

Christ Church of Bethany and Woodbridge

The Fourth Sunday after The Epiphany

Prelude: *Come Thy Fount of Every Blessing* Tate

Processional Hymn 436 *Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates* Truro

The Word of God, as beginning on page 355 of The Book of Common Prayer

The Collect

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.**

A Reading from the Book of Deuteronomy 18:15-20

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."

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.**

A Reading from the First Epistle to the Corinthians 8:1-13

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.

Gradual Hymn 686 *Come Thy Fount of Every Blessing* Nettleton

At the introduction of the Gospel, the congregation responds, “Glory to you, Lord Christ”

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to St. Mark 1:21-28

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.

At the conclusion, the congregation responds, “Praise to you, Lord Christ”

The Sermon

Choir Anthem: *All is Well* Spafford

Nicene Creed, page 358

Prayers of the People

Intercessor:

As we celebrate the baptism of Christ, let us offer prayers to God who washes us in the blood of the Lamb. By the baptism of the Son of God in the river Jordan.

Lord, have mercy.

For our bishops, priests, deacons, and all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who seek Christ, and for the liberation of the whole human race.

Lord, have mercy.

For mercy, peace, and justice throughout the world.

Lord, have mercy.

For all those in danger and need: the sick and the suffering, the hungry and the oppressed, and those in prison.

Lord, have mercy.

For the dying and the dead.

Lord, have mercy.

For our deliverance from all affliction, strife, and need.

Lord, have mercy.

Remembering the blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

To you, O Lord our God.

The congregation may add their own thanksgivings and petitions, either silently or aloud.

Celebrant:

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. Amen.

The Confession and Absolution

The Peace

The Holy Communion

Offertory Hymn 412 *Earth and all stars*

Doxology

The Sanctus

The Breaking of the Bread

Music during the Distribution: *Be Thou My Vision* Tate

The Post-Communion Prayer, page 365

Recessional Hymn 490 *I want to walk as a child of the light* Houston

Postlude: *A Festal Fanfare* J.S. Bach

The altar flowers are given by Pam & Curt Dann in honor of Rob and Jenni

Participants:

Celebrant and Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Robert P. Clements

Musician and Choir Director: Michelle Fraser

Lay Minister: Deb Melycher

Lector: Bob Skolozdra

Altar Guild: Deb Melycher

Video: Jessica Sklorozda

Counters: Pat Ryan and Jayne Johnson

Ecclesia Canem: Brother Jesse, CGC

Stewards of the Sacred Space: Ruth Beardsley and Michelle Fraser

In our Petitions and Thanksgivings:

Jayne Johnson, Madeline Slicer, Gerry Shaw, Doris Beswick,

Sandy, Cate Horton, Lisa Caivano, Linda White,

Patricia, Christopher, Paul, Frankie Sylvester,

Pat Ryan, Rosalie Molnar, Steve Johnson, Gail Peabody,

Nancy, Margaret Clements, Jeff Boyd, Laurie Marcho,

Greg Banks, John Matheson, Owen Horvath, and Sharon Patrick