



Holy Trinity Church

446 Hamilton St. Southbridge, Massachusetts 01550
A parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts
www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org 508.765.9559

The Last Sunday after the Epiphany

February 11, 2024

9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

The Reverend Judith Lee, *Celebrant & Preacher*

Anne Bouvier-Monroe, *Organist*

Josh Spooner, *Eucharistic Minister*

Lynn Garland, *Reader*

The Vigil Light burns to the Glory of God and for Sue for comfort from Judy.
Flowers are given in memory of Albert & Evelyn Bouvier by Dave & Anne Monroe

Prelude: *Laus Trinitati*

Hildegard of Bingen

Processional Hymn: *Christ be our Light*

Insert

Acclamation

Blessed are you, holy and living One.

You come to your people and set them free.

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

Gloria

Hymnal S#280

Collect of the Day (*in unison*)

O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Liturgy of the Word

The First Lesson: A Reading from the Second Book of Kings [2:1-12]

When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

Silence

Psalm 50:1-6 *Deus deorum*

- 1 The Lord, the God of gods, has spoken; *
 he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.
- 2 Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, *
 God reveals himself in glory.
- 3 Our God will come and will not keep silence; *
 before him there is a consuming flame,
 and round about him a raging storm.
- 4 He calls the heavens and the earth from above *
 to witness the judgment of his people.
- 5 Gather before me my loyal followers, *
 those who have made a covenant with me
 and sealed it with sacrifice."
- 6 Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause; *
 for God himself is judge.

Silence

The Second Lesson: A Reading from the Second Letter to the Corinthians 4:3-6

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

Sequence Hymn: *I want to walk as a Child of the Light v. 1 & Refrain I want to walk as a child of the light. / I want to follow Jesus.*

God set the stars to give light to the world.

The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain: In him there is no darkness at all.

The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ According to Mark [9:2-9]

Response Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

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

Sermon

The Rev. Judith Lee

The Nicene Creed

BCP, 358

Prayers of the People

God calls on us to follow Christ in all the world. Let us earnestly call on God to hear our prayers for the needs, concerns, and hopes of all peoples.

For the church of Jesus Christ in every place, especially where it is under attack and where it has lost its vision and purpose. *Pause.*

This day and always, **Christ be our Light.**

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, Douglas our bishop, Judith our Priest-in-Charge, and all who minister in congregations that are in transition. *Pause.*

This day and always, **Christ be our Light.**

For this country, especially our president Joseph, the leaders in Congress, and the elected officials of all our communities. *Pause.*

This day and always, **Christ be our Light.**

For all nations and their leaders, for those in the armed forces who guard the peace, and for those who seek nonviolent resolution to conflicts. *Pause.*

This day and always, **Christ be our Light.**

For all those in danger and need: the sick and the suffering; refugees, prisoners and their families; the people of Palestine, Israel, Russia and Ukraine; the hungry, the homeless and those who have lost their way; the guests of St. Luke’s Guesthouse and the children at Mapong Babies Home; and those we now name, silently or aloud. *Pause.*

This day and always, **Christ be our Light.**

For our congregation, especially our Wardens, Vestry and Staff, that we may be faithful to God’s purpose in our transition. *Pause.*

This day and always, **Christ be our Light.**

For ourselves, our families, and those we love, especially those we now name, silently or aloud *Pause.*

This day and always, **Christ be our Light.**

For those who rest in Christ, and for all the departed especially those whom we now name, silently or aloud. *Pause.*

This day and always, **Christ be our Light.**

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers that divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Prayer for the Parish *in unison*

Merciful God, your creation began with light that you called forth, and declared good. The light from a star led the Wise Men to Bethlehem at the birth of Jesus, your Son. May your light shine in our hearts so that those around us may witness your love in our lives. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen

The Confession

BCP, 360

The Peace

Announcements and 'God Moments'

Blessing of Prayer Shawls

The Liturgy of the Table

Offertory Hymn *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus vv.1, 3-4*

Hymnal#460

Presentation Hymn *In the bleak midwinter, v. 4*

Hymnal #112

What can I give him, poor as I am?]

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

If I were a wise man I would do my part;

Yet what I can I give him—Give my heart

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer D

BCP, 372

Sanctus #S-130

The Lord's Prayer

BCP, 364

Fraction Anthem: *Jesus, Lamb of God*

Hymnal S#164

Communion: *Be thou my Vision*

Slane; setting by Hopson

Post-Communion Prayer

BCP, 365

The Blessing

Recessional hymn: *Shine, Jesus Shine*

Insert

Dismissal

Postlude: *Alleluia, Song of Gladness*

R. Powell

Music reprinted and streamed under Onelicense.net #A722242

Vestry Highlights: February 7, 2024

Resolved

- ✓ Appointed Standing Committees
- ✓ Designated Food Share for Souper Bowl of Caring

Discussion

- ✓ Planning for February 25th pulpit swap & Vestry interview
- ✓ Discussed narrative questions for the Parochial Report
- ✓ Discussed importance of Vestry members taking Safe Church training
- ✓ What have we done well? Epiphany dramatization; Annual meeting; communication about partnership with Bethlehem Lutheran; involvement with and by the youth
- ✓ What could we have done better: signing up for Safe Church training; being more methodical in planning Sunday School

Souper Bowl of Caring: Today

Funds will be given to Food Share. A variety of homemade soups will be available for purchase after the service.

Lenten Bags are available in the back of the church. Please take one as a resource for your Lenten practices.

Lent Madness will begin this week! Learn more at www.lentmadness.org

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper: This Tuesday February 13th 5:30-8pm

Please let Eileen DeMings know how you can help.

Ash Wednesday: February 14th

Ashes to Go:

7-8 am on Hamilton Street at Holy Trinity

7-9 am & 3-5 pm at Bethlehem Lutheran parking lot

Holy Communion with Distribution of Ashes: Noon & 7 pm.

Saturday February 24th 6:30-8:30 pm: Family Game Night hosted by our Teens. Watch for more information.

Mark your Calendars: Sunday February 25th

Pastor Dan Purtell will be our Celebrant and Preacher.

Pantry Donation for February for the Wales Community Food Pantry: pasta sauce, canned meats, hash

Mission Plate for February: Worcester Community Action Fuel Assistance Program.

Announcements

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