



# ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH

## 7 EPIPHANY

### FEBRUARY 23, 2025

*To Lift People Up As Christ Calls*

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8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II

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Thank you for joining us today. Many of us gathered here today were not raised in The Episcopal Church, but have come to find in this parish a source of spiritual growth. If you are new to St. Christopher's or visiting with us today, please fill out one of the visitor's cards found in the pews and put it in the offering plate or give it to one of the ushers.

Our nursery is not staffed, but feel free to use the facilities with your children. We also offer activity bags in the vestibule for children of all ages. Children in preschool through 8th grade are encouraged to go to Children's Chapel or Tween Time for age-appropriate worship with their friends. The kids return at the passing of the peace.

We invite you to join us for refreshments in the parish hall following the service. Please feel free to introduce yourself to any of us if we don't get to you first.

## Opening Prayer

## Processional Hymn 390

*Descant*

4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -  
 2 Praise to the Lord; o - ver all things he glo - rious - ly  
 3 Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy way and de -  
 4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

dore him! All that hath life and breath come now with

a - tion; O my soul, praise him, for he is thy  
 reign - eth: borne as on ea - gle - wings, safe - ly his  
 fend - thee; sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall  
 dore him! All that hath life and breath come now with

prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his

health and sal - va - tion: join the great throng, psal - ter - y,  
 saints he sus - tain - eth. Hast thou not seen how all thou  
 ev - er at - tend thee; pon - der a - new what the Al -  
 prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his

peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for ev - er a - dore him.

or - gan, and song, sound - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion.  
 need - est hath been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?  
 might - y can do, who with his love doth be - friend thee.  
 peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for ev - er a - dore him.

Words: Joachim Neander (1650-1680); tr. *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Lobe den Herren*, melody from *Erneuerten Gesangbuch*, 1665; harm. *The Chorale Book for England*, 1863; desc. Craig Sellar Lang (1891-1971). Descant, Copyright © 1953, Novello and Company Limited. Used by permission.

## THE WORD OF GOD

### Versicle and Response

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

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

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

### The Collect of Purity

*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.*

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
 peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly  
 King, al - mighty 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.

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

## The Collect of the Day

*The Celebrant says to the people*

The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*The Celebrant says the Collect.*

*People* Amen.

## The Lessons

First Lesson: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Insert

Psalm 37:1-12, 41-42

Insert

Put your trust in the Lord and do good.

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

Insert

# Gradual Hymn 593

1 Lord, make us ser - vants of your peace; where there is  
2 Where all is doubt, may we sow faith; where all is  
3 Je - sus, our Lord, may we not seek to be con -  
4 May we not look for love's re - turn, but seek to  
5 Dy - ing, we live, and are re - born through death's dark

1 hate, may we sow love; where there is hurt, may we for -  
2 gloom, may we sow hope; where all is night, may we sow  
3 soled, but to con - sole, nor look to un - der - stand - ing  
4 love un - self - ish - ly, for in our giv - ing we re -  
5 night to end - less day: Lord, make us ser - vants of your

1 give; where there is strife, may we make one.  
2 light; where all is tears, may we sow joy.  
3 hearts, but look for hearts to un - der - stand.  
4 ceive, and in for - giv - ing are for - given.  
5 peace, to wake at last in hea - ven's light.

Words: James Quinn (b. 1919), based on a prayer att. to St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226). Copyright © James Quinn, SJ, printed by permission of Geoffrey Chapman, a division on Cassell Ltd. Music: *Dickinson College*, Lee Hastings Bristol, Jr. (1923-1979). Copyright © 1962, Theodore Presser Co. used by permission of the publisher.

*Then, all standing, the Celebrant reads the Gospel, first saying*

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

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

*After the Gospel, the Celebrant says*

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## **The Sermon**

Moment of Silent Reflection

*The people stand.*

## **The Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven:

by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
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.

