Holy Eucharist
The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
10:00 a.m. — February 4, 2024
Rite II

Welcome

We welcome you to St. James this morning and are delighted you are here. Please join us for coffee and conversation after the service in Centennial Hall, located directly below the church. The Service is outlined from the Book of Common Prayer (BCP). The Music is found in the Hymnal 1982.

During the Voluntary we invite you to a time of quiet reflection and prayer as you prepare for the service.

Voluntary  Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier Op. 65, No. 57  Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)
The Word of God

Please stand as able and sing

Hymn 28  O blest Creator, source of light (omitting verse 5)  Bromley

1 O blest Creator, source of light, you gave the
2 You joined the morn and evening ray, you found it
3 Lest we, beset by doubt and strife, forget your
4 Eternal Father, help us rise and strive to

1 day with splendor bright, when on the new and
2 good and called it ‘day.’ But now the threatening
3 blessed gift of life, and anguished and in
4 gain the heavenly prize; for you alone can

1 living earth you brought all things to glorious birth.
2 darkness nears—we pray you, Father, calm our fears.
3 mind distressed, be crushed by guilt, by sin oppressed.
4 make us strong to turn from sin and cease from wrong.


The Opening Acclamation

Presider  Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People  And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.
Blessing of Candles

Presider     O Gracious Father, almighty and eternal God, you created all things out of nothing, and by your command caused the labor of bees to be revealed in the perfection of wax. You commanded your servant Moses to keep lamps continually burning before you. Bless and sanctify these candles that their light may be for us a visible reminder of the true light who enlightens everyone coming into the world. As these candles, kindled with a visible flame, scatter the darkness of night, so also may our hearts be enlightened by the invisible fire of the Holy Spirit that we might avoid the darkness of sin, see your salvation, and attain to the Light that never fades away. All this we ask through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever.

People      Amen.

All sing.

Benedictus es, Domine

Hymnal S-236, John Rutter
The Collect of the Day

Presider  The Lord be with you.
People     And also with you.
Presider  Let us pray.

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.
The First Lesson

Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in;
who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"?

Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.

Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted;
but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Reader  The Word of the Lord.
People  Thanks be to God.
The choir sings the psalm.

Psalm 147:1-12, 21c *Laudate Dominum*  
Anglican Chant: George Thalben-Ball  
(1896-1987)

1 Hallelujah!  
How good it is to sing praises to our God! *  
how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!

2 The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; *  
he gathers the exiles of Israel.

3 He heals the brokenhearted *  
and binds up their wounds.

4 He counts the number of the stars *  
and calls them all by their names.

5 Great is our LORD and mighty in power; *  
there is no limit to his wisdom.

6 The LORD lifts up the lowly, *  
but casts the wicked to the ground.

7 Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; *  
make music to our God upon the harp.

8 He covers the heavens with clouds *  
and prepares rain for the earth;

9 He makes grass to grow upon the mountains *  
and green plants to serve mankind.

10 He provides food for flocks and herds *  
and for the young ravens when they cry.

11 He is not impressed by the might of a horse; *  
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;

12 But the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him, *  
in those who await his gracious favor.

21 Hallelujah!

The Second Lesson  
1 Corinthians 9:16-23

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.
For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Please stand as able and sing the hymn.

Hymn 493 O for a thousand tongues to sing

1 O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer's praise,
2 My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim
3 Jesus! the Name that charms our fears and bids our sorrows cease;
4 He speaks; and, listening to his voice, new life the dead receive,
5 Hear him, ye deaf; ye voiceless ones, your loosened tongues employ;

1 the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!
2 and spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy Name.
3 'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.
4 the mournful broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.
5 ye blind, behold, your Savior comes; and leap, ye lame, for joy!

6 Glory to God and praise and love be now and ever given by saints below and saints above, the Church in earth and heaven.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: Azmon, Carl Gotthilf Gläser (1784-1829); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872).
The Holy Gospel

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

After Jesus and his disciples left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, “Everyone is searching for you.” He answered, “Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.” And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Josh Hoover

The 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.

The Prayers of the People – Form III

The Confession and Absolution

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

All remain standing or kneel as able.

People 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.

Presider 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

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Offertory is a time when we offer back to God some of what God gives to us. God gives us wheat and grapes and, through our labor, we turn them into bread and wine.

God gives us bodies and minds, and we use these in our life and labor to earn our daily bread. When we give a portion of our income back to God, God blesses it, and returns it to us as services provided by the church, in outreach to those in need, and in lives changed by God’s spirit.

Offertory Anthem

Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end.
Words: Psalm 119:33

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer C

Presider The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Presider Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them to the Lord.
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.
Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.
Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us.
By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

All sing.

Sanctus and Benedictus

Hymnal S-130, Franz Schubert
full, full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel.

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, 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.”

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, 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.”

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. AMEN.

The Lord’s Prayer

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

The Presider breaks the consecrated bread. All sing the Fraction Anthem.
The Fraction Anthem

Invitation to Communion

Presider These are 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 sing the hymn.

Hymn 676 There is a balm in Gilead

The Postcommunion Prayer

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

People Amen.

Hymn 567 Thine arm, O Lord, in days of old

1 Thine arm, O Lord, in days of old was strong to
2 And lo! thy touch brought life and health, gave hearing,
3 Be thou our great deliverer still, thou Lord of
heal and save; it triumphed over disease and death,
strength, and sight; and youth renewed and frenzy calmed
life and death; restore and quicken, soothe and bless,
o'er darkness and the grave. To thee they went, the
owned thee, the Lord of light: and now, O Lord, be
with thine almighty breath: to hands that work and
blind, the deaf, the palsied, and the lame, the leper
near to bless, almighty as of yore, in crowded
eyes that see, give wisdom's heavenly lore, that whole and
set apart and shunned, the sick with fevered frame.
street, by restless couch, as by Gennesaret's shore.
sick, and weak and strong, may praise thee evermore.

Words: Edward Hayes Plumptre (1821-1891), alt. Music: St. Matthew, from Supplement to the New Version of Psalms by Dr. Brady and Mr. Tate, 1708.
The Dismissal
People
Thanks be to God.

Voluntary Voluntary in D Major William Boyce (1711-1779)

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Worship Schedule
Sundays 8:00 a.m. in person
10:00 a.m. in person and on Facebook and our Website and via Zoom

Weekdays Compline 7:50 p.m. on Zoom

The Rev. Joshua A. Hoover, Rector
josh@stjamesbirmingham.org