

Saint Mary's Episcopal Church The Seventh Sunday after Epiphany Holy Eucharist and Rite-13 Ceremony Sunday, February 23rd, 2025 11:00am

Welcome to Saint Mary's! We are glad you are joining us today for either in person or online worship. If you're new to the Episcopal Church, know that we follow an ancient and enduring pattern of worship called Liturgy, which is designed to give glory to God and draw people closer to God. We sing and pray together, and stand, sit and kneel at different times using our bodies, minds and voices as we worship in the Spirit. All of those directions are in this guide, which is drawn from the Book of Common Prayer you see in the pew racks in front of you. We have communion every Sunday (and sometimes more often!) and everyone is invited to the altar, regardless of membership or from what denomination they've come. If you haven't been baptized, or aren't sure you're ready to receive communion, we invite you to come forward for a blessing and talk to a priest after the service about getting baptized. For more information about Saint Mary's, please see our website at www.stmaryshighpoint.org or check out our Facebook Page.

The liturgy begins on page 355 in The Book of Common Prayer.

Voluntary

The Word of God

All stand and sing

Hymn 390 Praise to the Lord!

The Celebrant says

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

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Celebrant continues

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.**



The Collect of the Day

p. 213

CelebrantThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd also with you.CelebrantLet us pray.

O Lord, you have taught us that without love whatever we do is worth nothing: Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts your greatest gift, which is love, the true bond of peace and of all virtue, without which whoever lives is accounted dead before you. Grant this for the sake of your only Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A reading from the book of Genesis

45:3-11, 15

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, "Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there--since there are five more years of famine to come--so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty."

And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

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

Psalm 37:1-12, 41-42

Noli aemulari

Chant: Charles Villiers Stanford



- 1 Do not fret yourself because of | evil-|doers; * do not be | jealous of | those who do | wrong.
- 2 For they shall soon wither | like the | grass, * and like the | green grass | fade a-|way.
- 3 Put your trust in the | LORD and do | good; * dwell in the | land and | feed on its | riches.
- 4 Take de-|light in the | LORD, * and he shall | give you your | heart's de-|sire.
- 5 Commit your way to the LORD and put your | trust in | him, * and | he will | bring it to | pass.
- 6 He will make your righteousness as | clear as the | light * and your | just dealing | as the | noonday.

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7 Be still be-| fore the | LORD * and | wäit | patient•ly | for him.
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- 8 Do not fret yourself over the | one who | prospers, * the one who suc-| ceeds in | evil | schemes.
- 9 Refrain from anger, leave | rage a-|lone; * do not fret yourself; it | lëads | only to | evil.
- 10 For evildoers shall | be cut | off, * but those who wait upon the | LORD shall pos-|sess the | land.
- 11 In a little while the wicked shall | be no | more; * you shall search out their place, but | they will | not be | there.
- 12 But the lowly shall pos-|sess the | land; * they will de-|light in a-|bundance of | peace.
- 41 But the deliverance of the righteous | comes from the | LORD; * he is their | stronghold in | time of | trouble.
- 42 The LORD will | help them and | rescue them; * he will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, be-| cause they seek | refuge in | him.

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

15:35-38, 42-50

Someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

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

Hymn 182 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing

The Gospel Luke 6:27-38

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

All are seated.

The Rev'd Foster Mays

All stand and say together

The Nicene Creed p. 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 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.

Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. We pray for Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil, All Saints', Concord, Church of the Good Shepherd, Cooleemee, St. Alban's, Davidson, and our companion dioceses of Botswana and Costa Rica, most especially Santa Maria Siquierres. *Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; especially Rick and Margaret, Frankie, Nancy, Kathy, Diane, Joan, Bill, Cheryl, Debbie, Barry, all those on our Parish prayer list, all those on the Daughters of the King prayer list, give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Silence

Confession of Sin p. 360

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and 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.

Standing, the Celebrant 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 Rite 13 Ceremony: A Celebration of Journey

Be seated. The Celebrity comes forward together with her Parents, Sponsors.

Sponsors

We present to you Alexandra Brehm, who this day leaves behind childhood on her journey to adulthood.

Celebrant

Dear People of God: the transformation from childhood to adulthood marks one of God's great gifts. Today, we celebrate this gift with Alexandra as she begins her journey to adulthood. By the grace of God, you have lived through the pains and joys of childhood, and have grown strong. Now, as a young person journeying to adulthood, it is given to you to share God's power of creation. Human beings, because they are made in God's image, are the only creatures on earth who can choose how to use their creative power—not only to create new life, but also to shape the world according to God's purpose. God calls us to use this gift to build and not to destroy. Are you aware of God's gift to you and the responsibility to use it wisely?

Celebrity

I am.

The Psalm Reading

Celebrant

Let us join with Alexandra in reading a portion of Psalm 139. The congregation is asked to join in the antiphon.

