Patterson, Patti Pickering, Rob van der Horst, Kevin Walsh



WORSHIP

SUNDAYS | Holy Eucharist — 8:00 & 10:15 a.m. TUESDAYS | Bible Study — 10:00 a.m. WEDNESDAYS | Midweek Holy Eucharist — 12:00 p.m.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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