

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SANTA CLARITA
THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
9:00AM
JANUARY 29, 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.

Like the early disciples, we have much to learn. Like them, we will often fail. We ought not to be discouraged; failures are a necessary part of our conversion. Be patient. Refuse to berate or disparage yourself. Confess your failings, learn from them and move on. The path of discipleship is long, but you can be sure that the risen Christ will bring you home at last. Br. David Vryhof, SSJE

Prelude

Trois Gymnopédies, No. 1

Erik Satie

Please stand as you are able.

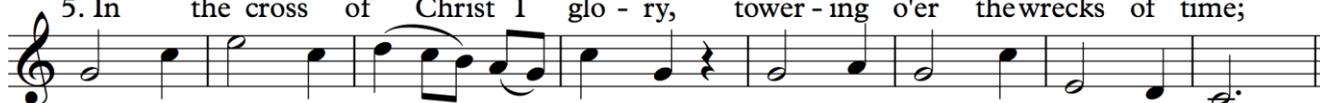
Entrance Hymn #441

“In the cross of Christ I glory” (vs. 1-4)

Rathbun



1. In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tower - ing o'er the wrecks of time;
2. When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de - ceive, and fears an - noy,
3. When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and love up - on my way,
4. Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the cross are sanc - ti - fied;
5. In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tower - ing o'er the wrecks of time;



all the light of sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
 nev - er shall the cross for - sake me: lo, it glows with peace and joy.
 from the cross the ra - diance stream - ing adds new lus - ter to the day.
 peace is there that knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.
 all the light of sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.

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 Savior. **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.

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.

THE LESSONS

The First Reading Micah 6:1-8

Reader: Steve Plote

A Reading from the Book of Micah.

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?

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 15

Reader: Nick Vestuto

- 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.

The Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Reader: Nick Vestuto

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

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."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

Gradual Hymn #440

“Blessed Jesus, at thy word”

Liebster Jesu



1. Bless - ed___ Je - sus, at thy word we are gath - ered all to hear thee;
2. All our___ know-ledge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est dark - ness shroud - ed,
3. Gra - cious_ Lord, thy - self im - part! Light of Light, from God pro - ceed - ing,



let our___ hearts and souls be stirred now to seek and love and fear thee;
till thy___ Spi - rit breaks our night with the beams of truth un - cloud - ed;
o - pen___ thou our ears and heart, help us by the Spi - rit's plead - ing.



by thy teach - ings pure and ho - ly, drawn from earth to love thee sole - ly.
thou a - lone to God canst win us; thou must work all good with - in us.
Hear the cry thy Church up - rais - es; hear, and bless our prayers and prais - es.

The Gospel Reading Matthew 5:1-12

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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.”

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated.

The Sermon

The Very Rev. Christopher Montella
Rector

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

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

Reader: Sheri Flay

God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. So let us pray to God, saying, "For your blessing and guidance, we give you thanks."

God, bless your Church. May our souls hunger and thirst for righteousness. Give us the grace to do those things you require of us: to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you.

Silence

Intercessor: For your blessing and guidance,

People: We give you thanks.

God, bless the people of this and every nation. You make foolish the wisdom of the world; we pray that our leaders find their wisdom in you. Teach us to be merciful and open us to receive mercy from others.

Silence

Intercessor: For your blessing and guidance,

People: We give you thanks.

God, bless your creation. Your mighty, creative voice echoes through the mountains. We offer back to you all the many gifts that spring forth from this earth

Silence

Intercessor: For your blessing and guidance,

People: We give you thanks.

God, bless our local community. May we be a people who do no evil to our friends, who heap no contempt upon our neighbors.

Silence

Intercessor: For your blessing and guidance,

People: We give you thanks.

God, bless the poor in spirit with the inheritance of your realm. You choose what is weak in this world to shame the strong. Be the source of life for all those suffering and sick.

The congregation may add their own petitions and thanksgivings.

Silence

Intercessor: For your blessing and guidance,

People: We give you thanks.

God, bless the dying and the dead. May their reward be great in heaven. Give to those who now mourn the blessing of your comfort.

Silence

Intercessor: For your blessing and guidance,

People: We give you thanks.

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: Charles Deuschle on January 31st and Bonnie Warburton on February 4th.

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

All That We Have
St. Stephen's Parish Choir

Gary Ault

Please stand as you are able.

Presentation

Old 100th

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures,
here below. Praise God, you hosts in heav'n above;
Praise God the Trinity of Love. Amen.

Chords: G, D, Em, Bm, G, D, G, D, Em, C, G, D, Em, D, G, Am, G/B, C, F#dim/A, Em, D/F#, G, C#dim/ED, C, G/D, D7, G, G7, C, G

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:

Sanctus Hymn # S 125

Proulx

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

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.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us; there-fore let us keep the feast.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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.