Psalm 139 Domine, probasti

Celebrity

O God, you have searched me out and known me; you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar. If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, Even there your hand will lead me and your right hand hold me fast.

Antiphon

Your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

Celebrity

For you yourself created my inmost parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I will thank you because I am marvelously made; your works are wonderful, and I know it well. *Antiphon*

Your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

Celebrity

My body was not hidden from you, while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written in your book. They were fashioned day by day, when as yet there were none of them. *Antiphon*

Your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

Celebrity

Search me out, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my restless thoughts. Look well whether there be any wickedness in me and lead me in the way that is everlasting.

Antiphon

Your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

The Prayer for the Parents

Celebrant

When Mary and Joseph searched for Jesus and found him in the temple, talking with the elders, they realized that he was a child no longer. So, too, these parents stand, watching their young one grow beyond childhood. Let us pray for them.

O God, bless the parents/sponsors of Alexandra. Rejoice with them as their child begins the journey to adulthood; strengthen them that they may support this young person on her way; uphold them by your Spirit, that they may comfort their teenager although they can neither walk her road for her nor shield her from pain. Carry them safely through this journey, so that one day they may stand together with adults and friends, a joy and a comfort to each other all the days of their lives.

Congregation

Amen.

The Charge to the Young Person

Celebrant

Dear friends of Alexandra: As she journeys beyond the circle of her family, she will need loyal friends. Will you walk with her, knowing that there may be times when your support means more than any other?

Young People

We will.

The Charge to the Congregation

All who are able please stand.

Celebrant

As the living Body of Christ, we have been empowered by the Holy Spirit to do God's work in the world. Will you, as a community of God that spans the generations, share your knowledge and experience with Alexandra as she journeys to adulthood?

Congregation

We will.

Celebrant

Will you guide, guard, and sustain her as she grows into the full stature of Christ?

Congregation

We will.

The Blessings

Celebrant

Alexandra, you have been armed by Almighty God with both the imagination of childhood and the strength, energy, and creative power of adolescence; now you must journey forth to gain the skills you will need to assume full responsibility as an adult.

The celebrity kneels. The parents (and/or sponsors) come forward and lay hands on her shoulders. The celebrant lays hands on the celebrity's head and says:

Alexandra, may Almighty God fill you with courage, wisdom, and joy. May Jesus Christ, your strong companion and never-failing friend, make you strong in faith and defend you on every side. May the Holy Spirit guide you in truth and peace, and the blessing of God, who creates, redeems, and sustains, rest upon you this day and for evermore.

Congregation

Amen.

The Celebrity goes to sit with her friends and the parents/sponsors return to their seats.

The Peace All stand. p. 360

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Holy Communion

OffertoryWilliam H. Harris

Most glorious Lord of life, that on this day, Didst make thy triumph over death and sin: And having harrow'd hell, didst bring away Captivity thence captive, us to win: This joyous day, dear Lord, with joy begin, And grant that we for whom thou diddest die,

Being with thy dear blood clean wash'd from sin,

May live for ever in felicity.

And that thy love we weighing worthily,

May likewise love thee for the same again:

And for thy sake, that all like dear didst buy,

With love may one another entertain.

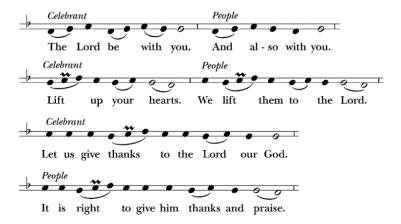
So let us love, dear love, like as we ought,

Love is the lesson which the Lord us taught.

~ Edmund Spenser

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B p. 367

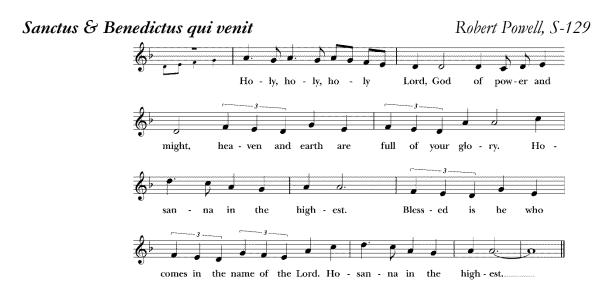


The Celebrant continues

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

The Celebrant prays the appointed Proper Preface.

