

The Last Sunday after the Epiphany
February 11, 2024

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Hymns are found in the blue *Hymnal 1982* in your pew.
The 'S' numbers are located at the front of the hymnal.

The service begins in quiet and prayer.

Prelude: *Kumbayah* Spiritual, arr. John F. Wilson (1929-2014)
The St. Dunstan Handbell Choir

Great Day! Spiritual, arr. Anna Laura Page (b.1943)
The St. Andrew's Junior Handbell Choir

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn 137: *O Wondrous Type!*

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**
People **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 of Praise: *Arise, Shine*



Arise, shine, for your light has **come**, *
and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.
For behold, darkness covers the **land**; *
deep gloom enshrouds the **peoples**. *Refrain*

But over you the Lord shall **rise**, *
and his glory will appear upon you.
Nations will stream to your **light**, *
and kings to the brightness of your **dawning**. *Refrain*

Your gates will always be **open**; *
by day or night they will never be **shut**.
They will call you, The City of the **Lord**, *
The Zion of the Holy One of **Israel**. *Refrain*

Violence will no more be heard in your **land**, *
ruin or destruction within your **borders**.
Your will call your walls, **Salvation**, *
and all your portals, **Praise**,

† The sun will no more be your light by **day**; *
by night you will not need the brightness of the **moon**. *Refrain*

Collect of the Day

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

Celebrant 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.**

The First Lesson: *2 Kings 2:1-12*

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 50:1-6



Choir The LORD, the God of gods, has spoken; *
he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

ALL Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, *
God reveals himself in glory.

Choir Our God will come and will not keep silence; *
before him there is a consuming flame,
and round about him a raging storm.

ALL He calls the heavens and the earth from above *
to witness the judgment of his people.

Choir "Gather before me my loyal followers, *
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice"

ALL Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause; *
for God himself is judge.

The Second Lesson: *2 Corinthians 4:3-6*

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn 129: *Christ Upon the Mountain Peak*

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Gospel: *Mark 9:2-9*

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.

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

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed

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

Please stand or kneel

It is good for us to be here in your glorious presence, O God: Awaken us to the needs of the world, that we may offer all things to your compassionate love and become mediators of your unifying vision. *Silence* Give to us who worship on this holy day a glimpse of your glory, that we might see your presence in all the gifts of daily life. Reveal yourself to us in the splendor of the sky, sun, and earth, that our praise may lead us to care tenderly for your creation.

People **God of love, hear our prayer.**

O God, grant us the strength to do what has to be done today, and wisdom to calmly leave to one side what cannot be done. Fill us with prayer, draw together our scattered preoccupations, and help us to respond to every moment with our full attention. **God of love, hear our prayer.** *(adapted from Alcoholics Anonymous)*

We pray for those who are anxious about money or employment. Help us to be grateful for what we have, share whenever possible, and ask for help when necessary. In the midst of our doubts or on the point of giving up, give us a clear assurance of your never-failing care and the role we are to fulfill in your eternal purpose. **God of love, hear our prayer.**

Creator, we lift up and thank you for our Black sisters and brothers who have shaped our common history. We pray that the learning happening this month in schools, homes, and workplaces will be meaningful and deep-rooted. We pray for open hearts and minds, and spirits willing to learn and be transformed by you. May this month be a time of curiosity and sharing, conversation and celebration, challenge and encouragement. Loving God, help us to dig deeper, look closer, and dream bigger. **God of love, hear our prayer.**

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, that the barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **God of love, hear our prayer.**

Your healing touch makes people whole. Soothe the pain of those living with illness and grief. We pray for those on our prayer list, all whose struggles are known to you alone, and those we name in our hearts. *Pause* Be present to them in the support of friends and in the care of doctors and nurses, and fill them with the warmth of your love, now and always. **God of love, hear our prayer.**

In a moment of silence, we remember all those who are dear to us. *Silence* Keep them close to our hearts and ever mindful of their needs. **God of love, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom, remembering especially Norma Ross, mother of Kevin Ross, who died this week; The Rev. Lew Towler, in whose memory the flowers are given this morning; and all those we love but see no longer. *Silence* Let light perpetual shine upon them. **God of love, hear our prayer.**

Loving God, you see us living in an unsteady and confusing world: Show us that your ways give more life than the ways of the world, and that following you is better than chasing after selfish goals. Help us to take failure, not as a measure of our worth, but as a chance for a new start. Give us strength to hold our faith in you, and to keep alive our joy in your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *Silence*
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.

Celebrant 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 Peace

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

Offertory Anthem: Ride on King Jesus Spiritual, arr. Adolphus Hailstork (b.1941)
The St. Andrew's Adult Choir Men's Chorus

Ride on, King Jesus, no man can-a hinder me. Jesus rides a milk white horse, no man works like Him. De river Jordan He did cross, no man works like Him. Oh, ride on, King Jesus, no man can-a hinder me. I know that my redeemer lives, no man works like Him. And of His blessing freely gives, no man works like Him. Oh, ride on, King Jesus, ride on!

Children's Entrance Hymn 123: Alleluia, Song of Gladness

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING Eucharistic Prayer A

Celebrant The Lord be with you. *People* And al - so 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 him thanks and praise.

The Celebrant offers our thanks to God for the grace and mercy made available to us in Christ.

Sanctus: Freedom Mass

Celebrant Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
People pow'r and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Celebrant Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
People comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The people stand or kneel as the Celebrant gives thanks for the reconciling work of Christ through his passion and resurrection and prays over the bread and wine.

Celebrant Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith.
People **Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.**

The Celebrant continues with the Eucharistic prayer.

Celebrant By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit of all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

Celebrant As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem: Those Who Eat My Flesh

Celebrant Al - le - lu - ia, *People* Al - le - lu - ia. Those who
Celebrant eat my flesh and drink my blood a - bide in me and
People I in them. *Celebrant* Al - le - lu - ia, *People* Al - le - lu - ia.

Please come forward and stand or kneel at the rail. The priest will place the bread in your outstretched palm (Consecrated rice wafers are available for those with wheat allergies - simply ask the priest). You may dip (intinct) the wafer in the wine in the small cup held by the Eucharistic minister. Alternatively, you may indicate your desire to drink from the common chalice by consuming the bread and remaining at the rail after the Eucharistic minister passes; another Eucharistic minister will bring the large chalice over for you to drink from directly. Please know that Christ is fully present in both the bread and the wine - there is no requirement to receive both. If you do not wish to receive communion, you may come forward, cross your hands over your chest, and receive a blessing.

Communion Voluntary: Let us Break Bread Together Spiritual, arr. Anna Laura Page
St. Dunstan Handbell Choir

Communion Hymn 460: Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!

When Lay Eucharistic Visitors are taking Holy Communion to those unable to be with us in person, we say the following

Celebrant 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, because we all share one bread, one cup.**

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

Celebrant 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.**

The Blessing

Closing Hymn 619: Sing Alleluia Forth in Duteous Praise

The young people are invited to come forward during the hymn to participate in the dismissal.

Young people Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: Oh Freedom! (Five Spirituals)

Adolphus Hailstork