grace episcopal church



The Second Sunday after the Epiphany and

Commemoration of Martin Luther King, Jr. January 19, 2025

Service Program for the 10:30 a.m. Solemn High Mass	pp. 3-18
Bulletin Insert from the Episcopal Church	p. 19
Grace Notes	p. 20
This Week at Grace	p. 2I

Grace Episcopal Church

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We are a diverse community united by our commitment to Jesus Christ and our desire **V** to live the Christian life. Our prayers and the Sacraments help us find Christ in church and in the world. Seeing Christ in each other and in the faces of strangers, we are inspired to reach out in love and service.

The Rev. Rowena J. Kemp, Rector

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The Rev. Marta S. Rivera Monclova, PhD, *Curate* The Rev. Canon Robert G. Carroon, Associate Priest The Rev. Canon Annika Warren, *Associate Priest* The Rev. Joseph L. Pace, Associate Priest Mr. Kyle Swann, Choirmaster and Organist

The Vestry

Claudia Gwardyak, Senior Warden; Barbara Galbreath, Junior Warden Katharine Rovetti, Parish Clerk Mark Lacedonia, *Treasurer*; Barbara Galbreath, *Assistant Treasurer* Adrianne Brown, Josephine Dominguez, Linda Galarza-Rosa, Gregory Simmons

WELCOME to all who are joining with us virtually as we celebrate *THE SECOND* SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY. We hope you feel at home with us and that you find the love, peace, inspiration, and strength to meet the challenges of your daily life.

We hope that you will take part in our worship by making the Peoples' responses as indicated and joining in the hymn-singing.

If you would like more information about Grace Church, or the Episcopal Church, please communicate with our Rector, The Rev. Rowena Kemp, or make an appointment with her to discuss any questions you have.

grace episcopal church

The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

January 19, 2025

Solemn High Mass, 10:30 A.M.

Propers of Year C

Mass Setting: Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena

Healey Willan (d. 1968)

This setting of the Ordinary of the Mass is for congregational singing.

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Voluntary: Schmuecke dich, o liebe Seele

Johann Sebastian Bach (d. 1750)

#### ENTRANCE RITE AND LITURGY OF THE WORD

Introit (choir) Omnis terra

Mode IV

[Antiphon] ALL THE EARTH shall worship thee, O Lord, and shall sing to thee: they shall sing praise unto thy Name, O Most Highest. [Psalm] Be joyful in God, all ye lands, sing the glory of his Name; sing the glory of his praise. 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. [Repeat antiphon.]

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: 

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

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

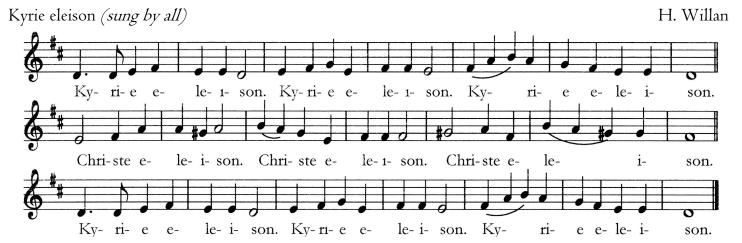
Collect for Purity

ALMIGHTY GOD, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.* 

Summary of the Law

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith:

THOU shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.





The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY GOD, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that thy people, illumined by thy Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.* 

The Collect for Martin Luther King, Jr.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Aslavery, and didst make them free at last: Grant that thy Church following the example of thy prophet Martin Luther King, may resist oppression in the name of thy love, and may strive to secure for all thy children the blessed liberty of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*.

The Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 62: I-5 [NRSV]

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

COR Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her

I vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the LORD delights in you, and your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.



The Word of the Lord.

Congregation's Response: Thanks be to God.

The Gradual: Psalm 36 Dixit iniustus

(Congregation remains seated and sings the italicized verses.)



