ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SANTA CLARITA THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY 10:00am January 22, 2023

The Altar flowers are given to the glory of God.

Prayer of Meditation

Before the service begins, we encourage you to use the following for meditation.

God is not a being external to us, not an object out there, but the subject of all that is. God is Being itself – if you be, if you are, if you have been brought into existence, you are participating in God. We are not separate from God, from one another, or from the earth. Br. Keith Nelson, SSJE

Prelude

Sonata quasi una Fantasia (Moonlight) Op. 27, No. 2, 1st Movement

Beethoven

Please stand as you are able.



THE WORD OF GOD

Priest: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People: Glory to God for ever and ever.

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.**

Children's Greeting

All Sunday School age children are invited to come forward at this time to share in a special greeting with the priest before departing for Sunday School.

Priest and People:

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Priest: God be with you. **People:** And also with you.

Priest: Let us pray.

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.**

Reader: Mary Bennett

Please be seated.

THE LESSONS

The First Reading Isaiah 9:1-4

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness--on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 27:1, 5-13 Reader: Rod Schluter

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? *
the Lord is the strength of my life;
of whom then shall I be afraid?

- One thing I seek; *
 that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;
- To behold the fair beauty of the Lord * and to seek him in his temple.
- For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter; * he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling and set me high upon a rock.
- 8 Even now he lifts up my head * above my enemies round about me.
- 9 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation with sounds of great gladness; *
 I will sing and make music to the Lord.
- Hearken to my voice, O Lord, when I call; * have mercy on me and answer me.
- 11 You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." * Your face, Lord, will I seek.
- Hide not your face from me, * nor turn away your servant in displeasure.
- 13 You have been my helper; cast me not away; * do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.

The Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

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

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and

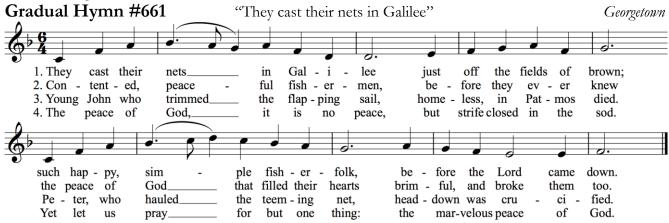
Reader: Rod Schluter

Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. For 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.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.



The Gospel Reading Matthew 4:12-23

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated.

The Sermon

The Very Rev. Christopher Montella Rector

Please stand as you are able.

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.

Prayers of the People

Friends, in this place, let us behold the fair beauty of our God. With humble hearts let us come before God, saying, "When we call, O God, hearken to our voice."

Reader: Michael Sayre

God, help your Church. Heal her divisions. Increase her joy. Unite her members that we might hold as our common purpose to proclaim the gospel Silence

Intercessor: When we call, O God, **People:** Hearken to our voice.

God, help this nation and the world. Where there are heavy burdens, where oppression reigns, show the strength of your arm and set your people free. We long to realize heaven on earth.

Silence

Intercessor: When we call, O God, **People:** Hearken to our voice.

God, help your creation. You make glorious the way of the sea; you bring us joy at the harvest. Teach us to live in harmony with all you have made.

The congregation may add their own thanksgivings.

Silence

Intercessor: When we call, O God, **People:** Hearken to our voice.

God, help our city. May your great light drive away all of the shadows that darken our region. Even now, lift up the heads of the downcast.

Silence

Intercessor: When we call, O God, **People:** Hearken to our voice.

God, help the sick and the suffering. Do not forsake them but show yourself to be the strength of their lives and their salvation. By the power of Jesus, heal every disease and sickness among the people. We pray for all those on the prayer list.

The congregation may add their own petitions.

Silence

Intercessor: When we call, O God, **People:** Hearken to our voice.

God, help the dying and the dead, especially Christina Johns and Kevin LaRoche. Hide them in the secrecy of your dwelling. May all those being saved say with boldness, "I belong to Christ forever."

Silence

Intercessor: When we call, O God, **People:** Hearken to our voice.

Priest:

O Gracious God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, the one, holy and undivided Trinity; God, Son & Spirit now and for ever. **Amen.**

Confession

Let us confess our sins to God.

