

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church     January 21, 2024

More on last week's thoughts:

"Judging others makes us blind, whereas love is illuminating.  
By judging others we blind ourselves to our own evil and to the grace  
which others are just as entitled to as we are."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

## HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

**Prelude:** Glorious things of Thee are spoken                     Robert Hughes

**Processional:** Spread, O spread, thou mighty word             Hymnal # 530

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
**and blessed be His kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

**Collect for Purity**     *in unison*

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.**

**Hymn of Praise** Glory to God     Hymnal S-278

**The Collect of the day**

The Lord be with you...     **and also with you.**  
**Amen.**

**The Readings appointed for today**

**Introduction**     *As we continue through the time after Epiphany, stories of the call to discipleship show us the implications of our baptismal calling to show Christ to the world. Jesus begins proclaiming the good news and calling people to repentance right after John the Baptist is arrested for preaching in a similar way. Knowing that John was later executed, we see at the very outset the cost of discipleship. Still, the two sets of brothers leave everything they have known and worked for all their lives to follow Jesus and fish for people.*

**First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10**

*The book of Jonah is a comedy starring a reluctant prophet who is given a one-sentence message: Nineveh will be destroyed in forty days. Much to Jonah's dismay, the people of*

*Nineveh repent. The point of the story is to get the reader to wrestle with the question “On whom should God have mercy?”*

<sup>1</sup>The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” <sup>3</sup>So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. <sup>4</sup>Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” <sup>5</sup>And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

The Word of the Lord...**thanks be to God**

### **Psalm 65.5-12**

5      Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation, \*  
O Hope of all the ends of the earth and of the seas that are far away.

6      You make fast the mountains by your power; \*  
they are girded about with might.

7      You still the roaring of the seas, \*  
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.

8      Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs; \*  
you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.

9      You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; \*  
the river of God is full of water.

10     You prepare the grain, \*  
for so you provide for the earth.

11     You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; \*  
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.

12     You crown the year with your goodness, \*  
and your paths overflow with plenty.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

### **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31**

*Paul does not disapprove of marriage or other human social institutions. He does, however, want Christians to live in the present in fervent anticipation of God’s future, which even now has dawned through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

<sup>29</sup>Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, <sup>30</sup>and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who

buy as though they had no possessions,<sup>31</sup> and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

The Word of the Lord....**thanks be to God**

### **Gospel: Mark 1:14-20**

*Before Jesus calls his first disciples, he proclaims a message that becomes known as “the gospel” or good news from God. God is ready to rule our lives. Those who realize this will respond with repentance and faith.*

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew..... **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

<sup>16</sup>As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup>And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” <sup>18</sup>And immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup>As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. <sup>20</sup>Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

The Gospel of the Lord..... **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

### ***The Sermon***

#### ***The Nicene Creed***                      *in unison*

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.

### ***The Confession of sins***

The Celebrant says:

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.  
*silence for personal contemplation*

Minister and People: *in unison*

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.

The Priest, stands and says:

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 & Announcements***

***Offertory Music*** Come, thou fount of every blessing Anna Laura Page

### ***The Doxology:***

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise Him all creatures here below;  
praise Him above the heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### ***The Holy Communion Eucharistic Prayer B***

The Lord be with you.  
Lift up your hearts.

**And also with you.**  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. In fulfillment of his true promise, the Holy Spirit came down from heaven, lighting upon the disciples, to teach them and to lead them into all truth; uniting peoples of many tongues in the confession of one faith, and giving to your Church the power to serve you as a royal priesthood, and to preach the Gospel to all nations. 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:

### **The Sanctus**

*The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,  
**We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Stephen and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.**

As now as our Savior has taught us, we now pray: *(in unison)*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,  
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 Fraction***

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.  
**Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

***The invitation to communion:***

The gifts of God for the people of God.

*All Baptized believers are invited to receive communion.*

***Post communion prayers***

***A prayer for those worshipping online:***

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar in your church where Holy Eucharist is being celebrated, I offer you praise and thanksgiving. Since I cannot receive you today in the sacrament of your body and blood, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace. May I live in you and you in me. Amen.

***The post communion prayer of the gathered: in unison***

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 Final Blessing***

***Recessional:*** O Zion, haste, thy mission high fulfilling

Hymn # 539

***Dismissal***

***Postlude*** Westminster Abbey

Richard Proulx