- 5 THY MER-cy O LORD, reacheth unto the | heavens,
  - \* and thy faithfulness un- / to the clouds.
- 6 Thy righteousness standeth like the strong | mountains: \* thy judgments are like | the great deep.
- 7 Thou LORD, shalt save both man and beast:

how excellent is thy mercy O | God!

\* and the children of men shall put their trust

under the shadow | of thy wings.

- 8 They shall be satisfi'd with the plenteousness of thy / house;
  - \* and thou shalt give them drink of thy pleasures as out of / the river.
- 9 For with thee is the well of | life;
  - \* and in thy light shall | we see light.
- 10 O continue forth thy loving-kindness unto them that | know thee, \* and thy righteousness unto them that are | true of heart.

Tone II

The Epistle: I Corinthians 12: I-II /NRSV/

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

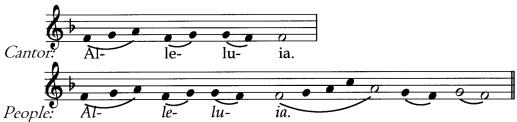
Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

The Word of the Lord.

*People's Response:* Thanks be to God.

Alleluia *Laudate Deum* 

Tone VI



PRAISE THE LORD, all ye angels of his: O praise him, all his host. Choir:



The Holy Gospel: St. John 2: I-II /RSV/

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. Deacon:

People's response: 

■ Glory be to thee, O Lord.

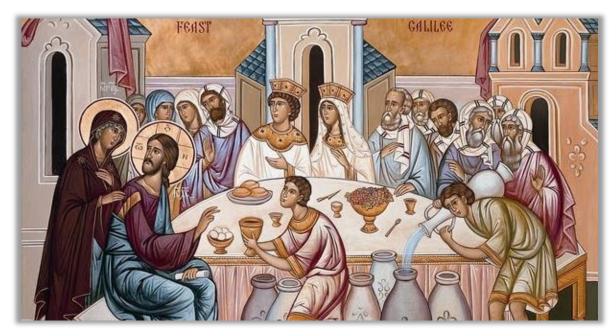
N the third day there was a marriage at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was Ithere; Jesus also was invited to the marriage, with his disciples. When the wine failed, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine". And Jesus said to her, "O woman, what have you to do with me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you". Now six stone jars were standing there, for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water". And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the steward of the feast". So they took it. When the steward of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward of the feast called the bridegroom and said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first; and when men have drunk freely, then the poor wine; but you have kept the good wine until now." This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People's response:* Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Sermon (all sit)

Mr. Aldon Hynes



The Nicene Creed (said by all)

Prayer Book p. 327

BELIEVE IN ONE GOD, the Father Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,

begotten of his Father before all worlds,

God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made,

being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made;

who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven,

and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man;

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered and was buried

and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;

and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead;

whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life,

who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;

who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified;

who spake by the Prophets.

And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church;

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;

■ and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

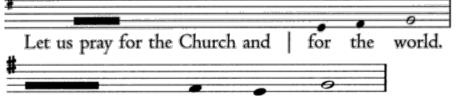




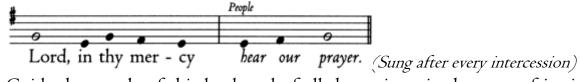
The Prayers of the People

Form IV

Leader:



GRANT ALMIGHTY GOD, that all who confess thy Name may be united in thy truth, live together in thy love, and reveal thy glory / in the world. (Silence)



Leader: Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the / common good. (Silence)

Lord, in thy mercy People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Give us all a reverence for the earth as thine own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to thy hon-/or and glory. (Silence)

Lord, in thy mercy People: hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for an increase in the membership of this parish; that we may have the hands and hearts to carry / out thy will. (Silence)

Lord, in thy mercy People: hear our prayer.

Leader: We commend to thy gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad [especially N.]. Defend them day by day with thy heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of thine abiding presence wherever / they may be. (Silence)

Lord, in thy mercy People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit (pause); give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of / thy salvation. (Silence)

Lord, in thy mercy People: hear our prayer.

