

**The Last Sunday after
the Epiphany
Morning Prayer Rite II**
Sunday, February 14, 2021



E. Flake

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Hymn: Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

Sung by all

Opening Sentence

Presider From the rising of the sun to its setting my Name shall be great among the nations, and in every place incense shall be offered to my Name, and a pure offering; for my Name shall be great among the nations, says the Lord of hosts.

Confession of Sin

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and one another.

All **Almighty God, Source of all that is, Giver of every good gift:
You create all people in your image and call us to love one another as you love us.
We confess that we have failed to honor you in the great diversity of the human family. We have desired to live in freedom,
while building walls between ourselves and others.
We have longed to be known and accepted for who we are,
while making judgements of others based on the color of skin, or the shape of features, or the varieties of human experience.
We have tried to love our neighbors individually
while yet benefitting from systems that hold those same neighbors in oppression.
Forgive us, Holy God.
Give us eyes to see you as you are revealed in all people.
Strengthen us for the work of reconciliation rooted in love.
Restore us in your image, to be beloved community,
united in our diversity,
even as you are one with Christ and the Spirit,
Holy and undivided Trinity, now and for ever.
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.

The Invitatory & Psalter

Presider Lord, open our lips.

People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

All **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia!**

Presider The Lord has shown forth his glory: Come let us adore him.

Angels We Have Heard on High

Sung by all

The Psalm of the Day: 50:1-6

Led by Karan Merry

The Lord, the God of gods, has spoken; *
 he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.
Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, *
 God reveals himself in glory.
Our God will come and will not keep silence; *
 before him there is a consuming flame, and round about him a raging storm.
He calls the heavens and the earth from above *
 to witness the judgment of his people.
"Gather before me my loyal followers, *
 those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice."
Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause; *
 for God himself is judge.

All **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

The Lessons

A reading from the second book of Kings

Read by Tom Rigney

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.

The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Hymn

Jesus Calls Us

sung by Motomi Tanaka

A reading from the Gospel of Mark

Read by Laura Tyszka

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 word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Sermon

Deacon John Musco

Canticle 11

The Third Song of Isaiah

sung by Motomi Tanaka

The Apostles Creed

said in unison

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

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.
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. Amen.**

The Offertory

We give thanks to God for all we have and all we are. You can give securely online here:

<https://onrealm.org/holyapostles/give/website>

Doxology

Sung by all

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise him all creatures here below,
Praise him above ye heav'nly hosts,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

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

The Lord's Prayer LEVAS-264

Sung by all

**Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed by 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

The Prayers

Led by Janet Kaplan

God of wonder and mystery,
God of the stars and the universe,
God of winding ways and straight paths,
we gather today with gratitude for the gift of your constant presence, your trustworthy guidance,
and your daring risk-taking with us.

You dare to love us despite our inability to respond fully.
You dare to care for us, despite our challenge in caring for others.
You dare to walk with us, despite our fickleness.

On our own journeys toward the stars and guiding points you put before us, you continue to lead us forward, guiding us by the teachings of Jesus to seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly in your loving shadow.

As we struggle with the political wrangling of this world, the wars waged for both justice and greed, the violence committed daily against the innocent, let alone the pain of broken relationships and loss, you remain steadfast in your care and devotion for your entire creation throughout the universe.

It is almost too much to take in sometimes.
And even in our doubts and disbelief, our struggle to understand and constant misunderstanding,
and our flat-out ignorance about your ways, you remain constantly present to us.

We pray for peace in this world, Lord, the kind of peace in which we celebrate diversity, are joyfully challenged by adversity, and share in the joy that is to be found everywhere.

We pray for those who are lonely,
that you might lead us to reach out and be friends.

We pray for those who are hungry,
that you might lead us to offer sustenance.

We pray for those who are lost,
that you might lead us to give hope and direction.

We pray for those all who have died, that you will receive them into your loving arms, and comfort all who mourn for their loved ones.

We pray for the countries of the world,
that we might find a way to work together to lift one another up.

We pray for our leaders in Washington, that your Spirit might guide them set an example for our country and the world to work together rather than against one another.

We pray for our country, that we may seek the places where we share commonality and seek to repair the divisions that are tearing us apart.

And we pray for ourselves, that we might continue on this journey, learning the lessons you offer, seeking the fullness of your perfection, and live as you would have us live.

Dear people of God, what else, and who else, should we pray for?

*** Please give silence after each person speaks before you add your petition. If you do not have a petition or if there is too much background noise in your home, please mute yourself. You can also write your prayer in the chat.*

Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Epiphany Prayer

From Howard Thurman

**When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.**

Concluding Prayer

**Holy and everliving God,
by your power we are created and by your love we are redeemed;
Guide and strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may give ourselves to your service, and
live each day in love to one another and to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Benediction

Presider May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen

Closing Hymn: The Lord is my light and my salvation **Sung by all**

Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All **Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Congregational Song: May the Lord **Sung by all**

Passing of the Peace

Time for Check-in

Parish Announcements

Lent is fast approaching! **Ash Wednesday is February 17th.** Announcements about services will be made in the next week.

In the meantime, there is time to reflect on what **Lenten spiritual practice** you would like to engage in! To sign up, click on this Google Doc: <https://forms.gle/L793k7Uj76PfAvTY6> A full description of Lenten offerings went out this past week and will go out again. Lent is a good time to refocus and recenter our lives with God - and thankfully we can do that with each other, making the process and the journey a little easier.

Save the date for Saya & Shawn's baby shower - Sunday, February, 28th immediately after the 10am service. Interested in contributing to a gift? You can do so here:

<https://onrealm.org/holyapostles/give/sayas>