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.

Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Priest: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Members of the congregation who are present are encouraged to remain at their seats to pass the peace.

Members of the congregation who are joining us via livestream are encouraged to post "Peace be with you" in the comments or to use the "like" or "love" reaction button to take part in the virtual exchange of God's peace with the rest of the congregation at this time.

Please be seated.

Welcome and Announcements

We are pleased to celebrate the following birthdays: Jennifer Lackey on January 23rd, Jim Seipel on January 25th, Henry Hunt and Eleanor Nold on January 26th and Eunice Owens on January 29th.

Offertory Prayer

The People remain seated and say together:

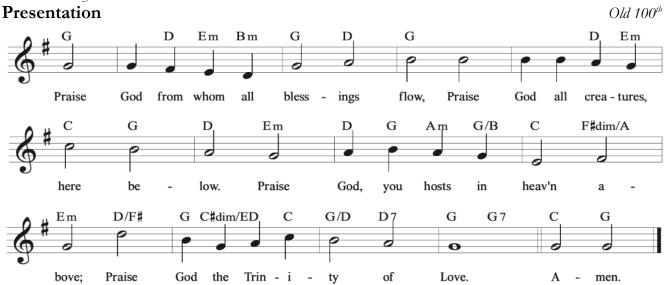
Loving God, you alone are the source of every good gift. Everything we have, and all that we are, comes from you. Now, help us to be grateful, accountable, and, with praise and thanksgiving, to give of ourselves generously, through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Offertory

Jesus, the Light of the World St. Stephen's Parish Choir G. D. Elderkin

Please stand as you are able.



Priest: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to God.

Priest: Let us give thanks to God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

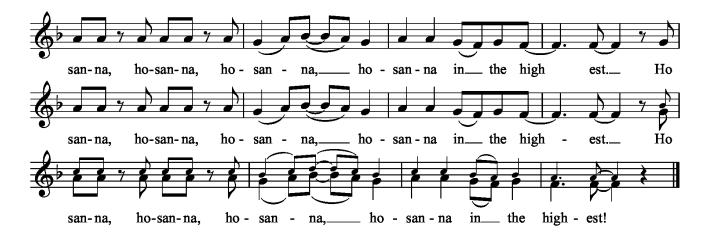
Worship and praise belong to you, God our maker. Out of nothing, you called all worlds into being, and still you draw the universe to its fulfilment. Day and night celebrate your glory till time shall be no more.

In Christ, your only-begotten Son, you have revealed yourself to the world. By the guiding of a star, you made him known to the nations as the son of David and king of Israel; that in following him, we might be led from darkness and into his marvelous light.

Filled with the Spirit, who descended upon your Son at his Baptism in the Jordan, we who are baptized in his name strive for his heavenly realm in whose radiance we are transfigured and the earth is transformed.

As children of your redeeming purpose who celebrate the manifestation of your Son, we offer you our praise, with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven singing the hymn of your unending glory:





Glory and thanksgiving be to you, most loving God. In Jesus the Messiah you have come to us. Our hope is built on him in whom you are well pleased. Having been shown to the world as your beloved Son, he proclaimed the good news of your salvation. The blind received their sight, the lame walked, the lepers were cleansed, and the captives set free. At his word, water became wine, the hungry were filled with bread, and the dead were raised.

Before he was given up to suffering and death, desiring to complete the work for which he came into the world, at supper with his disciples he took bread and offered you thanks. He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you."

After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me."

We now obey your Son's command.

Priest and People:

We recall his blessed passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension; and we look for the day of his coming.

Made one with him, we offer you these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice.

Hear us, most merciful God, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine, that, overshadowed by his life-giving power, they may be the Body and Blood of your Son, and we may be kindled with the fire of your love and renewed for the service of your creation.

Help us, who are baptized into the fellowship of Christ's Body to live and work to your praise and glory; may we grow together in unity and love until at last, in your new creation, we enter into our heritage in the company of the Virgin Mary, Stephen, the apostles, and prophets, and of all our siblings living and departed.

