

St. Francis Episcopal Church

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 4, 2024 9:30 am

Welcome to St. Francis. Your presence among us deepens and enriches our worship, and for that we are grateful. In this service leaflet, the people's responses are in **bold**. The time prior to the service is set aside for prayerful waiting and reflection. Please be respectful in observing silence at this time. Please silence all electronic devices. If you are a guest this morning and would like to know more about St. Francis, please fill out a visitor card in the pew pocket and place it in the offering plate. The Rev. Toni Belhu would like to sit down with you for a visit. You may reach her at the church office at 828-287-3888 ext. 2 or her cell at 704-215-1882.

THE PRELUDE

All stand, as able.
THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Immortal, invisible, God only wise

Hymnal p. 423



Words: Walter Chalmers Smith (1824-1908), alt. Music: St. Denio, Welsh hymn, from Caniadau y Cyssegr, 1839; adapt. John Roberts (1822-1877); harm. The English Hymnal, 1906, alt.

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

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

THE COLLECT OF 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.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO (S-280)



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All sit for the lessons

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 40:21-31

A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God"? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. The Word of the Lord.

The Word of the Bord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 147:1-12, 21c

Book of Common Prayer p. 804

1 Hallelujah!

How good it is to sing praises to our God! *

how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!

2 The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem; *

he gathers the exiles of Israel.

3 He heals the brokenhearted *

and binds up their wounds.

4 He counts the number of the stars * and calls them all by their names.

- 5 Great is our Lord and mighty in power; * there is no limit to his wisdom.
- 6 The Lord lifts up the lowly, * but casts the wicked to the ground.
- 7 Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; * make music to our God upon the harp.
- 8 He covers the heavens with clouds * and prepares rain for the earth;
- 9 He makes grass to grow upon the mountains * and green plants to serve mankind.
- 10 He provides food for flocks and herds * and for the young ravens when they cry.
- 11 He is not impressed by the might of a horse; * he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;
- 12 But the Lord has pleasure in those who fear him, * in those who await his gracious favor.
- 21 Hallelujah!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: * as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

SECOND LESSON 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel. For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.



Words: Joseph Scriven (1819-1866). Music: Charles C. Converse (1832-1918).

THE GOSPEL Mark 1:29-39

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

After Jesus and his disciples left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons. The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE HOMILY The Rev. Toni Belhu

Silence may be kept after the homily.

All stand, as able
THE NICENE CREED

Book of Common Prayer p. 358

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

On the third day he rose again

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.

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

Book of Common Prayer p. 387

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, especially Michael our Presiding Bishop, José our Bishop, and Toni our Rector;

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. Today we pray especially for **Josephine**, **Betty**, **Oscar**, **James**, **John**, **Ruth**, **Bobby**, **Helen**, **June**, **Wesley**, **Debbie**, **Charles**, **Sandra**, **Sally**, **Lyn**, **Jeanne**, **Lucinda**, **Mel**, **Elora**, **Lynn**, **Kensley**, **Malisha**, **Madison**, **Jim**, **Shirley**,

and all those on our long-term prayer list. Are there others? (Please add the names of others either silently or aloud)

In thanksgiving we pray for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries in the coming week, especially **Lucinda Humphries (7), Nancy Bole (10).**

We pray for all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad especially those on our military prayer list, saying together, **Ben, Jeremiah, Daniel, David, Christopher, Daniel, Adam, Jeremy, Peter, Christian, Brendan, Will, Christopher, Nick.** We pray also for their families, friends, and neighbors who await their safe return.

We pray for our sister church, St. Gabriel's. In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Seminarians, and all students, faculty & staff involved in Theological Education. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the Anglican Church of South America.

We pray for our missionaries and their work in the world, for Russ and Heidi Smith in Chile and John and Zsófi Wilson in Hungary.

We pray for St. Francis Day School, and for its students and teachers and their families, that they may grow in stature and wisdom, and in the knowledge and love of your grace and truth.

The Celebrant concludes with a collect.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

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 Book of Common Prayer p. 360

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

People: And also with you.

The ministers and people greet each other in the name of the Lord.

ALL ARE WELCOME AT THE TABLE OF THE LORD.

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

All stand, as able

THE OFFERTORY HYMN The God of Abraham praise Hymnal p. 401



Words: Thomas Olivers (1725-1799), alt. Music: *Leoni*, Hebrew melody; harm. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1875, alt. All stand, as able, as the offering is presented, singing together the 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 GREAT THANKSGIVING - Prayer A

Book of Common Prayer p. 367

The people remain standing.

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.

Then 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.

PROPER PREFACE

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 p. S-129



The people stand or kneel.

Then 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 hath taught us, we are bold to pray,

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; **People:** Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

AGNUS DEI

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

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.

To receive communion, come to the communion rail. Receive the bread in the palm of your hand. Eat the bread and then drink from the cup when it is offered to you, or, if you wish, you may hold one finger up to indicate to the priest you would prefer intinction.

Gluten-free wafers are available. Please make your need known to the priest.

If you wish to receive a blessing rather than receive communion, please join in the movement to the communion rail and cross your arms over the front of your chest. If you do not wish to receive the wine, after receiving the bread, please cross your arms over the front of your chest. This will alert the ministers of your wishes.

During communion, members of our congregation will join together in our choir loft to lead the congregation in singing the communion hymns.



Words: Robert Robinson (1735-1790), alt. Music: Nettleton, melody from A Repository of Sacred Music, Part II, 1813; harm. Gerre Hancock (b. 1934).



6 Just as I am, of thy great love the breadth, length, depth, and height to prove, here for a season, then above: O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Words: Charlotte Elliott (1789-1871). Music: Woodworth, William Batchelder Bradbury (1816-1868).



After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving 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.

THE BLESSING

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.



6 Then bless his holy Name, whose grace hath made thee whole, whose loving-kindness crowns thy days: O bless the Lord, my soul!

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854); para. of Psalm 103. Music: St. Thomas (Williams), melody Λaron Williams (1731-1776); harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

LONG TERM PRAYER LIST: James, Dickinson, Burtches, Zoey, Addison, Kieth, Brenda, Tony, Judy, Ricky, Billy, Mary, Greg, Max, Johny, Layla Rose, Ramona, Edwin, Sherry, Mark.

The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Casey McMahon by the Cunningham/McMahon Family.

Worship Leaders 9:30

Usher – Anita Quinley
Greeter – Elizabeth Morgan

1st Lesson – Bob Blanton

2nd Lesson – Stacy Guarriello
Chalicist – Richard Williams
Acolyte – Walt Joyce
Vestry Lock Up – Linda Jeanne Harrill
Camera – Steve Ross
Children's Church – Linda Tribou,
Kathryn McGowan
Fellowship – Chili Cook-Off

Worship Leaders for next Sunday 11:00 am

Joint Service at St. Gabriel's

Saint Francis Episcopal Church

408 North Main Street Rutherfordton, NC 28139 828-287-3888

Rector: The Rev. Toni Belhu

Email: rector@stfrancisrutherfordton.org-

Cell Phone: 704-215-1882

Parish Administrator: Kathryn McGowan

Email:

administrator@stfrancisrutherfordton.org

Organist: Steven Noll Sexton: Debbie Hamrick

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