

# ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Smiths Falls, Ontario | Anglican Diocese of Ottawa

**Third Sunday after the Epiphany**

**January 23, 2022**

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

**HOLY EUCHARIST IN PANDEMIC**

Book of Alternative Services

*We acknowledge that we gather at St. John's on the traditional and un-ceded territory of the Algonquin Nation. Wherever you are worshiping this morning, consider the traditional land you are on and give thanks for the gift of it, praying we may dwell on the land with respect and peace.*

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## THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

**Celebrant** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy spirit, be with you all.

**People** **And also with you.**

**Celebrant** Almighty God,

**All** **to you all hearts are open, all desires known and from you no secrets are hidden: 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.**

### **Collect of the Day**

Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

### **First Reading**

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra

blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen', lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.'

Reader      The word of the Lord.

**All            Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 19** *(said in unison)*

**The heavens declare the glory of God, \* and the firmament shows his handiwork.**

**One day tells its tale to another, \* and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

**Although they have no words or language, \* and their voices are not heard,**

**Their sound has gone out into all lands, \* and their message to the ends of the world.**

**In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; \* it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.**

**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; \* nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

**The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; \* the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.**

**The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; \* the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

**The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever; \* the judgements of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.**

**More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, \* sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

**By them also is your servant enlightened, \* and in keeping them there is great reward.**

**Who can tell how often he offends? \* cleanse me from my secret faults.**

**Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; \* then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.**

**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, \* O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.**

### **Holy Gospel**

Luke 4:14-21

Gospeller The Lord be with you.

**All And also with you.**

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

**All Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.' And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

Gospeller The Gospel of Christ.

**All Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **Homily**

### **Apostles' Creed**

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

**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.**

**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. Amen.**

### **Intercessions**

*(These intercessions are freely adapted from: Dr. Geoffrey Rowthorn, ed. The Wideness of God's Mercy: Litanies to Enlarge Our Prayer: An Ecumenical Collection. Church Publishing, 2007, pp. 132-33)*

Giving thanks for the gifts and graces found within the Christian family, let us pray to the holy and blessed Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—for the Church and the world saying: *Lord graciously hear us.*

We thank you God, and we pray for the Anglican Church: for its reverent and temperate ways through its Catholic heritage and its Protestant conscience; its yearning over the divisions of Christendom, and its longing to be used as a house of reconciliation. Lord hear us; **Lord graciously hear us.**

We thank you God, and we pray for the Roman Catholic Church: for its glorious traditions; its disciplines of holiness; its worship, rich with the religious passion of the centuries. Lord hear us; **Lord graciously hear us.**

We thank you God, and we pray for the Eastern Orthodox Church: for its secret treasures of mystical experience; its venerable liturgy; its regard for life in community; and its common will as a source of authority. Lord hear us; **Lord graciously hear us.**

We thank you God, and we pray for the Baptist emphasis on personal regeneration and the conscious relation of the mature soul to the Lord. Lord hear us; **Lord graciously hear us.**

We thank you God, and pray for the powerful ability of Methodists and the United Church to awaken the conscience of Christians to social evils, and for their emphasis upon the witness of experience and the fruits of the disciplined life. Lord hear us; **Lord graciously hear us.**

We thank you God and pray for the Presbyterian reverence for the sovereignty of God and their confidence in God's faithfulness to his covenant; for their sense of the moral law, expressing itself in constitutional governance. Lord hear us; **Lord graciously hear us.**

We thank you God and pray for the Quaker witness to the perpetual real presence of the inner light in every human soul, and for their faithful continuance of a free prophetic ministry and Christian nonviolence. Lord hear us; **Lord graciously hear us.**

We thank you God and pray for the Lutheran devotion to the grace of God and the Word of God, enshrined in the ministry of Word and Sacraments. Lord hear us; **Lord graciously hear us.**

We thank you God and pray for the Pentecostal and Evangelical Free Churches, moved by the Spirit to speak the Gospel to those unwelcome or uninspired in other congregations. Lord hear us; **Lord graciously hear us.**

Together with churches throughout the world, we pray to you God, for peace amongst the nations; for healing, comfort and courage to those suffering or in need, and for a right use and care of the creation you have entrusted to us. Lord hear us; **Lord graciously hear us.**

Merciful God, accept these prayers which we have offered aloud, and those offered by your faithful saints everywhere whose great cloud of witness surrounds us, and equip us to strive for the unity and love which was the prayer of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### **Confession & Absolution**

Celebrant Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

*Silence is kept.*

Celebrant Most merciful God,  
**All 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 neighbours 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 upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **The Peace**

Celebrant As we are reconciled with God in Christ, so may we be reconciled with one another. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People And also with you.**

## THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

### **Prayer over the gifts**

Loving God, before the world began you called us. Make holy all we offer you this day, and strengthen us in that calling. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

### **Great Thanksgiving**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: We give you thanks and praise, almighty God, through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer. He is your living Word, through whom you have created all things.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh of the Virgin Mary and shared our human nature. He lived and died as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

In fulfilment of your will he stretched out his hands in suffering, to bring release to those who place their hope in you; and so he won for you a holy people.

He chose to bear our griefs and sorrows, and to give up his life on the cross, that he might shatter the chains of evil and death, and banish the darkness of sin and despair. By his resurrection he brings us into the light of your presence.

Now with all creation we raise our voices to proclaim the glory of your name.

**All 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.**

Celebrant Holy and gracious God, accept our praise, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death, took bread and gave you thanks, saying, "Take, and eat: this is my body which is broken for you." In the same way he took the cup, saying, "This is my blood which is shed for you. When you do this, you do it in memory of me."

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we offer you this bread and this cup, giving thanks that you have made us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

We ask you to send your Holy Spirit upon the offering of your holy Church. Gather into one all who share in these sacred mysteries, filling them with the Holy Spirit and confirming their

faith in the truth, that together we may praise you and give you glory through your Servant, Jesus Christ.

All glory and honour are yours, Father and Son, with the Holy Spirit in the holy Church, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **Breaking of the Bread**

Celebrant    "I am the bread which has come down from heaven," says the Lord.

**All**            **Give us this bread forever.**

Celebrant    "I am the vine, you are the branches."

**All**            **May we dwell in him, as he lives in us.**

Celebrant    The gifts of God are for the people of God.

**All**            **Thanks be to God.**

### ***Communion***

#### **Prayer after Communion**

Gracious God, our hands have taken holy things; our lives have been nourished by the body of your Son. May we who have eaten at this holy table be strengthened for service in your world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

### **Doxology**

Celebrant    Glory to God

**All**            **whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, forever and ever. Amen.**

### **The Blessing**

#### **The Dismissal**

Celebrant    Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All**            **Thanks be to God.**

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