Through Jesus Christ, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory be to you, God of all, world without end. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

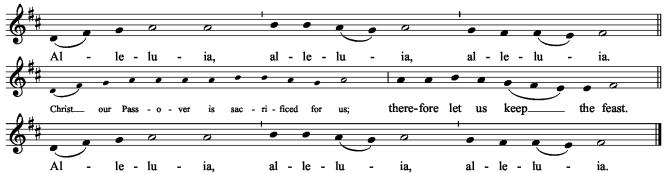
A period of silence is kept.

Please remain standing during the Fraction Anthem.

Fraction Hymn #S 154

Hurd

Cantor will sing the refrain first, followed by the congregation.



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.

All are welcome to receive communion. The table we set belongs to God. Wherever you find yourself on your spiritual journey you are welcome to receive the Bread made holy.

The church teaches that temporal isolation cannot constrain the sacrament's ineffable power. Calling us to "massive, corporate, spiritual communion,"

The Invitation to Holy Communion

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.

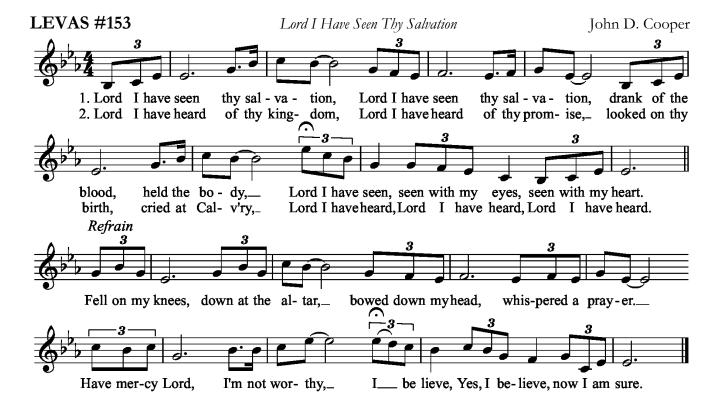
Priest and People say together:

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Please be seated.

Please follow usher instructions for taking communion.





Please stand as you are able.

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

Infinite, intimate God, in this Eucharist we have celebrated your presence with us. May we grow in the divine life of Christ who humbly shared our human life. Fill us with joy and send us out to share this good news with others. We ask this through Jesus Christ Emmanuel. Amen.

Blessing

May God, who led the wise men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light from light, lead you also in your pilgrimage to find Him.

May Jesus, who turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana transform your lives and make glad your hearts

May the Holy Spirit, who came upon the beloved Son at his baptism in the river Jordan, pour holy gifts upon you who have come to the waters of new birth. And the blessing of God Almighty, the one, holy and undivided Trinity be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**.



Dismissal

Priest: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

Prayers of the People taken from Praying the Scripturus by Jeremiah D. Williamson, ©2014 by Jeremiah D. Williamson, All Rights Reserved.
From The Hymnal 1982: #530 "Spread, O spread, thou mighty word, Words: Jonathan Fiedrich bahnmaier (1774-1841); tr. Arthur William Farlander (1898-1952) and Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), alt. St. 4, F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984). Music: Gott 20 June, melody from Geistreiches Gesangbuch, 1704; adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), #661 "They cast their nets in Galilee" Words: William Alexander Percy (1885-1942), alt. Music: Googram, David McKinley Williams (1887-1978). Words: Copyright by Edward B. Marks Music Corporation. Used by permission. #8154 Settings David Hurd (b. 1950). #527 "Singing songs of espectation", Nords: Bernard Severin Ingerman (1789-1862); via Sabine Barring, Gould (1834-1924), alt. Music: Tony-Botel, Thomas John Williams (1869-1944).
From Life Irey Voice and Sing II: #88 The Lands is My Left, Words: Lilliam Bouknight, Music: Lilliam Bouknight, arr. Paul Gainer. Copyright © 1980 Savgos Music, Inc. International Copyright Secured. All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission. #155 Land I Hart See Thy Substition, Words and Music: John D. Cooper (b. 1925). Copyright © 1980 Dangerfield Music: Co., 286 Strawberry Hill Rd., Centerville, MA Decodey - Music: Old 1019", melody from Paume adant to its durind, 1551, alt, harm. After Louis Bourgeois (15102-15612).

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