Communion Hymn #554

"'Tis the gift to be simple"

Simple Gifts

'Tis the gift to be sim-ple, 'tis the gift to be free, 'tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
and when we find our-selves in the place just right, 'twill be in the val - ley of love and de-light.
When true sim - plic - i - ty is gained to bow and to bend we shan't be a-shamed,
to turn, turn, will be our de-light till by turn - ing, turn - ing we come round right.

It's me, it's me, O Lord, Stand-in' in the need of prayer;—

It's me, it's me, O Lord, Stand-in' in the need of prayer.

1. Not my broth-er, not my sis-ter, but it's me, O Lord, Stand-in' in the need of prayer, —

2. Not the preach-er, not the dea-con, but it's me, O Lord, Stand-in' in the need of prayer, —

3. Not my fa-ther, not my moth-er, but it's me, O Lord, Stand-in' in the need of prayer, —

4. Not the stran-ger, not my neigh-bor, but it's me, O Lord, Stand-in' in the need of prayer, —

Not my broth-er, not my sis-ter, but it's me, O Lord, Stand-in' in the need of prayer. —

Not the preach-er, not the dea-con, but it's me, O Lord, Stand-in' in the need of prayer. —

Not my fa-ther, not my moth-er, but it's me, O Lord, Stand-in' in the need of prayer. —

Not the stran-ger, not my neigh-bor, but it's me, O Lord, Stand-in' in the need of prayer. —

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

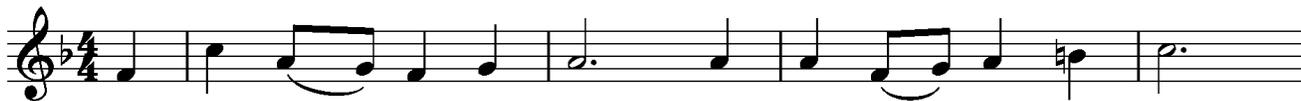
May the Holy Spirit,
 who came upon the beloved Son
 at his baptism in the river Jordan,
 pour holy gifts upon you
 who have come to the waters of new birth.

And the blessing of God Almighty,
 the one, holy and undivided Trinity be among
 you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn #556

“Rejoice, ye pure in heart!” (vs. 1-5)

Marion



1. Re - joi - ce, ye — pure in heart! Re - joi - ce, give — thanks and sing!
 2. With all the — an - gel choirs, with all the — saints of earth,
 3. Your clear ho - san - nas raise, and al - le - lu - ias loud;
 4. Yes, on through life's long path, still chant - ing — as ye go,
 5. Still lift your — stand - ard high, still march in — firm ar - ray,
 6. At last the — march shall end; the wea - ried — ones shall rest;
 7. Then on, ye — pure in heart! Re - joi - ce, give — thanks and sing!



Your glo - rious — ban - ner wave — on — high, the cross of Christ your King.
 pour out the — strains of joy — and — bliss, true rap - ture, no - blest birth.
 while an swering ech - oes up - ward — float, like wreaths of in - cense cloud.
 from youth to — age, by night — and — day, in glad - ness and in woe.
 as war - riors — through the dark - ness — toil, till dawns the gold - en day.
 the pil - grims — find their Fa - ther's — house, Je - ru - sa - lem the blest.
 Your glo - rious — ban - ner wave — on — high, the cross of Christ your King.



Re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce, give — thanks, and sing.

Dismissal

Priest: And now let us continue our gathering as we rejoice in the work of the Holy Spirit among us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Prayers of the People taken from *Praying the Scriptures* by Jeremiah D. Williamson, ©2014 by Jeremiah D. Williamson. All Rights Reserved.
 From *The Hymnal 1982*: #441 “In the cross of Christ I glory”, Words: John Bowring (1792-1872) Music: *Rathbun*, Ithamar Conkey (1815-1867). #441 “Blessed Jesus, at they word”
 Words: Tobias Clausnitzer (1619-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: *Liebster Jesu*, melody Johann Rudolph Ahle (1625-1673); alt. *Das grosse Cantional oder Kirchen-*
Gesangbuch, 1687; Harm. George Herbert Palmer (1846-1926). #S154 Setting: From *New Plain Song*, David Hurd (b. 1950). #S 125 Holy, Holy, holy Lord, Setting: From: *A Community*
Mass, Richard Proulx (b. 1937). #554 “’Tis the gift to be simple”, Words: Shaker song, 18th cent. Music: *Simple Gifts*, Shaker melody. #556 “Rejoice, ye pure in heart!”, Words:
 Edward Hayes Plumptre (1821-1891). Music: *Marion*, Arthur Henry Messiter (1834-1916).
 From *Lift Every Voice and Sing II*: #177 *Standin’ in the Need of Prayer*, Words: Traditional. Music: Negro Spiritual; arr. Carl Haywood (b. 1949), from *The Haywood Collection of Negro*
Spirituals, Copyright © 1992
Doxology – Music: Old 100th, melody from *Pseumes octante trois de David*, 1551, alt.; harm. After Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?).