

The Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

10:00 AM + February 23, 2025



Welcome!

You are invited to participate fully in our worship. Whoever you are,
wherever you are on your journey of faith, welcome!

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

The Word of God

Prelude: Mélodie

César Franck

Opening Hymn: "Praise to the Lord, the almighty" Blue Hymnal 390

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

People: **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Celebrant: 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

Blue Hymnal S 280

**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.**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

The Collect

Said in unison

O Lord, you have taught us that without love whatever we do is worth nothing: Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts your greatest gift, which is love, the true bond of peace and of all virtue, without which whoever lives is accounted dead before you. Grant this for the sake of your only Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

A Reading from the Book of Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there--since there are five more years of famine to come--so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'"

And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 37:1-12, 41-42

Robert Knox Kennedy
(b. 1945)



- 1 Do not fret yourself because of **evildoers**; *
do not be jealous of those who do **wrong**.
- 2 For they shall soon wither like the **grass**, *
and like the green grass fade **away**.
- 3 Put your trust in the LORD and do **good**; *
dwell in the land and feed on its **riches**.
- 4 Take delight in the **LORD**, *
and he shall give you your heart's **desire**.
- 5 Commit your way to the LORD and put your trust in **him**, *
and he will bring it to **pass**.
- 6 He will make your righteousness as clear as the **light** *
and your just dealing as the **noonday**.
- 7 Be still before the **LORD** *
and wait patiently for **him**.
- 8 Do not fret yourself over the one who **prosper**s, *
the one who succeeds in evil **schemes**.
- 9 Refrain from anger, leave rage **alone**; *
do not fret yourself; it leads only to **evil**.
- 10 For evildoers shall be cut **off**, *
but those who wait upon the LORD shall possess the **land**.
- 11 In a little while the wicked shall be no **more**; *
you shall search out their place, but they will not be **there**.
- 12 But the lowly shall possess the **land**; *
they will delight in abundance of **peace**.
- 41 But the deliverance of the righteous comes from the **LORD**; *
he is their stronghold in time of **trouble**.
- 42 The LORD will help them and **rescue them**; *
he will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them,
because they seek refuge in **him**.

**A reading from the first letter of St. Paul
to the Corinthians 15:35-38,42-50**

Someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Sequence Hymn: "Now the green blade rises"

Blue Hymnal 204 (vv.1 &2 before the Gospel, vv. 3 & 4 after the Gospel)

A reading from the Gospel according to St. Luke 6:27-38

People's response before the Gospel **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

People's response after the Gospel

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

Rev. Sean Maloney

The Nicene Creed *Spoken by all, standing.*

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 – [from Hear Our Prayer: Prayers of the People for the Revised Common Lectionary] *The Leader and People pray responsively*

Sustaining God, you have promised to turn our hearts from stone to flesh; to give us life through the power of your love and hear our hopes and needs. Answer these prayers lifted to you as we say,
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the people of God everywhere, that they may be beacons of hope whose light shines forth to dispel fear and hate.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those with authority over our lives, that they might wield their power for the common good and with respect for the dignity of all people.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those in our lives who have caused us pain and hurt; lead them to an awareness of their impact and lead us to the path of forgiveness where those hurts have no hold on us. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For our local communities – our neighbors, our co-workers, and our classmates, help us to sow the seeds of your kingdom in our daily interactions. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For our beleaguered earth, the garden where you have placed us; grant us wisdom as we discern how to be worthy stewards of this gift and give us strength and courage to persevere in its preservation. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all who live in pain, in sickness, in fear or dread; sustain them with your grace that they might bear their suffering and grant us an awareness and a willingness to be their companions and caregivers. [Especially we pray for...*prayer list.*] Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hold in your care those who have died and welcome us into your eternal arms when our time comes, and let us all rise together in your new age. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God who is the Sower of love, mercy, and hope; let us be the seeds of your salvation; growing in love ourselves that through us your hopeful mercy might be known and established everywhere,. And hear our prayers, those spoken and those held quietly in our hearts that we might know grace and live into the people we were created to be. All this we ask through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins to God. (Silence may be kept.)

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 you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

The Peace *All stand*

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

People: **And also with you.**

Announcements:

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving - *Eucharistic Prayer 1*

Offertory Anthem: Open Thou Mine Eyes

Words: Lancelot Andrewes, Music: Benjamin Harlan

Eucharistic Prayer 1

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.**

Celebrant
It is truly right, and good and joyful,
to give you thanks, all-holy God,
source of life and fountain of mercy.

You have filled us and all creation with your blessing
and fed us with your constant love;
you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ
and knit us into one body.
Through your Spirit you replenish us
and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels
and with the faithful of every generation,
we lift our voices with all creation as we sing (say):

Sanctus: Blue Hymnal S 129
Celebrant and People

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest**

Blessed are you, gracious God,
creator of the universe and giver of life.
You formed us in your own image
and called us to dwell in your infinite love.

You gave the world into our care
that we might be your faithful stewards
and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image
in one another and in ourselves;
we would not see your goodness in the world around us;
and so we violated your creation,
abused one another,
and rejected your love.
Yet you never ceased to care for us,
and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah
you called us into covenant with you.
You delivered us from slavery,
sustained us in the wilderness,
and raised up prophets
to renew your promise of salvation.
Then, in the fullness of time,
you sent your eternal Word,
made mortal flesh in Jesus.
Born into the human family,
and dwelling among us,
he revealed your glory.
Giving himself freely to death on the cross,
he triumphed over evil,
opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us,
Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread,
and when he had given thanks to you,
he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said:
"Take, eat:
This is my Body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all
for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Remembering his death and resurrection,
we now present to you from your creation
this bread and this wine.
By your Holy Spirit may they be for us
the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.
Grant that we who share these gifts
may be filled with the Holy Spirit
and live as Christ's Body in the world.
Bring us into the everlasting heritage
of your daughters and sons,
that with [_____ and] all your saints,
past, present, and yet to come,
we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
to you be honor, glory, and praise,
for ever and ever. **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

Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Fraction Anthem: Christ our Passover

Blue Hymnal S 155

Communion Music: Give Thanks for Life

Words: Shirley Erena Murray, Music: *Sine nomine; Ralph Vaughan Williams*

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Closing Hymn: "I come with joy to meet my Lord"

Blue Hymnal 304

The Dismissal

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

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**

Postlude: Voluntary in D William Croft

Thank you for joining us today!

if you would like to receive our weekly e-bulletin, please contact the church office (aschurch@allsaintschelmsford.org) To learn more about us, visit <https://www.allsaintschelmsford.org> or call us at 978 256 5673.