Leader: We commend to thy mercy all who have died, that thy will for them may be fulfilled (pause); and we pray that we may share with all thy saints in thine e-/ternal kingdom. (Silence)

Lord, in thy mercy *People:* hear our prayer.

Celebrant: LORD, hear the prayers of thy people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *People* 

#### Confession of Sin and Absolution

Deacon: Ye who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: draw near with faith, and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

People: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men: We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us, the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto 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.

#### Comfortable Words

Celebrant: Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

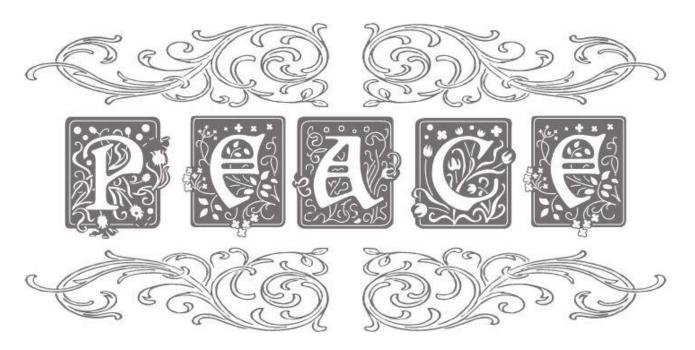
COME UNTO ME, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. *Matthew II: 28* GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *John 3: 16* 

#### The Peace

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

*People:* And with thy spirit.

The Ministers and People greet one another in the Name of the Lord.





Chartres Marriage Feast at Cana

### The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

Celebrant: Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good thy vows unto the Most High. Psalm 50: 14

Offertory (choir) Jubilate Deo

Mode I

OBE JOYFUL IN GOD, all ye lands; sing hymns of praise unto his Name; O come hither and hearken, all ye that fear God, and I will tell you, what the Lord hath done for my soul, alleluia.

Presentation of the alms and oblations (remain standing)

Celebrant: All things come of thee, O Lord,

People: And of thine own have we given thee.

#### Orate

Celebrant: Pray that this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving may be acceptable to God the Father Almighty.

People: May the Lord receive this sacrifice at thy hands, to the praise and glory of his holy Name, both to our benefit and that of all his holy Church.

#### Sursum corda

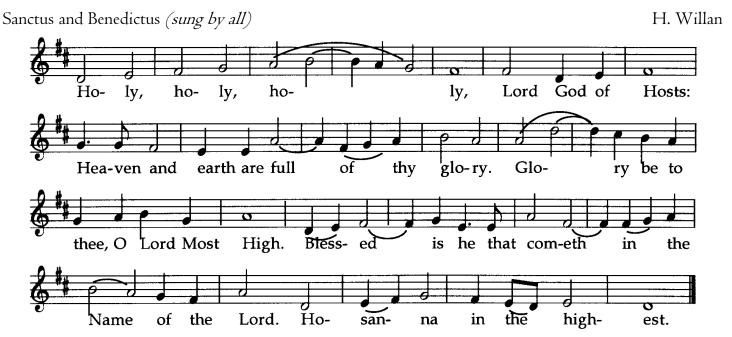


Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant says,

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

BECAUSE in the mystery of the Word made flesh, thou hast caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of thy glory in the face of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,



The Canon of the Mass

Celebrant: Let us pray.

ALL glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." \*

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me." \*\*

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

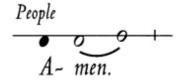
And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, \* be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