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:



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,

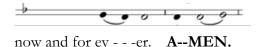
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,



The Celebrant continues

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 the Ever-Blessed Virgin Mary 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,



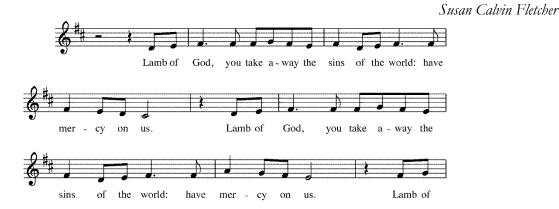
Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

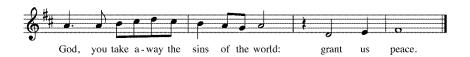
All Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

p. 364







The Celebrant says

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 are welcome at God's holy Altar. If you normally receive communion in another church, of any denomination, you are welcome to do so here. If you are drawn to Jesus, but not yet baptized into any Christian community, you are invited to come forward for a blessing. In that case, simply cross your arms over your chest at the rail, or ask the priest, and you will be given a blessing. Ask the priest afterwards about baptism and joining St. Mary's. We offer gluten-free wafers as well. Please let the priest know if you need one.

Music at the Communion

Motet Lee Hastings Bristol

Lord, make us servants of your peace: where there is hate, may we sow love; where there is hurt, may we forgive; where there is strife, may we make one. Where all is doubt, may we sow faith; where all is gloom, may we sow hope; where all is night, may we sow light; where all is tears, may we sow joy. Jesus, our Lord, may we not seek to be consoled, but to console, nor look to understanding hearts, but look for hearts to understand. May we not look for love's return, but seek to love unselfishly, for in our giving we receive, and in forgiving are forgiven. Dying, we live, and are reborn through death's dark night to endless day: Lord, make us servants of your peace, to wake at last in heaven's light.

~ James Quinn, after St. Francis

Hymn 581 Where charity and love prevail

Sending Out Prayer

Celebrant and People

As the people of Saint Mary's, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood. We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread one cup. Amen.

After Communion, all stand and the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

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 Celebrant blesses the people and then they are dismissed, responding

People Thanks be to God.

Hymn 347 Go forth for God

Voluntary

Altar Flowers: The flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of the members of the Flower Guild.

Participants in the Liturgy

Celebrant
The Rev'd Robert P. Travis

Preacher
The Rev'd Foster Mays

Rite-13 Celebrity
Alexandra Brehm

*Lector*Kathy Conrad

Verger Kathy Conrad

Chalicers Jean Almos, Jim Gane

Acolytes
Alex Brehm, Kellen Rose, Henry Simcox

Organist & Choirmaster
Charles Hogan

Virtual Verger Nick Archibald

Acknowledgements

Text for the liturgy from *The Book of Common Prayer*, New York: Church Publishing, 1979, 231, 355-365, 388-389; Search committee prayer: *Prayers for Pastor & People*, Compiled and edited by Carl G. Carlozzi, New York: Church Publishing Incorporated, 1984, 139. Used with permission. The Bible text is from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, and used by permission. Originated in riteplanning.com, © 2020 Church Publishing Inc. All rights reserved. The following music is reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE # A-716676. All rights reserved. Gloria S-280 and Sanctus S-129, Music by Robert Powell, © Church Publishing; Memorial Acclamation S-138, © Church Publishing; Agnus Dei, © Susan Calvin Fletcher.

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Herb Goins – Senior Warden Jason Johnson Candice Greig Will Moore Patrick Simcox Ellen Walsh

Nancy Amos - Clerk

Vestry 2025
Tim Yates – Junior Warden
Steve Bingham
Hodge Cole
Lenora Sparks
Mark Penley

Keeping in Prayer this Week: We pray for those whose needs are closely linked with ours and for those who suffer from any sickness, grief or distress, also remembering and praying for those on our parish prayer list, including Helen Congdon, Linda Nitz, Emily Finch Johnson, Anne Miressi, Trish, Thea Oglesby, Steve, Jerri Phillips, Elizabeth White, Richard Glover, Rick and Margaret Lewis, Frankie Gurganus, Nancy Jenkins, Kathy, Diane Kearns, Joan Cardwell, Bill Fenn, Cheryl Warren, Debbie

Amanda Gane

Ewing, Barry, Pat Hayes, Clara Blythe, Susan Hayne, Sam Hawley, Robert Eamon Kelly, David Stewart, Dick Shaler, Jane Gill-Shaler, Denni Mikola, Shirley, Greg Denison, Ray, Robert Taylor, Michelle Maynard, Hannah, Linda Focarelli, Carter, Tom Peterson, Loyd, Mike Hennen, Connie Strader, Ginny Long, Katherine Anne Marsh, Em, Phil Williams, Kim Williams, Michael, Jennifer Boggs, Land Hurley, Erin McDonough, Gary King.

About St Mary's Prayer List: St Mary's maintains a published prayer list, which is added to the service leaflet and to the e-news each week. To add someone, please secure permission to use either the first and/or last names from the person to be added, and then contact Denise Story at 336.886.4756 or by email at admin@stmarysepisc.org. Denise needs your name and contact information so we can get pastoral updates periodically. Individuals will be updated at the end of the month unless the request is renewed, which you are welcome to do at any time.

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