

## Epiphany II

The water now  
become  
**WINE**  
... the first of  
his signs.

John 2:9, 11, ESV



**January 19, 2025  
10 am**

**Church of the Holy Nativity  
4238 Pimlico Road  
Baltimore, Maryland 21215  
[www.holynativitybaltimore.org](http://www.holynativitybaltimore.org)**

**A WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE CHURCH**

**Celebrant: The Reverend Karen Mercer  
Musician: Dr. Lior Leigh**

## OPENING HYMN

1 Christ, whose glory fills the skies,  
Christ, the true, the only Light,  
Sun of Righteousness, arise!  
Triumph o'er the shades of night:  
Dayspring from on high, be near;  
Daystar, in my heart appear.

2 Dark and cheerless is the morn  
unaccompanied by thee;  
joyless is the day's return,

H7 – *Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies*  
till thy mercy's beams I see,  
till they inward light impart,  
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

3 Visit then this soul of mine!  
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief!  
Fill me, radiance divine;  
scatter all my unbelief;  
more and more thyself display,  
shining to the perfect day.

*Christ, whose glory fills the skies*, #7 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: *Ratisbon*, melody from *Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn*, 1524; adapt. att. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870); harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt.

## OPENING SENTENCES

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

**And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

## 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.**

## GLORIA

LEVAS 243

**Glory, Glory, hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name,**

**Glory, Glory hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name.**

**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, Glory, Glory, hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name,**

**Glory, Glory hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name.**

**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.**

**Glory, Glory, hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name,**

**Glory, Glory hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name. Amen.**

## THE COLLECT

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 62:1-5

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

Listen for The Word of The Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## THE RESPONSE

Psalms 36:5-10

5 Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens, \*  
**and your faithfulness to the clouds.**

6 Your righteousness is like the strong mountains,  
your justice like the great deep; \*  
**you save both man and beast, O Lord.**

7 How priceless is your love, O God! \*  
**your people take refuge under the shadow of your wings.**

8 They feast upon the abundance of your house; \*  
**you give them drink from the river of your delights.**

9 For with you is the well of life, \*  
**and in your light we see light.**

10 Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you, \*  
**and your favor to those who are true of heart.**

## THE EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

Listen for The Word of The Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

## SEQUENCE HYMN

1 Have thine own way, Lord!  
Have thine own way!  
Thou art the potter,  
I am the clay!  
Mold me and make me  
After thy will,  
While I am waiting,  
Yielded and still.

## LEVAS 145 – *Have Thine Own Way* (v. 1 & 2)

2 Have thine own way, Lord!  
Have thine own way!  
Search me and try me,  
Master, today!  
Purer than snow, Lord,  
Wash me just now,  
As in thy presence  
Humbly I bow.

## THE GOSPEL

John 2:1-11

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the

servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

#### SEQUENCE HYMN

3 Have thine own way, Lord!  
Have thine own way!  
Wounded and weary,  
Help me, I pray!  
Power all power  
Surely is thine!  
Touch me and heal me,  
Savior divine!

#### LEVAS 145 – *Have Thine Own Way* (v. 3 & 4)

4 Have thine own way, Lord!  
Have thine own way!  
Hold o'er my being  
Absolute sway!  
Fill with thy Spirit  
'Til all shall see  
Christ only, always,  
Living in me!

*Have Thine Own Way, Lord!*, #145 from *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* — Words: Adelaide A. Pollard (1862-1934). Music: George C. Stebbins (1846-1945).

#### SERMON

The Rev. Karen Mercer

#### NICENE CREED

BCP 358

**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 worshipped 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.**

#### DEDICATION OF A WALL HANGING

Antiphon: This is the offering which you shall receive from the people: gold, silver, and bronze, blue and purple and scarlet cloth, and finally woven linen.