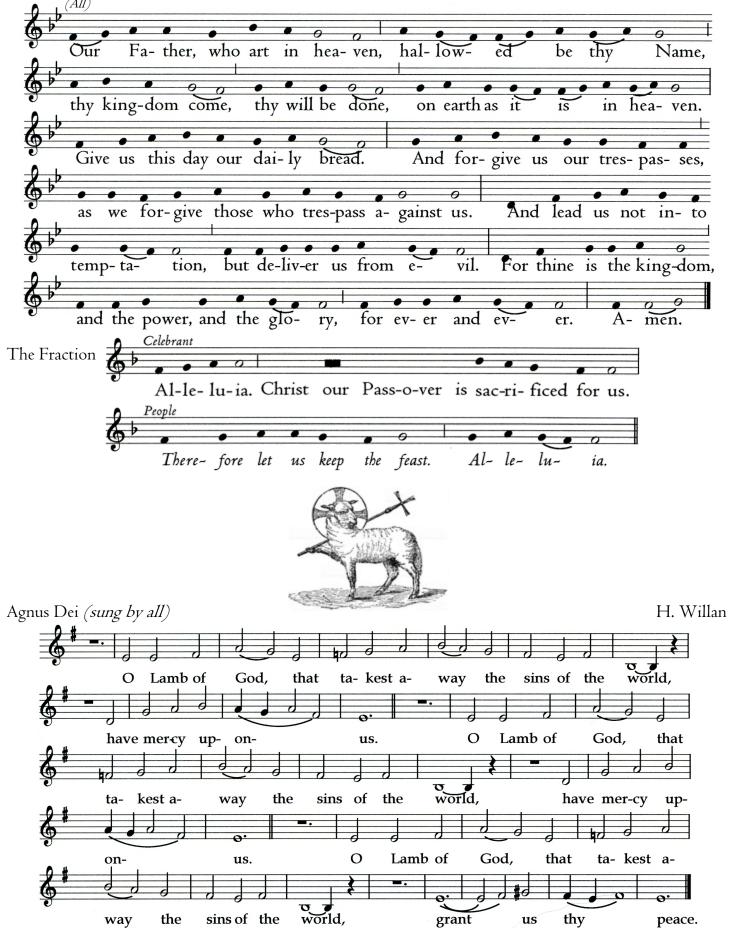
And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

BY whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.



The Lord's Prayer

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



Prayer of Humble Access (said by all)

Celebrant: Let us pray.

WE do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The Invitation to Communion

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.

People: Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof; but speak the word only, and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Proper (choir) Dixit Dominus

Mode VI

THE LORD SAID UNTO THEM, "Fill the water-pots with water and bear to the ruler of the feast." When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, he saith unto the bridegroom: "Thou hast kept the good wine until now." This was the first sign that did Jesus in the sight of his disciples.



Prayer of Spiritual Communion (said by those worshipping virtually)

IN UNION, O Dear Lord, with the faithful at every Altar of Thy Church, where Thy blessed Body and Blood are being offered to the Father, I desire to offer Thee praise and thanksgiving. I present to Thee my soul and body, with the earnest wish that I may ever be united to Thee. And since I cannot now receive Thee sacramentally, I beseech Thee to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to Thee, and embrace Thee with all the affections of my soul. O let nothing ever separate me from Thee. Let me live and die in Thy love. Amen.



Prayer of Thanksgiving after Communion

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these Holy Mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical Body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

The Epiphany Blessing

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 Jordon 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 always. Amen.

St. John I:I-I4

The Dismissal

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Deacon:

*The People respond:* Thanks be to God.

The Last Gospel

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit. People:

Celebrant: The Beginning of the holy Gospel according to John.

Glory be to thee, O Lord. People:

TN the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him: and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men: and the light shineth in the darkness, and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that light, but was sent to bear witness of that light. That was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. (Here genuflect) And the Word was made flesh, (Here rise) and dwelt among us: and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the Only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Thanks be to God. People:

A LMA Redemptóris Mater, quæ pérvia cæli porta manes, et stella maris, succúrre cadénti, Súrgere qui curat pópulo: Tu quæ genuísti, natúra miránte, tuum sanctum Genitórem, Virgo prius ac postérius, Gabriélis ab ore Sumens illud Ave, peccatórum miserére.

[Loving mother of the Redeemer, gate of heaven, star of the sea, assist your people who have fallen yet strive to rise again, to the wonderment of nature you bore your Creator, yet remained a virgin after as before, You who received Gabriel's joyful greeting, have pity on us poor sinners.]



### The Angelus

Celebrant: The Angel of the Lord announced unto Mary.

People: And she conceived by the Holy Ghost.

