

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
Morning Prayer
January 31, 2021
10:00am



St. Mark's Episcopal Church
1 Porter Road
East Longmeadow, MA 01028
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Email: office@stmarksma.org
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WELCOME

PRELUDE

OPENING SENTENCE

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; those who act accordingly have a good understanding; his praise endures for ever. *Ps. 111:10*

ENTRANCE HYMN “Hail to the Lord’s Anointed” (H616, vs. 1, 2, 3)

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|-------|---|-------|---|
| Vs. 1 | Hail to the Lord’s Anointed,
great David’s greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free;
to take away transgression,
and rule in equity. | Vs. 3 | He shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,
spring in his path to birth:
before him on the mountains
shall peace, the herald, go;
and righteousness in fountains
from hill to valley flow. |
| Vs. 2 | He comes with succor speedy
to those who suffer wrong,
to help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying,
were precious in his sight. | | |

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Officiant says to the people: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and people together:

**God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

The Officiant alone stands and says: 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.*

Officiant: And Jesus said to them, follow me. *People:* **Come let us worship.**

CANTICLE – Phos hilaron “O Gracious Light” (H 26)

1 O gra - cious Light, Lord Je - sus Christ, in you the
2 Now sun - set comes, but light shines forth, the lamps are
3 Wor - thy are you of end - less praise, O Son of
Fa - ther's glo - ry shone. Im - mor - tal, ho - ly,
lit to pierce the night. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and
God, Life - giv - ing Lord; where - fore you are through
blest is he, and blest are you, his ho - ly Son.
Spi - rit: God who dwells in the e - ter - nal light.
all the earth and in the high - est heaven a - dored.

PSALM: 111

1 Hallelujah!

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, *
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

2 Great are the deeds of the LORD! *
they are studied by all who delight in them.

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

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

5 He gives food to those who fear him; *
he is ever mindful of his covenant.

6 He has shown his people the power of his works *
in giving them the lands of the nations.

7 The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; *
all his commandments are sure.

8 They stand fast for ever and ever, *
because they are done in truth and equity.

9 He sent redemption to his people;
he commanded his covenant for ever; *
holy and awesome is his Name.

10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; *
those who act accordingly have a good understanding;
his praise endures for ever.

FIRST READING: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him. Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. “Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

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

SEQUENCE HYMN “Thou, whose almighty word” (H371)



1 Thou, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard,
2 Thou who didst come to bring on thy re - deem - ing wing
3 Spi - rit of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly Dove,
4 Ho - ly and bless - ed Three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,



and took their flight; hear us, we hum - bly pray, and, where the
heal - ing and sight, health to the sick in mind, sight to the
speed forth thy flight! Move on the wa - ters' face bear - ing the
wis - dom, love, might; bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in



Gos - pel day sheds not its glo - ri - ous ray, let there be light!
in - ly blind, now to all hu - man - kind, let there be light!
gifts of grace, and, in earth's dark - est place, let there be light!
full - est pride, through the world, far and wide, let there be light!

SECOND READING: Mark 1:21-28

Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God**

SERMON

Rev Deacon Eric Elley

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.
Who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.
Who 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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY SENTENCE: Through Christ let us continually offer to God the sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his Name. But do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. *Hebrews 13:15, 16*

OFFERTORY Chris Pryce, violin

THE PRAYERS

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Officiant: Let us pray.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 forever. Amen.**

RESPONSIVE PRAYERS

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

R. **Govern and uphold them, now and always.**

V. Day by day we bless you;

R. **We praise your Name for ever.**

V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;

R. **Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.**

V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;

R. **For we put our trust in you.**

V. In you, Lord, is our hope;

R. **And we shall never hope in vain.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

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.*

COLLECT FOR TRANSITION

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: look graciously on your Church, as we enter a time of transition in our community. Guide the minds and hearts of those who shall choose a rector for this parish that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

COLLECT FOR GUIDANCE

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

COLLECT FOR TEACHERS

God of wisdom, your Son came among us as a teacher. Send your blessing on all who are engaged in the work of education: give them clearness of vision and freshness of thought, and enable them so to train the hearts and minds of their students that they may grow in wisdom and be prepared to face the challenges of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

COLLECT FOR MISSION

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(The Prayers are led by the intercessor and followed by his response)

*Intercessor: Loving God People: **Receive our prayer***

Intercessions are welcome at this time

PRAYER LIST AND PRAYERS FROM THOSE GATHERED ONLINE

CONCLUDING PRAYER: *Officiant and People*

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love. We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side. We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our very best efforts and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us. We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone. Above all, we thank you for your son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom. Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know him and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Amen

BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN “O for a thousand tongues to sing” (H494, vs. 1, 2, 3, 6)



1 O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my dear Re - deem - er's praise,
2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim
3 Je - sus! the Name that charms our fears and bids our sor - rows cease;
4 He speaks; and, lis - tening to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive,
5 Hear him, ye deaf; ye voice - less ones, your loos - ened tongues em - ploy;



1 the glo - ries of my God and King, the tri - umphs of his grace!
2 and spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy Name.
3 'tis mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.
4 the mourn - ful bro - ken hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.
5 ye blind, be - hold, your Sa - vior comes; and leap, ye lame, for joy!

6 Glory to God and praise and love
be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above,
the Church in earth and heaven.

CONCLUDING SENTENCE

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine:
Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever.
Amen. Ephesians 3:20,21

DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PEOPLE IN OUR PRAYERS

- **Homebound:** Mary Jane, William & Barbara, Melissa, Lucy, Fran, and Sandy Moore
- **Healing:** Stephen, Donea, Pam, Chris & Ashling, Jack, Shannon, Sue, Dan, Mary, Gail, Jean, Caroline, Donna, Pat & Vivian, Sheila, Austin, Milt & Carol, Timothy, Rich, Martha, Libby, Wade, Lori Decker, Felicia, Morsha, Guss III, Dolly, Jason & Jen, Chelsea, Travis & Jaylin, Irene, Evelyn, Lisa, Millie, Glen, Ned, Lynne, Misty Jacobs, Beth & Ethan, Russ, Lee, Barbara, Pammi, Jamal, Adam & Hali, Jim Ferguson, Angela & Steve, Karen & family, Chantel, Rick & Marcus, Devan, Richard & Hunter, Eli & Josh, Lisa, Winn, Cindy, Dusty, Maggie, Doreen, Linda Edwards, Tony, & Matthew Briggs. For the repose of Joe (the uncle of Hannah Fitzpatrick), for those residing and working in nursing homes & hospitals and for Covid victims around the world and for those who mourn.
- **Birthday this week:** Michael Anthony Whitehead, Bill Russo-Appel, Collette Ingram,

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