



## Third Sunday after the Epiphany

January 26, 2025

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

*The people stand.*

### WELCOME

### OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

*People* And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

*Priest and people* 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.

### KYRIE ELEISON

*Priest* Lord, have mercy.

*People* Christ, have mercy.

*Priest* Lord, have mercy.

### THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

*Priest* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Priest* Let us pray.

*Priest and People* Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

*The people are seated.*

## THE FIRST READING

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

*Reader*

A reading from the Book of the prophet Nehemiah

All the people of Israel gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

*Reader*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People*

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 19

The heavens declare the glory of God, \*  
**and the firmament shows his handiwork.**

One day tells its tale to another, \*  
**and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

Although they have no words or language, \*  
**and their voices are not heard,**

Their sound has gone out into all lands, \*  
**and their message to the ends of the world.**

In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; \*  
**it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;**  
**it rejoices like a champion to run its course.**

It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens  
and runs about to the end of it again; \*  
**nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; \*  
**the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.**

The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; \*  
**the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever; \*  
**the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.**

More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, \*  
**sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

By them also is your servant enlightened, \*  
**and in keeping them there is great reward.**

Who can tell how often he offends? \*  
**cleanse me from my secret faults.**

Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;  
let them not get dominion over me; \*  
**then shall I be whole and sound,  
and innocent of a great offense.**

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my  
heart be acceptable in your sight, \*  
**O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.**  
*he people stand for the reading of the Gospel.*

## **THE GOSPEL**

Luke 4:14-21

*Deacon*            The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke.  
*People*            **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

*Deacon*            The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*            **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*The people are seated at the invitation of the preacher.*

**SERMON**

The Rev. Deacon Tracey Forfa

**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 truly human. 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. 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**

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 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.

*A brief silence is kept.*

We pray for comfort, healing, courage and hope for **Jan Hauber; Alero Nesiamia; Doris Chin; Barbara Harbison; Kirk Davies; TJ Miller; Betty Knight; Rodolfo Rodriguez; Carlina Vergara; Ron Hayden; Tana Hight; Susan Ahalt; Rosario Sanchez Valenzuela; Gerald Babcock; Ray and Deborah Villescas; Bishop Chilton Knudsen; Laura Eberhard; Bob Waters; Aloysius Farrah; Richard Preston, Eric Harris, Claud Stewart**, and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity, as well as for all those on our extended healing prayer list.

*Extended Prayer List:* Jean Isaac, Judy Conroy, Matt and Jeanie Cross, James Parker, Lyn Pusey, JoAnna Grable, George Scott, Christine Keunen, Delita Rodriguez, Mary Waldron.

We pray for peace in the world and for the victims of war everywhere. We also pray for all who are serving our country here and abroad, especially those in harm's way, and their families.

We pray for all those affected by, suffering from, and killed by gun violence throughout our country.

We pray for the well-being of our planet Earth and for all who are working to avert the climate crisis, including each of us as we care for God's creation in our own homes and our own lives.

We give thanks for the life of Michael J. Donahue, brother of Eileen Brittain, who died on January 20, 2025.

We give thanks for the life of Frances Farrah, who died on January 23, 2025.

We give thanks for the recent birthdays of **Carlos** Montalvan, **Carolyn** Schubert, **Stewart** Williams, **Telfar** Clemens, **Aidan** Douglas, **Richard** Chasdi, **Luisa** Hoage, **Scott** Smiley, **Feeta** Caphart, **Neil** Blanc, and **Wendy** Fitch.

*Celebrant* Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask: Help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## CONFESSION OF SIN

*Deacon:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

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

*Celebrant:*

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

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

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

## OFFERTORY SENTENCE

*Celebrant*

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

*The altar is prepared for Holy Communion and an offering is received to support Ascension's ministry of sharing God's love with the world. Text ASCENSIONMD + Amount to 73256 to give a donation using your text messaging Or scan the QR code*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

*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.**





### *Celebrant*

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

For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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:

### *Celebrant and People*

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

### *The people kneel or remain standing. 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.

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."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

**We remember his death,**

**We proclaim his resurrection,**

**We await his coming in glory;**

*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 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.**

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

*Celebrant and People* **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.**

**THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

*Celebrant:* Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People:* **Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

*Celebrant* God's Holy gifts for God's holy people. Come, when you are fearful, to be made new in love. Come, when you are doubtful, to be made strong in faith. Come, when you are regretful, and be made whole in Christ. Come to Christ's table, there is room for all.

*A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.*

## **PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

**Lord Jesus, we believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. We offer you praise and thanksgiving as we proclaim your resurrection. We love you above all, and long for you in our souls. Since we cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.**

*All are welcome to receive Holy Communion at Church of the Ascension. Please follow the directions of the Priest. In addition to using a communion kit or receiving bread only, you may now receive in both parts but with the caveat that intincting ("dipping") is not permitted; only receiving the wine by drinking from the cup.*

## **THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

**Faithful God, in the wonder of your wisdom and love you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels, and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life. We thank you for the Body of Christ, the bread of heaven, and for the offering of Christ's holy presence, the gift of spiritual communion, which feeds us when we must be apart. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we become One Body in the sacrament of Christ's Body. Transform our lives with your life, for the love we share becomes bread for the world. AMEN.**

## BLESSING

*Celebrant* Life is short, and we do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind. And may the blessing of the one who made us, who journeys with us, who breathes us into life moment by moment, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit, be upon you this day and always. Amen.

*The people are seated for the announcements.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*For more information about activities and events coming up at Ascension, please refer to the bulletin insert. At the direction of the Celebrant, the people stand as able, and all sing the hymn.*

## DISMISSAL

*Celebrant* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

### *Service Participants:*

The Rev. Javier García Ocampo – *Rector*

The Rev. Rosa Briones – *Deacon*

Tracey Forfa – *Deacon*

*The Ascension Tech Team*

*The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two is from the Book of Common Prayer © 1979 Church Publishing, Inc. Scripture readings are from the New Revised Standard Version of The Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.*