O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness:

**You are clothed with majesty and splendor.**

Let us pray. O glorious God, all your works proclaim your perfect beauty: Accept our offering of this wall hanging, and grant that it may adorn this sanctuary, and show forth your glory; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessor: As God's chosen and priestly people, let us pray for the needs of the church and the world, saying: O gracious Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: We pray for the people of God, loved wholly by God and sent to be light in the world. O gracious Lord,

**Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: For leaders of nations, and for those who serve us in governments, that all people may work for peace and justice, O gracious Lord,

**Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: For all who are persecuted, shunned, neglected, or rejected because of prejudice, that they may find welcoming love in our community of faith, O gracious Lord,

**Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: For all married couples and their families, that they may share the joy and love of God for all, O gracious Lord,

**Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: For all members of our community, that we may recognize the gifts we have received from the Spirit and use them freely for the good of all, O gracious Lord,

**Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: For all members of the church community, including the sick, the dying, the deceased, and those who mourn. We especially pray for those on our parish prayer list: Eileen, Gloria, Mildred, Karen, Tammy, Emanuel, Karen R., Dorris, Gouri, Katrina, Elaine, Justina, Eva, Rebecca, Lisa, Faye, Fr. Bill, Sharon, Vestina, Ruth, James,

Diamond, Jamie, King, Katrina, Angel, Hope, Arlene, Norman, Dorian, Leonard, Daniel, Nicole, Michael, Kawanda, Tyrus and Shirley. O gracious Lord,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: You may add your own intercessions at this time.

*A period of silence follows after which the Celebrant concludes with the following prayers*

Celebrant: Holy God, lover of the human family and helper of all in need, hear the prayers we offer in faith, and strengthen us in your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

#### A PRAYER FOR OUR PARISH

God of Eternity, we gather today to give thanks for the past. We think back to those who first had a vision of a church in this place, to those who gave of their labor, their treasure, their time to make it happen.

God of Eternity, we also give thanks for our present and our future. As we gather here today we look for hope. The present is unsettling, the future is uncertain. We hope that in the goodness of your love that your guidance will be ever-present.

Fill us with a vision for what we could be. Give us hope for our congregation and our community that lead us into your abundance and not our scarcity.

God of Eternity, in a time of uncertainty we so often fall into fear and worry, show us the opportunities in our chaotic world, remind us of our priorities in relationship to you, push us to see how our choices matter, and then fill us with hope in a new heaven and a new earth.

God of our future, may we walk boldly into what may come, as a people of faith and hope. May we be found faithful in the world in which we live.

**Amen.**

#### THE CONFESSION OF SIN

**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.**

*Celebrant: 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

The peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

WELCOME

Senior Warden

## **THE HOLY COMMUNION**

What follows is the Holy Communion, the sacred meal of the Christian faith. The Episcopal Church, as do all other denominations rooted in the historic Christian faith, affirms that the sacrament of Baptism is the ancient and normative entry point for receiving the sacrament of Eucharist, yet no one who comes forward to receive the bread and wine at communion is ever turned away from God's table. Wherever you are in your spiritual journey, the Episcopal Church welcomes you, and we invite you to explore with us what baptism may mean for you. Want to know more? Please see Rev. Mercer following the service.

### OFFERTORY HYMN

1 My faith looks up to thee,  
Thou lamb of Calvary,  
Savior divine!  
Now hear me while I pray,  
Take all my guilt away;  
O let me from this day  
Be wholly thine.

2 May thy rich grace impart  
Strength to my fainting heart,  
My zeal inspire;  
As thou hast died for me,  
O may my love to thee  
Pure, warm, and changeless be,  
A living fire.

### LEVAS 88 – *My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

3 While life's dark maze I tread,  
And griefs around me spread,  
Be thou my guide;  
Bid darkness turn today,  
Wipe sorrow's tears away;  
Nor let me ever stray  
From thee aside.

4 When ends life's transient dream,  
When death's cold, sullen stream  
Shall o'er me roll;  
Blest Savior, then in love,  
Fear and distrust remove,  
O bear me safe above,  
A ransomed soul.

*My Faith Looks up to Thee, #88 from Lift Every Voice and Sing II — Words: Ray Palmer (1808-1987). Music: Lowell Mason (1792-1872).*

DOXOLOGY

H 380

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

+ *The Celebrant adds a Proper Preface, then continues,*

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

S130

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of power and might**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory**

**Hosanna in the highest**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord**

**Hosanna in the highest Hosanna in the**

**highest**

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:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

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 has taught us, we are bold to [sing],

LORD'S PRAYER

LEVAS 264

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

FRACTION ANTHEM

S164

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy upon us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy upon us.  
Jesus redeemer, redeemer of the world,  
Give us your peace, give us your peace.**

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

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.

