

The Fourth Sunday after

# Epiphany

January 31st, 2021



**St. Stephen's**

Episcopal Church + Lakeland, Florida

To Love and Serve **God and Neighbor**

*“Before Thy Throne” verses 1&2*

*Before thy throne, O God, we kneel;  
give us a conscience quick to feel,  
a ready mind to understand  
the meaning of thy chastening hand;  
whate'er the pain and shame may be,  
bring us, O Father, nearer thee.*

*Search out our hearts and make us true;  
help us to give to all their due.  
From love of pleasure, lust of gold,  
from sins which make the heart grow cold,  
wean us and train us with thy rod;  
teach us to know our faults, O God.*

Opening Acclamation

+ Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit  
And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for Purity

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

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 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. **Amen.**

### The First Reading

A Reading from First Corinthians.

Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that “We all possess knowledge.” But knowledge puffs up while love builds up.

Those who think they know something do not yet know as they ought to know. But whoever loves God is known by God.

So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that “An idol is nothing at all in the world” and that “There is no God but one.” For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”), yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

But not everyone possesses this knowledge. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat sacrificial food they think of it as having been sacrificed to a god, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled. But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do.

Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak. For if someone with a weak conscience sees you, with all your knowledge, eating in an idol’s temple, won’t that person be emboldened to eat what is sacrificed to idols? So this weak brother or sister, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. When you sin against them in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall.

*(1 Corinthians 8:1-13)*

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

### The Psalm

111:1-4

Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

Great are the deeds of the Lord! they are studied by all who delight in them.

His work is full of majesty and splendor, and his righteousness endures for ever.

He makes his marvelous works to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and full of compassion.

+ Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

### The Holy Gospel

+ + + The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Mark. Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus, Simon, Andrew, James, and John went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law.

Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, “What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”

“Be quiet!” said Jesus sternly. “Come out of him!” The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.

The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, “What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him.” News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

*(Mark 1:14-20)*

The Gospel of The Lord.  
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.

### Prayers of the People

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work;  
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;  
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;  
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

especially those on our prayer list and the suffering people of the world.

**For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

For those serving in the armed forces, those wounded or recovering in veterans' hospitals, those serving in combat and those serving in safety.

**For the peace and protection of God.**

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

**For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, Greg our Bishop, David, Rob, and Doug our clergy, and for all bishops and other ministers;

**For all who serve God in his Church.**

For our schools, scouts, and all of the children and youth of our parish.

**For your grace and their ever growing knowledge and love of you.**

For our parish family.

**Bind us together and draw us always closer to you.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

*(you may add your own intercessions and thanksgivings)*

Hear us, Lord;

**For your mercy is great.**



We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life;  
*(you may add your own intercessions and thanksgivings)*

We will exalt you, O God our King;  
**And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in  
your eternal kingdom.  
*(you may add your own intercessions and thanksgivings)*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;  
**Who put their trust in you.**

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.  
**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your  
compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown,  
things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your  
Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life,  
to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ  
our Lord. Amen.**

+ Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy  
has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with  
repentance and faith turn to him, have mercy upon you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and  
strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting  
life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **The Peace**

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

## The Announcements

Sunday services continue at 9am, 10am, and 11am with a Wednesday morning service at 9am. The 9am Sunday service will continue to be livestreamed on an ongoing basis. Sunday School at 10am.

**PARISH ANNUAL MEETING NEXT SUNDAY 11am**

## VERSE OF THE WEEK

1 Corinthians 8:6

There is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

## The Offertory

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

(Ephesians 5:2)

## *“Seek Ye First”*

*Seek ye first the kingdom of God  
and its righteousness  
and all these things shall be added unto you  
Allelu, Alleluia!*

*Alleluia, alleluia,  
Alleluia!  
Allelui, Alleluia!*

*Ask, and it shall be given unto you,  
Seek, and ye shall find,*

*knock and the door shall be opened unto you;  
Allelu, alleluia!*

*Alleluia, alleluia,  
Alleluia!  
Allelu, alleluia!*

## The Presentation

All things come of thee, O Lord,  
And of thine own have we given thee.

(1 Chronicles 29:14)

## Eucharistic Prayer A

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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:

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.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

+ On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

+ Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.

+ Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.**

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

**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**

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.  
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

## The Family Song

*Here we are, gathered together as a family  
Bound as one, lifting up our voices to the King of kings  
We sing Abba, Father, holy is Your name  
Abba, Father, holy is Your name.*

These are the Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Please stay at your seat. The clergy will come to you with the consecrated Bread.

### *“Bread of the World”*

*Bread of the world, in mercy broken,  
Wine of the soul, in mercy shed,  
by whom the words of life were spoken,  
and in whose death our sins are dead:  
look on the heart by sorrow broken,  
look on the tears by sinners shed;  
and be thy feast to us the token  
that by thy grace our souls are fed.*

## The Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.

## Prayers, Intercessions, and Thanksgiving

### Anniversaries This Week

Michael and Kathy Platt,  
Scott Dickie & Jami Beasley

### Birthdays This Week:

Elissia Eijo, Rachel Workman

## Birthday Prayer

Watch over thy children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## The Blessing

+ May the peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and his son Jesus Christ 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

*“Before Thy Throne” verses 3&4*

*For sins of heedless word and deed,  
for pride ambitious to succeed,  
for crafty trade and subtle snare  
to catch the simple unaware,  
for lives bereft of purpose high,  
forgive, forgive, O Lord, we cry.*

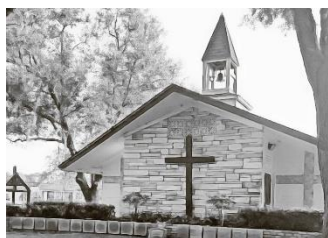
*Let the fierce fires which burn and try,  
our inmost spirits purify:  
consume the ill; purge out the shame;  
O God, be with us in the flame;  
a newborn people may we rise,  
more pure, more true, more nobly wise.*

### The Dismissal

Let us go forth in the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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