Celebrant: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women

and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

People: Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our

death. Amen.

Celebrant: Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

*People:* Be it unto me according to thy word.

Celebrant: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women

and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

People: Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our

death. Amen.

(Here genuflect) Celebrant: And the Word was made flesh.

(Here rise) People: And dwelt among us.

Celebrant: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women

and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

People: Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our

death. Amen.

Celebrant: Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.

*People:* That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

We beseech thee, O Lord, pour thy grace into our hearts, that, as we have known the Incarnation of thy Son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel, so by his Passion we may be brought unto the glory of his resurrection, through the same

Christ our Lord. Amen.





Voluntary: A Trumpet Minuet



January 19, 2025 – Epiphany 2 (C) Epiphany Bible Study: Week 2

During the season of Epiphany, The Episcopal Church's Office of Global Partnerships is offering a weekly Bible study prepared by writers across the church and Anglican Communion. Each piece, consisting of the Sunday readings, can be studied alone, in small groups, or even with a congregation. You can find the whole study for each week at <a href="https://www.sermonsthatwork.org">www.sermonsthatwork.org</a>. This week's study for Epiphany 2 (C) was written by the Most Rev. Ian Ernest, the Archbishop of Canterbury's personal representative to the Holy See and the director of the Anglican Centre in Rome.

#### 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

12 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be ignorant. <sup>2</sup> You know that when you were gentiles you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. <sup>3</sup> Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

<sup>4</sup> Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, <sup>5</sup> and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, <sup>6</sup> and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. <sup>7</sup> To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup> To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup> to another the working of powerful deeds, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup> All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

#### Commentary from Ian Ernest

I wish to lay emphasis on one part of this text which refers to the unity of the Church. Being the Body of Christ, the Church is called to allow every part of it to play its role so that it can bear true witness to the love of God as revealed in Christ. There is no place for uniformity in the Church, as within it people are bestowed with different gifts and have different tasks to attend to. The gift is offered by the Holy Spirit and is designed for an interdependent life in unity and harmony which brings glory to God.

As all gifts come from God, each one is therefore invited to use his or her competence in the service of God. Unfortunately, we have an erroneous perception that the gifts we receive are limited to the spiritual or the academic realm. Thus, it would be important for us to acknowledge that no distinction is to be made regarding the gifts we freely receive. A person who is a worker in a skilled trade, for example, a carpenter, an electrician, a plumber, and others, should be encouraged to see that the talent he or she possesses comes from God.

The Church would then be enriched if all were given the opportunity to dedicate their skills to serve God and his people. This teaching of Paul also gives a detailed view of the gifts graciously offered to us; from it, we learn about the work and nature of the early Church. It informs us that, as members of the Body of Christ, we have to possess the word of wisdom and the word of knowledge. This means that we have to know the deep things about God and simultaneously apply them to our daily lives.

#### **Discussion Questions**

Do we have a full understanding of how we could serve God and God's people with the potential we have?

What is the distinction between wisdom and knowledge?

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## January 19 The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

#### FOR PASTORAL ASSISTANCE

**THE REV. ROWENA KEMP** welcomes hearing from you. Please don't hesitate to contact her if there's something you'd like to discuss, and please contact her immediately, should there be an illness, hospitalization, or any other pastoral emergency that she should know about. [For such emergencies, please note Rev. Rowena's cell phone number: 203-209-4178.]

#### PEOPLE AND PLACES TO KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

A reminder: Tori Burns manages this list for us, and prayer requests need to be renewed after 2 weeks.

Please communicate all prayer requests & updates with her (860-539-8790); (tburns@gracehartford.org).