COMMUNION HYMN

LEVAS 115 – *Spirit of the Living God* (2X)

Spirit of the Living God,  
Fall fresh on me,  
Spirit of the Living God,  
Fall fresh on me

Melt me, mold me,  
Fill me, use me,  
Spirit of the Living God,  
Fall fresh on me

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 365

**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.**

## THE BLESSING

The love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself, the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in his service, the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts; and the blessing of God Almighty: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be among you, those you love, and all those God calls you to love, this day and forevermore.

**Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

LEVAS 120 – *Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

1 There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,  
And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord.  
There are sweet expressions on each face,  
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

*Sweet Holy Spirit, Sweet Heavenly Dove,  
Stay right here with us, filling us with your love.  
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;  
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived  
when we shall leave this place.*

2 There are blessings you cannot receive  
Till you know Him in His fullness, and believe.  
You're the one to profit when you say,  
"I am going to walk with Jesus all the way."

*Refrain*

3 If you say He saved you from your sin,  
Now you're weak, you're bound, and cannot enter in,  
you can make it right if you will yield;  
You'll enjoy the Holy Spirit that we feel.

*Refrain*

*Sweet, Sweet Spirit*, #120 from *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* — Words: Doris Akers (b. 1922). Music: Doris Akers. Copyright © 1962. Renewed 1990 Manna Music, Inc. 25510 Stanford Ave., Suite 101, Valencia, CA 91355. International Copyright Secured. All Rights Reserved.

## THE DISMISSAL

The Rev. Karen Mercer

As we go forth into the world, refreshed and renewed, we reaffirm our commitment to our mission as a congregation:

**We are committed to sharing God's love with all through our worship and ministries.**

Let us go forth to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

## POSTLUDE

### **Our Prayer List**

Your prayers are requested for members and friends of The Church of the Holy Nativity: Eileen, Gloria, Mildred, Karen, Tammy, Emanuel, Karen R., Dorris, Gouri, Katrina, Elaine, Justina, Eva, Rebecca, Lisa, Faye, Fr. Bill, Sharon, Vestina, Ruth, James, Diamond, Jamie, King, Katrina, Angel, Hope, Arlene, Norman, Dorian, Leonard, Daniel, Nicole, Michael, Kawanda, Tyrus and Shirley.

We continue to ask for prayers for all those impacted by the coronavirus, those impacted by war and gun violence, those in our midst who are struggling with anxiety depression and addiction, those who are unemployed or underemployed, and the unhoused.

### **Announcements**

Prayer Service – Wednesdays – 12 Noon

Zoom Bible Study – Isaiah  
Wednesdays @ 7:30 pm  
Meeting ID: 869 7275 3486  
Passcode: 145505

January 19, 2025

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Advisory Board Meeting (immediately  
following the service)

### **2025 Lay & Clergy Regional Gatherings**

Bishop Carrie shared at our Diocesan Convention that regional gatherings for lay leaders and clergy are starting in 2025. Below are the dates and locations – *if you cannot make the meeting in your region, you are welcome to attend another one.* Bishop Carrie will be

continuing the conversation around the Community of Love Pillars and have time for questions or concerns from you. Any questions prior to these gatherings can be directed to Caroline Bomgardner, [cbomgardner@episcopalmaryland.org](mailto:cbomgardner@episcopalmaryland.org)

- Tuesday, January 21, from 6:00 - 7:30 PM – **Baltimore South** at *Cathedral of the Incarnation, Baltimore*
- Tuesday, February 11, 6:00 - 7:30 PM – **Harford Region** at Ascension, Scarboro
- Sunday, March 2, 3:00 - 4:30 PM – **Baltimore North** at St. James', Parkton
- Tuesday, March 11, 6:00 - 7:30 PM - **Anne Arundel** at St. Margaret's, Annapolis
- Sunday, March 30, 3:00 - 4:30 PM– **Southern Maryland** at St Paul's, Prince Frederick
- Wednesday, May 7, 6:00 - 7:30 PM - **Patapsco Valley Region** at Trinity, Elkridge
- Sunday, June 1, 3:00 - 4:30 PM – **Western Maryland** – at TBA
- Sunday, June 29, 3:00 - 4:30 PM – **Frederick/Washington Co.** at Harriet Chapel, Thurmont

# Notes

Today is: \_\_\_\_\_ Sermon Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Key Verses:

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Worship Songs:

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Prayers:

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