grace episcopal church



The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany
February 23, 2025

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Grace Episcopal Church

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We are a diverse community united by our commitment to Jesus Christ and our desire 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.

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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, Douglas Gould, Sheryl Rifkin, Gregory Simmons

WELCOME to all who are joining with us virtually as we celebrate *THE SEVENTH 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.

Cover: Joseph recognized by his brothers; Leon Pierre Urbain Bourgeois.

grace episcopal church

The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

February 23, 2025

Solemn High Mass, 10:30 A.M.

Propers of Year C

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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: Adoration

Florence Price (d. 1953)

ENTRANCE RITE AND LITURGY OF THE WORD

Introit (choir) Domine, in tua misericordia

Mode V

[Antiphon] O LORD GOD, IN THY LOVING KINDNESS DO I TRUST, and my heart is joyful because of thy salvation. I will sing to the Lord my God, for he hath dealt with me richly. [Psalm] How long wilt thou forget me, O Lord, for ever? how long wilt thou hide thy face from me? 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*.

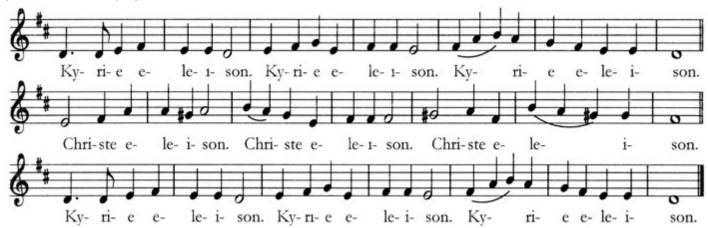
Summary of the Law

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.

Kyrie eleison (sung by all)

H. Willan





in excelsis deo!



The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you. And with thy spirit. People:

Celebrant: Let us pray.

LORD, who hast taught us that all our doings without charity are nothing worth: Send thy Holy Ghost and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of charity, the very bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whosoever liveth is counted dead before thee. Grant this for thine only Son Jesus Christ's sake, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



The Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 45: 3-11, 15 [NRSV]

A Reading from the Book of Genesis.

OSEPH said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers J 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Congregation's Response: Thanks be to God.



The Recognition of Joseph by His Brothers; Peter von Cornelius, 1816-1817

The Gradual: Psalm 37

Noli æmulari

Tone I.4

(Congregation sings the italicized verses.)

I FRET NÖT thyself because of | the ungodly;

* neither be thou envious against the / evil doers.

2 For they shall soon be cut | down like the grass,

* and be withered even | as the green herb.

3 Put thou thy trust in the | LORD and ^ be do^ing good;

* dwell in the land and verily | thou shalt be fed.

4 De-/light thou ^ in the LORD,

* and he shall give | thee thy heart's ^ desire.

5 Commit thy way unto the LORD and | put thy trust ^ in him, * and he shall | bring it to pass.

6 He shall make thy righteousness as / clear as the light,

* and thy just dealing | as the noonday.

7 Hold thee still in the LORD and abide patient- ly upon him:

* but grieve not thyself at him whose way doth prosper,

against the man that doeth after | evil counsels.

8 Leave off from wrath and let | go displeasure:

* fret not thyself, else shalt thou be moved | to do evil.

9 Wicked doers | shall be root^ed out;

* and they that patiently abide the Lord, those shall in- | herit the land.

10 Yet a little while, and the ungodly | shall be clean gone:

* thou shalt look after his place, and | he shall be ^ away.

II But the meek-spirited | shall possess ^ the earth,

* and shall be refreshed in the | multitude ^ of peace.

40 But the salvation of the righteous / cometh of ^ the LORD;

* who is also their strength in the | time of trouble.

41 And the LORD shall stand by | them, and save them:

* he shall deliver them from the ungodly, and shall save them, because they | put their trust ^ in him. The Epistle: I Corinthians I5: 35-38, 42-50 /NRSV/

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul 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.

The Word of the Lord.

People's Response: Thanks be to God.

Alleluia Verba mea auribus

Tone VI



Choir: PONDER MY WORDS, O Lord; consider my meditation.





St. Martin and the Beggar; Simone Martini, 1283-1344

The Holy Gospel: St. Luke 6: 27-38 /RSV/

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

People's response:

■ Glory be to thee, O Lord.

"But I say to you that hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. To him who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from him who takes away your cloak do not withhold your coat as well. Give to every one who begs from you; and of him who takes away your goods do not ask them again. And as you wish that men would do to you, do so to them.



