

# The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February 1, 2026

THE HOLY EUCHARIST (RITE II)

10:00 am



The Church of the Holy Spirit (Episcopal)  
Knowing • Loving • Serving  
God + Neighbor

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# The Word of God

## The Prelude

*See Amid the Winter's Snow*

arr. Malcolm Archer

*Please stand as you are able as the bell is rung.*

## The Opening Hymn WLP 782 Gracious Spirit, give your servants (green hymnal)

*Abbot's Leigh*

*Celebrant*      Blessed be God: Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit.  
*People*        **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

## The Collect for Purity

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.

## The Collect of the Day

*People*        The Lord be with you.  
*Celebrant*      **And also with you.**  
                    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.**

*Please be seated for the scripture appointed.*

## The Lessons

### A reading from the book of Micah (6:1-8)

Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with tens of thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

The Word of the Lord.  
*People*                    **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 15** (*Prayed antiphonally by whole verse, alternating between East and West*)

1 Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? \*  
    who may abide upon your holy hill?

**2 Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, \***  
    **who speaks the truth from his heart.**

3 There is no guile upon his tongue;  
    he does no evil to his friend; \*  
    he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.

**4 In his sight the wicked is rejected, \***  
    **but he honors those who fear the Lord.**

5 He has sworn to do no wrong \*  
    and does not take back his word.

**6 He does not give his money in hope of gain, \***  
    **nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.**

7 Whoever does these things \*  
    shall never be overthrown.

**A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians (1:18-31)**

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

*People* The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able for the sequence hymn and the reading of the gospel.*

### **The Sequence Hymn 656 Blest are the pure in heart**

*Franconia*

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

### **Matthew 5:1-12**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:  
"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.  
Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.  
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.  
Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.  
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.  
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.  
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

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

### **The Sermon**

The Rev. Patrick C. Ward

*Please stand as you are able for the creed; you may sit, stand or kneel for the prayers as your personal piety guides you.*

### **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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became 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 and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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**

In the light of this season, we bring our prayers before God.

For the Holy Church of God throughout the world, that we may be witnesses of Christ's Gospel of love to all people, speak God's truth and stand with those in any kind of need.

**Enlighten the church, O God.**

For Julia, our bishop, and for all who minister in and from the church, that they may proclaim with zeal and pastor with tenderness. In our Diocesan cycle of prayer we remember St. Mark's Church, St. Mary's Church and the Epiphany School, all in Dorchester and The Diocesan Council.

**Enlighten our ministers, O God.**

For all persons in public authority, that they may be people of trust and serve the common good, denouncing violence and the coercive use of force and promoting the safety and dignity of all.

**Enlighten our state, O God.**

For ourselves, that we may take to heart the plight of those of us who are poor, those of us who are homeless and destitute, and all who suffer due to human greed.

**Enlighten our conscience, O God.**

For those who live in fear for their lives, their families, and their homes, that their prayers for relief may be heard and their lives of freedom restored. We remember before you those regions of the world torn apart by war or civil unrest, Ukraine and Russia, Israel and Gaza, Nigeria, Venezuela, Sudan, South Sudan and Haiti. We pray for homes and neighborhoods in our own nation traumatized by gun violence. May your peace spread across the world, that all may live in safety.

**Enlighten our world, O God.**

For those among us who are sick and infirm, especially Dick Anderson, Robert Blanchet, Terese Brown, Sally Drew, Bill and Judy Gardiner, Joan Kirkby, Barbara and Philip Sousa, Dottie Walsh, Matthew, Alex, Bob, Carole, Cathi, Charlie, Dave, John, Lauren, Linnea, Pat and those we now name silently or aloud, (*We name silently or aloud those for whom we pray.*)

that they may be delivered from their pain and distress and restored to wholeness of life.

**Enlighten our darkness, O God.**

For all who have died, including Mark Prall, and for those we now name, (*We name silently or aloud those who have died.*)

that they may know God's peace and perfect freedom in a kingdom that is forever.

