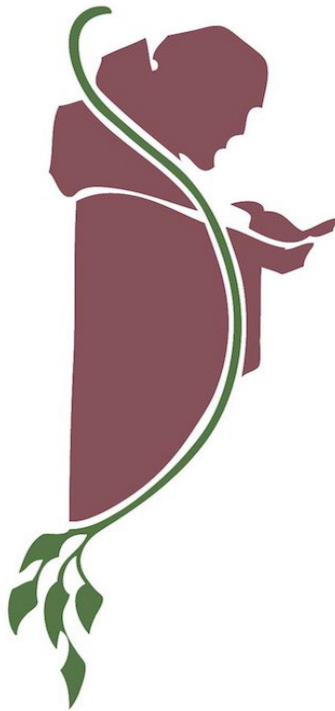


The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

February 4, 2024

10:00 a.m.



We seek to be instruments of God's peace, bearing witness to the love of God in Jesus Christ for all people.

ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Ministers: Every member of the Congregation



Welcome in the name of the living Christ to St. Francis Church! May you find renewed grace and peace as we worship together today. St. Francis is an Episcopal Church, part of the wider ministry of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts. If you are visiting with us today, please help us get to know you by introducing yourself at the door, and also by signing our guest book or filling out a pew card. *Please be sure to include an email address if you wish to be added to our mailing list.*

Please remember to take your cell phone or electronic device off silent mode at the end of worship.

You are invited to enter in reverence and awe of God's presence in this holy place. Before the liturgy begins we commend the keeping of silence as a time for prayer and reflection.

ABOUT OUR WORSHIP:

The liturgy that we use for worship is from the red Book of Common Prayer (**BCP**). Beginning portions of the liturgy are printed in the bulletin. **Bold** print is to be spoken by the people of God.

Our hymns and service music is from the blue Hymnal found in the book racks in the pews. Numbers that begin with an S- are in the front of the Hymnal.

We occasionally use supplemental hymn books called *Wonder, Love & Praise* and *Come Celebrate* which will be given to you with your bulletin. These will be listed as WLP or CC followed by the hymn number.

HOLY EUCHARIST – RITE II

PROCESSIONAL HYMN:

O for a thousand tongues to sing

Hymnal 493

THE WORD OF GOD

OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP 299

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

There is one Body and one Spirit;

There is one hope in God's call to us;

One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

One God and Father of all.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.**

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: *Isaiah 40:21-31*

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 147:1-12, 21c

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!

SECOND READING: 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN

Immortal, invisible, God only wise

Hymnal 423

GOSPEL: *Mark 1:29-39*

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

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ

SERMON:

The Rev. Patrick Perkins

THE HOLY BAPTISM

BCP 301

Celebrant The Candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented.
Parents/Sponsors **I present Elise to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.**

Celebrant Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought
 up in the Christian faith and life?
Parents/Sponsors **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full
 stature of Christ?
Parents/Sponsors **I will, with God's help.**

Baptismal questions for parents and sponsors:

Celebrant Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Parents/Sponsors **I renounce them.**

Celebrant Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Parents/Sponsors **I renounce them.**

Celebrant Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Parents/Sponsors **I renounce them.**

Celebrant Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Parents/Sponsors **I do.**

Celebrant Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Parents/Sponsors **I do.**

Celebrant Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Parents/Sponsors **I do.**

Celebrant Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support Elise in her life in Christ?

People **We will.**

Celebrant Let us join with Elise who is committing herself to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

BCP 304

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

People **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?
 People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
 People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
 People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all people, loving your neighbor as yourself?
 People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?
 People **I will, with God's help.**

PRAYERS FOR THE CANDIDATE

BCP 305

Celebrant Let us now pray for Elise who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth.
 Leader Deliver her, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.
 People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Open her heart to your grace and truth.
 People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Fill her with your holy and life-giving Spirit.
 People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Keep her in the faith and communion of your holy Church.
 People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Teach her to love others in the power of the Spirit.
 People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Send her into the world in witness to your love.
 People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Bring her to the fullness of your peace and glory.
 People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

BCP 306

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**

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

Celebrant We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE BAPTISM

BCP 307

Elise, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Elise, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever. **Amen.**

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon this your servant the forgiveness of sin, and have raised her to the new life of grace. Sustain her, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give her an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY HYMN:

Take my life and let it be

Hymnal 707

OFFERTORY PRESENTATION AND DOXOLOGY

Tune: Hymnal 380

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;**Praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: *Eucharistic Prayer A*

BCP 361

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 God thanks and praise.***

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

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

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

Hymnal S-130

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.

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 pray,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 364

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.

FRACTION ANTHEM:

Agnus Dei

Hymnal S-164

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

COMMUNION HYMN:

The King of Love my Shepherd is

Hymnal 645

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

BLESSING

RECESSIONAL HYMN:

Tell out my soul the greatness of the Lord

Hymnal 437

THE DISMISSAL

BCP 366

Go in peace and walk in the Way of Love.

Thanks be to God.

SERVERS THIS WEEKEND:

Altar Guild: Sharlene O'Connor, Marje Sullivan, Marge Tremblay, Jenny Sanders

Nursing Home: Chris Berglund

Ushers: Steven and Mary Cook

Reader/LEM: Tina Chen

Coffee Hour: The Surabians

We welcome Osman Bilsel this morning and thank him for being with us.

St. Francis Episcopal Church



Bearing Witness
to
Christ's Love

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