"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And 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, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in

return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

"Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you; 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon (all sit)

Sr. Gregory Simmons, Haven Religious

The Nicene Creed (said by all)

Prayer Book p. 327

T 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;

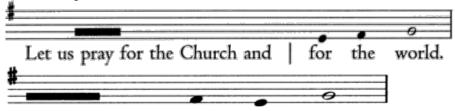
who spake by the Prophets.

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.

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: Watch over thy child Kate, O Lord, as her days increase; bless and guide her wherever she may be. Strengthen her when she stands; comfort her when discouraged or sorrowful; raise her up if she falls; and in her heart may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days / of her life. (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.



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) Intende voci

Mode V

EARKEN THOU UNTO THE VOICE of my prayer, O my king, and my God; for unto thee will I make my prayer, O Lord God.

Motet (choir)

Giuseppe Pitoni (d. 1743)

CANTATE DOMINO canticum novum; laus eius in ecclesia sanctorum. Laetetur Israel in eo, qui fecit eum, et filiae Sion exsultent in rege suo.

[O sing unto the Lord a new song; let the congregation of saints praise him. Let Israel rejoice in him that made him, and let the daughters of Sion be joyful in their King.] Ps. 149: I-2

Presentation of the alms and oblations

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

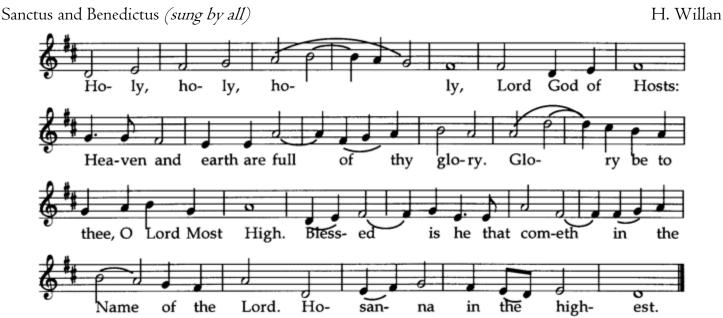


Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant says,

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.

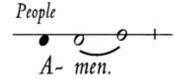
And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance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

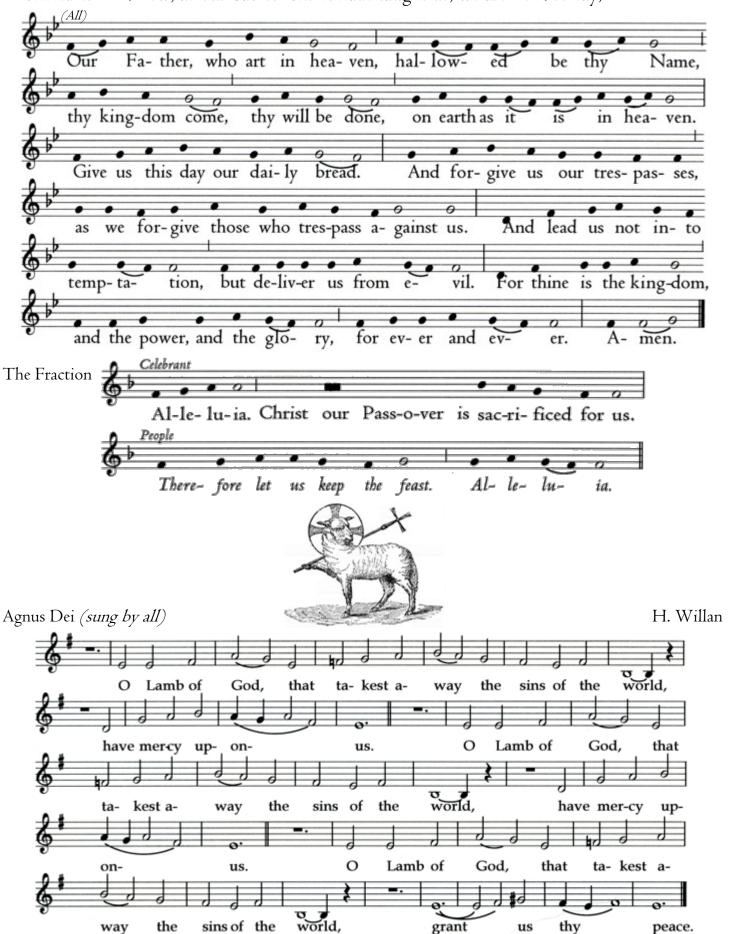
And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

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 (sung by all)

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) Narrabo omnia

Mode II

I WILL SPEAK OF ALL THY MARVELLOUS WORKS, O Lord. I will be glad, and will rejoice in thee; I will sing unto thy Name, O thou Most High.



