

7th Sunday After the

EPIPHANY

*Welcome to our home!
We would love for you
to join our family!*

February 23, 2025

We Gather

Prelude:

Olivet

David S. Harris

Processional Hymn: #119

As with gladness men of old

Please stand & sing as you are able.

Opening Acclamation

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

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

Collect For Purity

Celebrant: 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.**

Gloria: #S-280

Please remain standing.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray. 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.**

We Hear God's Word

First Lesson: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Please be seated.

Reader: A reading from the Book of Genesis.

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 37:1-12, 41-42

Read responsively by half verse.

Reader: Do not fret yourself because of evildoers;

People: **do not be jealous of those who do wrong.**

Reader: For they shall soon wither like the grass,

People: **and like the green grass fade away.**

Reader: Put your trust in the Lord and do good;

People: **dwell in the land and feed on its riches.**

Reader: Take delight in the Lord,

People: **and he shall give you your heart's desire.**

Reader: Commit your way to the Lord and put your trust in him,

People: **and he will bring it to pass.**

Reader: He will make your righteousness as clear as the light

People: **and your just dealing as the noonday.**

Reader: Be still before the Lord

People: **and wait patiently for him.**

Reader: Do not fret yourself over the one who prospers,

People: **the one who succeeds in evil schemes.**

Reader: Refrain from anger, leave rage alone;

People: **do not fret yourself; it leads only to evil.**

Reader: For evildoers shall be cut off,

People: **but those who wait upon the Lord shall possess the land.**

Reader: In a little while the wicked shall be no more;

People: **you shall search out their place, but they will not be there.**

Reader: But the lowly shall possess the land;

People: **they will delight in abundance of peace.**

Reader: But the deliverance of the righteous comes from the Lord;

People: **he is their stronghold in time of trouble.**

Reader: The Lord will help them and rescue them;

People: **he will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because they seek refuge in him.**

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

Reader: A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn: #390 ***Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*** *Please stand & sing as you are able.*
(v. 1-2 before, v. 4 after Gospel)

Gospel: Luke 6:27-38 *Please remain standing.*

Celebrant: 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."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon: The Rev. Canon Betsy Randall *Please be seated.*

We Pray

Nicene Creed *Please stand as you are able.*

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

Please kneel, sit, or stand.

Reader: Bound together in Christ in the communion of the Holy Spirit, let us pray with one heart and mind to God our Father.

Reader: For peace from things that separate us from one another and for our salvation.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Reader: For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy churches of God, especially...

People: **St. Martin of Tours, Pryor; Diocese of Maryland; Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania; Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil.**

Reader: For this holy gathering and for those who enter with faith, reverence, and fear of God.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Reader: We pray for...

People: **Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Poulson, our Bishop; Tom, our clergy; Katherine and B.J., our wardens; vestry, delegates, all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God. Lord, have mercy.**

Reader: For the world and its leaders, our nation and its people. We pray for our leaders, especially...

People: **Donald, our President; J.D., our Vice-President; Markwayne, our Congressman; James and Jim, our Senators; Kevin, our Governor; and Patrick, our Mayor. Lord, have mercy.**

Reader: For prisoners, the oppressed, all those in need or suffering, especially...

People: **Ronnie, Mike, John, Stuart, Nancy, Catheryne, Jennifer, Paula, Ched, Phillip, Roger, Patricia, Leslie, Anna, Jonathan, D.G., Lester, Mark, Falling family, Joe, Connie, Dorothy, Marlene, Dusty, Larry, those impacted by war and violence, all emergency responders, United States Military, and those whose suffering is known only to God.**

Reader: We pray for those who have died, (*especially...*)

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Reader: For ourselves, our families, and those we love. We pray for those in our parish, especially ...

People: **Richard, Elizabeth, Jordan, Shelli, and Rusty.**

Reader: Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Please kneel, sit, or stand.

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

Silence is observed.

Celebrant & 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.**

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.**

Peace

Please stand as you are able.

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Greet one another in the name of Christ.

Announcements, Birthdays & Anniversary Blessings

Please be seated.

Welcome to our guests today. If you are new to Grace for the first time or even if you have been here once or twice before, please fill out a visitor card and put it in the plate. We promise not to harass you, but we would like to include you on our weekly email broadcasts and other event notifications. Thank you for the blessing of your presence today.

Collect for the Parish and Search Process

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Celebrant: Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life and bring us all to be of one heart and mind, especially as we go through our search process. Guide us to the priest that you want us to have; through our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Offertory

Celebrant: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

Offertory Hymn: #691

My faith looks up to thee

Please remain seated.

Doxology: #380 v. 3

Please stand & sing as you are able.

We Share the Meal

Eucharistic Prayer B

Please remain standing.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also 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 our thanks and praise.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds.

Celebrant: 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.

Celebrant: 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:

Sanctus: #S-125

Please sit or kneel after the Sanctus.

Celebrant: † 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:

Celebrant & People: **We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;**

Celebrant: 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.**

Lord's Prayer

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

Celebrant & People: **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.**

Breaking of the Bread

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

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Celebrant: 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.

At Grace Episcopal Church, all baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please tell the usher if you need communion brought to you at your seat. IF you wish to receive the bread only, hold your palms upward, consume the bread, and cross your arms over your chest when the chalice bearer approaches. Those who do not wish to receive Holy Communion are invited to come to the altar rail to receive a Blessing, indicate this by crossing your arms over your chest when the priest approaches.

Communion Music:

Reverie

by Will C. Macfarlane

We Go Into the World

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant & 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.

Epiphany Blessing

Celebrant: May Almighty God, who led the Wise Men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light from Light, lead you also, in your pilgrimage, to find the Lord. **Amen.**

May God, who sent the Holy Spirit to rest upon the Only-begotten at his baptism in the Jordan River, pour out that Spirit on you who have come to the waters of new birth. **Amen.**

May God, by the power that turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana, transform your lives and make glad your hearts. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn: #657

Love divine all loves excelling

Please stand & sing.

Dismissal

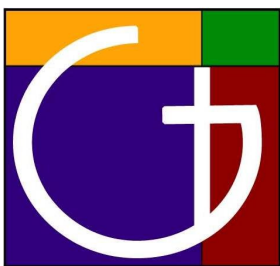
Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude:

Lobe den Herren

Johann Gottfried Walther



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Ministers: All the People of God (BCP p. 855)

Sr. Warden: Katherine Coburn

Jr. Warden: B.J. Charbonneau

Deacon Emeritus: The Rev. Thomas A. Harrington

Organist: Cody Lowery

Parish Administrator / Youth & Children's Director: Nancy Scott