- Bishops and Clergy: Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean, Presiding Bishop; Jeffrey and Laura, Bishops of ECCT; Rowena, Jerry, Annika, and Joseph, our priests, and Marta, our curate.
- Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: We pray for an increase in the membership of this parish, that we may have the hands and hearts to carry out thy will; for the Episcopal Church in CT & the Anglican Communion; all ecumenical & interfaith endeavors involving our congregations & people; and for peace & peacemakers. The Church in the Province of the West Indies.
- World & Community Concerns: For peace throughout the world, especially between Iran, Israel, and Gaza, and in the Middle East; in Sudan; and between Russia and Ukraine; for Christians being persecuted around the world, particularly in China and Palestine; for those who are suffering because of extreme climate; for the hungry and poor in our midst; and the volunteers who serve A Place of Grace food pantry.
- Serving Our Country in the Military (especially those associated with Grace Church): Brian, Spencer, Bradley, Curtis, Jordan, John, Carrington, William, Noel, James, Ryan, Michael, Karl, Alec, Jeff, David, Tom, Michael, and Charles.
- Thanksgiving and Celebrations: We give thanks and ask for thy blessings upon Molly James (Sun.), whose birthday we celebrate this week.
- Sick or in need: Antoinette; Lynne; David; Neil; Lea & the Rivera Family; Mark; Jerry; Bonnie & the Burns Family; Megin; Walter & Claudia; Tom & Elaine; Ellen; Sally; Errol, Norma & the Kemp Family; Barbara; Nigel, Kraig & Deidre; Mary; Josephine, Melissa, Jaden, Tay, Soraya & Rapael; Julia, Mike, André & Maria; Linda, Tiffany & the Galarza Family; Kathy; Patti; Delores; Nancy; Marcolina; Peter; Sr. Linda; Leonard; Joy; Cori and the Mackey Family; Brad & Mary; Judy; Jane; Bill, Carolyn & Susan; McJohn; Doreen; Ted; Kanata; Betty & John; Mary & Lou; Nelda Sue; Diane; Nina; Ellen and Jim; Lauren, Alexandra & Anna; Mark & Diane; Jean; and all victims of natural and man-made disasters.
- The Deceased: We pray for the repose of The Rev. Robert "Bob" Sireno, Deacon, all soldiers and civilians killed in war or civil strife, and in memory of Dennis Kane, Esmond Leon Rose, Eleanor Mary Ruta, Alice Wright, Dorothy M. Clark, Raymond P. Howell, and Kate Taylor Schieltz.



THE REV. ROWENA J. KEMP, RECTOR 55 New Park Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106-2123

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Rector's cell phone: 203-209-4178 Rector's email: RevRowena@gracehartford.org

Church e-mail: church@gracehartford.org Website: www.gracehartford.org





#### THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Sunday, January 19 The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

**8:00 a.m.:** Low Mass

**10:30 a.m.**: Solemn High Mass (also on Facebook Live)

**Deadline for Annual Reports** 

Tuesday, January 21 Agnes, Martyr at Rome, 304

**10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**: Office Hours

Wednesday, January 22 Vincent, Deacon of Saragosa, Martyr, 304

**10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**: Office Hours

**4:00 p.m.**: **RESCHEDULED** Vestry Meeting in Nason Hall and on Zoom

7:00 p.m.: Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 23 Phillips Brooks, Bishop of Massachusetts, 1893

**10:00 a.m.:** "A Place of Grace" food pantry distribution

Friday, January 24

**1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**: Office Hours

Sunday, January 26 The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

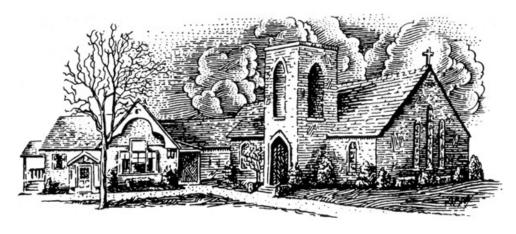
**8:00 a.m.:** Low Mass

**10:30 a.m.**: Solemn High Mass (also on Facebook Live)

~12:15 p.m.: ANNUAL MEETING (lunch provided)

Visit "Grace Episcopal Church, Hartford CT" on FACEBOOK Please join, and help us spread the good news on line!





Please mark your calendars for

THE ANNUAL MEETING

of GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Next Sunday, January 26th, 2025

following the 10:30 a.m. Solemn High Mass