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.

People: 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.

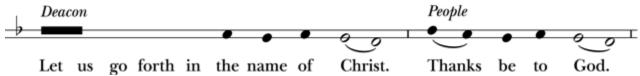
The Epiphany Blessing

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.*

The Dismissal



The Last Gospel St. John 1:1-14

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

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

People: ▶ Glory be to thee, O Lord.

In 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.

People: Thanks be to God.

Ave Regina caelorum, Ave Domina Angelorum. Salve radix, salve porta, ex qua mundo lux est orta. Gaude Virgo gloriosa, super omnes speciosa. Vale, o valde decora, et pro nobis Christum exora.

[Hail, O Queen of heaven, Hail, O Lady of Angels. Hail! thou root, hail! thou gate, from whom unto the world a light has risen. Rejoice, O glorious Virgin, lovely beyond all others. Farewell, most beautiful maiden, and pray for us to Christ.]



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.*





February 23, 2025 – Epiphany 7 (C) Epiphany Bible Study: Week 7

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 *www.sermonsthatwork.org*. This week's study for Epiphany 7 (C) was written by **the Rt. Rev. Eduardo Coelho Grillho**, the bishop of Rio de Janeiro.

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

³ 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. ⁴Then 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. ⁵ And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ 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. ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors. 8 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. 9 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. 10 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. ¹¹ 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.'

¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

Commentary from Eduardo Coelho Grillo

The story of Joseph is well known. His brothers sold him to merchants and, after some time dealing with imprisonment and dreams, he ended up becoming a great administrator in the land of Egypt. Today's reading brings us a reunion between Joseph and his brothers. Such an emotional meeting brought not only regret and sadness but also joy and reconciliation. All that in a few verses, in a few sentences. By that family story, we are invited to reflect on reconciliation and rebuilding relationships. As we read that passage lightly, it may sound as if the forgiveness was instantaneous between Joseph and his brothers. In fact, they all had to overcome resentment and guilt to move forward. They were called by God, as Joseph points out, to restore their family bonds as life challenged them all with famine and difficult living conditions.

Discussion Questions

Have you ever felt betrayed or despised by those you love or trust (family, friends, mates, etc.)?

Do you believe in reconciliation and forgiveness as essential experiences for mental and spiritual health?

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BO----- STORE GRACE NOTES STORTER

February 23 The Seventh 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; St. Barnabas', Greenwich; Christ Church, Guilford; St. John's, Guilford; Grace & St. John's, Hamden; all parish-based mission partnerships; ECCT-wide mission partnership networks; and the Companions in Mission Network. Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil.
- 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 Kate Grant (Wed.), whose birthday we celebrate this week.
- Sick or in need: Antoinette; Kenneth & Adrianne; The Vela Cruz Family; 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 John Miolene, Alfred White, Alton Brennan, all soldiers and civilians killed in war or civil strife, and in memory of Roger Billing, John Kennon, Emily Flechner, and Tommy Melusky.



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

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



THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Sunday, February 23 The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany 8:00 a.m.: Low Mass

8:00 a.m.: Low Mass

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

Tuesday, February 25 Ethelbert, King and Confessor, 616

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

6:00 p.m.: SOLEMN EVENSONG hosted by HAVEN RELIGIOUS

Wednesday, February 26 Feria 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.: Office Hours

7:00 p.m.: Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 27 George Herbert, Priest, 1633

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

Sunday, March 2 The Last Sunday after the Epiphany

8:00 a.m.: Low Mass

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





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



EVENSONG At Grace

with Haven Religious

6pm February 25, 2025
55 New Park Ave, Hartford
Come at 5 to sing with us!
Otherwise come in person or stream on fb!
Light fellowship supper to follow.

COMMEMORATING

Emily Malbone Morgan

Born in Hartford, CT and the founder of the Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross



Ash Wednesday

ASH WEDNESDAY,
March 5th
Ash Wednesday Liturgy
and Distribution of Ashes
9:15 A.M. Low Mass
6 P.M. Solemn High Mass

FRIDAYS IN LENT

5:45 P.M.: Lenten Organ Meditation

(also on Facebook Live)

6:00 P.M. Stations of the Cross and Benediction (also on Facebook Live)