

The Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

January 28, 2024



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

P.O. Box 2255
Batesville, Arkansas, 72503

Main Street at Fifth
870-793-2203

Today's Ministers

<i>Celebrant:</i>	Rev. Jason Alexander
<i>Eucharistic Minister:</i>	Ms. Ardis Gillespie
<i>Acolyte:</i>	Miss. Karis Ford
<i>Lector:</i>	Mr. Alexandre Tenace
<i>Ushers:</i>	Mr. Gary Perkey & Mr. Tim Dunlap
<i>Choir Director & Organist:</i>	Mr. Kristian Ameigh
<i>Technical Support:</i>	Mr. David Taverner
<i>Altar Guild:</i>	Ms. Judy Purnell & Ms. Sandy Barnett

This Week's Community Meal (1/31/2024): **Team Wray**

This Sunday's altar flowers are given by Danny Dozier to the glory of God and in memory of my father and mother, Norman & Rose Dozier.

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

The Word of God

Entrance Hymn: 569: *God the Omnipotent! King, Who Ordainest*

1 God the Om - ni - po - tent! King, who or - dain - est
 2 God the All - mer - ci - ful! earth hath for - sak - en
 3 God the All - right - eous One! earth hath de - fied thee;
 4 God the All - prov - i - dent! earth by thy chas - tening

thun - der thy clar - ion, the light - ning thy sword;
 thy ways all ho - ly, and slight - ed thy word;
 yet to e - ter - ni - ty stand - eth thy word,
 yet shall to free - dom and truth be re - stored;

show forth thy pi - ty on high where thou reign - est:
 bid not thy wrath in its ter - rors a - wak - en:
 false - hood and wrong shall not tar - ry be - side thee:
 through the thick dark - ness thy king - dom is haste - ning:

give to us peace in our time, O Lord.
 give to us peace in our time, O Lord.
 give to us peace in our time, O Lord.
 thou wilt give peace in thy time, O Lord.

Today's service begins on Page 355 in the Book of Common Prayer.

The people standing (as able), the Celebrant says

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be his Kingdom, now and forever. Amen

The Celebrant says

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 in excelsis - Sung (S278)

Celebrant and People

1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and
peace to his peo-ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven-ly King, al-
might-y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo-ry. 3. Lord Je-sus Christ,
on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;
5. you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-
ceive our prayer. 6. For
you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
7. you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the
Ho-ly Spi-rit, in the glo-ry of
God the Fa-ther. A - men.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Deuteronomy 18: 15-20

A reading from Deuteronomy.

Moses said: The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn 440: *Blessèd Jesus, At Thy Word*



1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at thy word we are gath - ered all to
 2 All our know - ledge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est dark - ness
 3 Gra - cious Lord, thy - self im - part! Light of Light, from God pro -

hear thee; let our hearts and souls be stirred
 shroud - ed, till thy Spi - rit breaks our night
 ceed - ing, o - pen thou our ears and heart,

now to seek and love and fear thee; by thy teach - ings
 with the beams of truth un - cloud - ed; thou a - lone to
 help us by thy Spi - rit's plead - ing. Hear the cry thy

pure and ho - ly, drawn from earth to love thee sole - ly.
 God canst win us; thou must work all good with - in us.
 Church up - rais - es; hear, and bless our prayers and prais - es.

Gospel

Mark 1:21-28

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Mark.

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.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Nicene Creed *found on page 358 in the Book of Common Prayer*

All stand, as the People and Celebrant say together.

**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, Form III – *found on page 387 in the Book of Common Prayer*

People kneeling, as able, the Leader and People pray responsively

The Leader and People pray responsively

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and
humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
***That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and
Sacraments.***

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations
of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to Ruth Pellow, Paul Maples and all the departed eternal rest;
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions.

We pray all members of our parish and especially for: Peyton Olson, Jamie Bridgers, Ann Rhodes, Jim & Deb Johnson, Patricia Smith, Joan Davidson, Matt Stephenson, John & Susan Dempsey, Isabelle Tenace, Lanna Bradford, Ellen Massey, Martha Healey, and Bill Olson.

And we pray for our family and friends for whom our prayers have been requested: Jim Wilson, Jay, Autumn Celestine, Kitten Lawless, DeAnna McCool, Robin Goertz, Gerry Goertz & Jinny Goertz, Tom & Kathy Celestine, Mary Myers, Mason Evans, Mark & Jennifer, Sandra Hughes, Susan, Ken Ortman, Jody Gayle, Stacey Lindsey, Tara Nance, the Sweet Family, Carol Robertson, Rebecca Ward, Annalynn Hart, Tim Johnson, Monty McRoy, Melvin & Jennie Smith, Howard Crosby, Pat Spence, the Painter & Atkinson families, Camryn Dempsey, Gina Layne, and David Smith.

We give thanks for those celebrating birthdays and an anniversary this week, especially Cord Davidson (1/28), Mike Mundy (1/31), Karen Mills (2/1), Rocky Willmuth (2/3), and John & Susan Dempsey (1/29).

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Confession

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and 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.**

Absolution

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

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People

And also with you.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Celebrant may begin the Offertory with an Offertory sentence.

Offertory: Holy, Holy, Holy

Franz Schubert

Doxology: 43 v.4

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow: praise him, all creatures here below: praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

The Great Thanksgiving, Prayer B

The people remain standing

Celebrant *People*
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name.

Sanctus (S125): Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

Celebrant and People

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The people stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues

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.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

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."

Celebrant

Therefore, according to his com - mand, O Fa - ther,

Celebrant and People

We re - mem - ber his death, We pro - claim his re - sur -

rec - tion, We a - wait his com - ing in glo - ry.

The Celebrant continues

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 blessed Paul and 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.**

The Celebrant then continues

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

People and Celebrant

**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.**

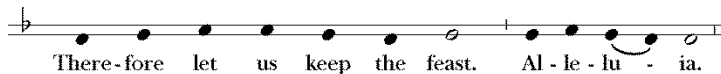
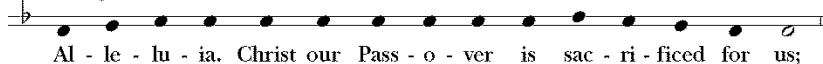
**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

This setting is not used in Lent.



This setting may be sung full by all, or by the choir; or as a versicle and response.

The Celebrant may say the following Invitation

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.

Communion Hymn: *Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor*

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

On 365:

**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.**

Or, on 366:

**Almighty and ever living God, we thank
you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and
for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of
your Son, and heirs of your eternal
kingdom. And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you as faithful witnesses
of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and
to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Blessing

The Peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and; the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Post Communion Hymn 530: *Spread, O Spread, Thou Mighty Word*

1 Spread, O spread, thou might - y word, spread the king - dom of the Lord,
2 word of how the Fa - ther's will made the world, and keeps it, still;
3 word of how the Sa - vior's love earth's sore bur - den doth re - move;
4 word of how the Spi - rit came bring - ing peace in Je - sus' name;
5 Word of life, most pure and strong, word for which the na - tions long,

1 that to earth's re - mot - est bound all may heed the joy - ful sound;
2 how his on - ly Son he gave, earth from sin and death to save;
3 how for - ev - er, in its need, through his death the world is freed;
4 how his nev - er - fail - ing love guides us on to heaven a - bove.
5 spread a - broad, un - til from night all the world a - wakes to light.

Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Organ Postlude