**Enlighten our hopes, O God.**

## The Concluding Collect

O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light riseth up in darkness for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what thou wouldest have us to do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in thy light we may see light, and in thy straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**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**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## The 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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People*      **And also with you.**

## The Greeting and Announcements

## The Holy Communion

**The Offertory**      Let us Light a Candle in the Darkness      Richard Shephard

In a world where people walk in darkness, let us turn our faces to the light,  
to the light of God revealed in Jesus, the Daystar scattering our night.

*For the light is stronger than the darkness and the day will overcome the night,  
Though the shadows linger all around us, let us turn our faces to the light.*

In a world where suffering of the helpless casts a shadow all along the way,  
Let us bear the cross of Christ with gladness, and proclaim the dawning of the day.

*Refrain*

Let us light a candle in the darkness, in the face of death, a sign of life;  
As a sign of hope where all seems hopeless, as a sign of peace in place of strife.

*Refrain*

*Please stand as you are able as our offering is presented.*

Hymn 124



To God the Fa - ther, heaven - ly Light, to  
Christ, re - vealed in earth - ly night, to  
God the Ho - ly Ghost we raise our e - qual and un -  
end - - - ing praise.

*Celebrant* All things come of thee, O Lord.

*People* **And of thine own have we given thee. Amen.**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

*Eucharistic Prayer B*

*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 our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God 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 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 S-128 Holy, holy, holy Lord

Mathias

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

*You may remain standing, sit or kneel for the continuation of the Eucharistic prayer.*

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 Christ. 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 God,

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

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 Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. **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.**

### The Breaking of the Bread

**This is the Body**

Bell

This is the bo-dy of Christ— bro-ken that we may be whole;— this cup, as

pro-mised by God, true to his word, cra-dles our Lord: food for the

good of the soul.

The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ lived, died and rose for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*We offer the following prayer each week in solidarity with those viewing from home.*

### **The Prayer for Spiritual Communion**

**Holy Jesus, Redeemer of the World, we believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament of this altar. Even while some of us are unable to receive you in the elements of bread and wine, we invite you to enter our hearts and be our companion along the way. Waiting in hope, we know that you are present in every moment of our lives and will never leave us comfortless. For all good things come from you O Lord, and from that goodness, lead us to the love of others. For you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit now and forever. Amen.**

*All are welcome to receive the bread and/or the wine. You may stand or kneel to receive. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are also available; simply make your needs known to the person serving you. If you wish a blessing instead of the elements, cross your arms over your chest as the priest approaches you.*

### **The Communion Hymns**

**Hymn WLP 811 Be not afraid**

Bob Dufford

**Hymn 593 Lord, make us servants of your peace**

*Dickinson College*

*Please stand as you are able.*

### **The Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray.

**Eternal God, by grace you accept us as living members of your Son Jesus Christ and feed us with spiritual food in this sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace to do your work of reconciliation as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To Him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit may all creation sing hymns of thanks and praise. Amen.**

### **The Sending** (*when lay eucharistic visitors are scheduled to make home or hospital visits*)

*Celebrant:* In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

*People:* **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread and the one cup.**

## The Epiphany Blessing

May Almighty God, who led the Magi 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 River Jordan, pour out that Spirit on you who have come to the waters of new birth. **Amen.**

May God, who turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana, transform your lives and make glad your hearts. **Amen.**

And may the blessing of God Almighty, who creates, redeems and sustains, be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

## The Closing Hymn 569 God the Omnipotent!

*Russia*

**The Dismissal**      *Priest*      Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
                          *People*      **Thanks be to God.**

**The Postlude**      *Andante*      Karl Zollner

*Celebrant and Preacher*      The Rev. Patrick C. Ward

*Minister of Music*      Joan Kirchner

*Eucharistic Ministers*      Kate Paradise, Gail Binney-Sterne

*Readers*      Sarah Gregory, Carol Baffi-Dugan, Ike Cole

*Ushers*      Phil Suraci, Michael Isner

*Altar Guild*      Donna Bailey

*Altar Flower Guild*      Fay Cole

*Audio/Video*      John Harter

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