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Spirit of God dwells within us, let us pray in the Spirit for the needs of all creation, saying: God of light, *hear our prayer.*

For the Church: remembering especially Sean our Presiding Bishop, and Daniel our bishop, that in all things we may be signs of God's compassion and mercy. God of light, *hear our prayer.*

For this Parish Family, especially Hillary and Kristen our priests, and Andrew our brother priest, that we may heed the call of the Lord to turn the other cheek, go the extra mile, and love our enemies. God of light, *hear our prayer.*

For conversion of our hearts, that God will free us from returning evil for evil and help us confront evil with love and mercy. God of light, *hear our prayer.*

For all who have been our enemies, whether politically, economically or personally, that we may let go of hurts and grudges, and seek new paths of understanding. God of light, *hear our prayer.*



For Donald our President, Joshua our Governor, and for the leaders of the nations who seek to ease tensions and hostility where war and violence persist, that they may come to a new understanding of mutual concerns and open new pathways for peace and justice to prevail. God of light, *hear our prayer.*

For all who are suffering, that God will free them from fear, bring justice to those who are wronged, hope to those grieving and in despair, and healing to the sick, remembering especially Richard, Thomas, Catherine, M.L., Darryl, Jim, Liam, Linda, Jenny, John, Mark, Dorothy, Ben, Karen, Melissa, Merrill, Herb, and for those we now name either silently or aloud (pause); God of light, *hear our prayer.*

For those who have died, remembering especially Doris who died last week, for Larry in whose loving memory the altar flowers have been given, and for those we now name either silently or aloud (pause); that they may be raised in glory and inherit the place prepared for them. God of light, *hear our prayer.*

Lifting our voices with all creation, with Saint Christopher and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ. *To you, O Lord our God.*

*Celebrant*        God of mercy and love, hear our prayers and grant that we may show your perfect love in our lives, and know its fulfillment in your presence, through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*Celebrant*

Let us confess our sins to God.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Celebrant 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.*

The Peace

Welcome and Concerns

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Anthem Since By Man Came Death from *Messiah* Handel

Presentation of Alms and Oblations

Doxology

*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. Amen.*

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

## Eucharistic Prayer A

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* We lift them to the Lord.

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* It is right to give him thanks and praise.

*The 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.

*Here a Proper Preface is sung or said*

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

*Sanctus*

Hymnal S-125



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.

Music: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1971, 1977 GIA Publications, Inc.

*The people kneel*

*The Celebrant continues*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.*

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

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is  
 sac - ri - ficed for us; there - fore let us keep the feast.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Setting: Gerald R. Near (b. 1942)

*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.

The Communion of the People

*All who seek a closer relationship with God are invited to receive communion.*

*Congregants are invited to leave their pews starting at the front of the church and working back. If intinction is your preference, please sanitize your hands first.*

Communion Hymn 341

1 For the bread which you have bro - ken, for the  
 2 By this pledge, Lord, that you love us, by your  
 3 As our bless - ed ones a - dore you, seat - ed  
 4 In your ser - vice, Lord, de - fend us; in our

wine which you have poured, for the words which you have  
 gift of peace re - stored, by your call to heaven a -  
 at our Fa - ther's board, may the Church still wait - ing  
 hearts keep watch and ward, in the world to which you

spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.  
 bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord.  
 for you keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord.  
 send us let your king - dom come, O Lord.

Words: Louis F. Benson (1855-1930), alt. Copyright © Louis F. Benson. Used by permission of Robert F. Jeffery. Music: *Omni die*, melody from *Gross Catolisch Gesangbuch*, 1631; harm. William Smith Rockstro (1823-1895).

## Prayer after Communion

*Celebrant and People*

Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
 you have graciously accepted us as living members  
 of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
 and you have fed us with spiritual food  
 in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
 Send us now into the world in peace,  
 and grant us strength and courage  
 to love and serve you  
 with gladness and singleness of heart;  
 through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## The Blessing

# Recessional Hymn 657

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to  
 2 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy  
 3 Fi - nish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy  
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - way bless - ing,  
 ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.  
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: *Hyfrydol*, Rowland Hugh Prichard (1811-1887).

The Dismissal Let us go forth in the Name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.  
 People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.  
 Postlude *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* Leavitt