

Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church

www.old-swedes.org

215-389-1513

*February 15, 2026
Last Sunday after the Epiphany*

Ministry Assistants Today

Lector: *Cathy Ufheil*

Intercessor: *Gabrielle Barbour*

Usher: *Jim Ufheil*

Altar Guild: *Rachel Armstrong*

Celebrant: *Rev. Chris Micklewright*

Organist: *Adam Haines*

Ministry Assistants February 22

Lector: *Daria Kulp*

Intercessor: *Corin Micklewright*

Usher: *Bob Jenkins*

Altar Guild: *Rachel Armstrong*

Celebrant: *Rev. Chris Micklewright*

Organist: *Adam Haines*

Welcome to (the end of) Epiphany at Gloria Dei Episcopal Church!

Throughout this season, we have celebrated the light of Jesus, beginning on Epiphany with the appearing of the star that guided the Magi – and ending with today's remembrance of the Transfiguration. It has been a timely celebration, both because we are making our way through the winter season (when there is literally less daylight), and because the news has been full of so much darkness. Hopefully, this season has reminded us that God's light will ultimately drive out darkness, and that God is always working for healing and redemption, even when we feel exhausted or overwhelmed.

In the week ahead, we will enter the season of Lent (join us for services on Ash Wednesday!). Yet, even as we remember our mortality, and take time for reflection and repentance, the Epiphany light of Jesus will continue to journey with us. May we have eyes to see the light, even in the darkness, and may we continue to encourage and support each other in the days and weeks ahead.

Prelude

Opening Hymn # 304

I Come With Joy

Hymnal 1982

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
All **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen**
 Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
 Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
 we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
 Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
 you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
 you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
 For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
 you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
 in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.
All **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.** *(Congregation is invited to sit for the readings.)*

First Reading

Exodus 24:12-18

Cathy Ufheil

The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them."

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

All **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 2

Why are the nations in an uproar? *

 Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?

Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes plot together, *
 against the LORD and against his Anointed?

"Let us break their yoke," they say; *

 "let us cast off their bonds from us."

He whose throne is in heaven is laughing; *
 the Lord has them in derision.

Then he speaks to them in his wrath, *
 and his rage fills them with terror.

(continued...)

"I myself have set my king *
upon my holy hill of Zion."

Let me announce the decree of the LORD: *
he said to me, "You are my Son; this day have I begotten you.
Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance *
and the ends of the earth for your possession.
You shall crush them with an iron rod *
and shatter them like a piece of pottery."
And now, you kings, be wise; *
be warned, you rulers of the earth.
Submit to the LORD with fear, *
and with trembling bow before him;
Lest he be angry and you perish; *
for his wrath is quickly kindled.
Happy are they all *
who take refuge in him!

Second Reading 2 Peter 1:16-21

We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn # 512

Come Gracious Spirit

Hymnal 1982

Gospel Reading

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Matthew (17:1-9)**
All **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
All **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The sermon is an opportunity to reflect on and interpret the readings in light of the whole of Scripture and Christian tradition. You are always free to disagree with Rev. Chris, and you are more than welcome to reach out for further discussion of the readings and the ideas presented in the sermon.

After the sermon, we stand together to recite our faith using the historic Nicene Creed. While this creed identifies key elements of the Christian faith, you are still welcome to have doubts and questions, and the life of faith is always a journey of growth and discovery.

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.

Prayers of the People *(the intercessor and the people pray responsively)*

Gabrielle Barbour

Celebrant: In this season of Epiphany, let us pray for God's light to shine in the darkness, using the words of Psalm 72. We begin with a few moments of silence. *(Long silence.)*

Intercessor: God of light, give to the people your justice; we pray especially for your church throughout the world, for our bishops, Sarah, Sean, and Daniel, for our priest, Chris, for our postulant, Rachel, and for this congregation.

People: **Rule your people righteously, and the poor with justice.** *(Long pause for silent prayer)*

Intercessor: God of light, you promise to defend the needy in our midst; care especially for immigrants, for refugees, and for all who feel afraid.

People: **Rescue the poor, and stop the oppressor.** *(Long Pause for Silent Prayer)*

Intercessor: God of light, your mercy lasts as long as the sun and moon endure, so we pray for our planet and for all those affected by climate change.

People: **May mercy come down like rain upon mown fields, and like showers that water the earth.** *(Long Pause for Silent Prayer)*

Intercessor: God of light, we remember the places of turmoil in our world, especially Ukraine, Sudan, and Iran, and we pray for a time when the righteous shall flourish.

People: **May there be an abundance of peace, till the moon shall be no more.** *(Long Pause for Silent Prayer)*

(continued...)

Intercessor: God of light, we pray for those in authority, in our church, in our city, in our nation, and around the world, that they might recognize your authority over all creation.

People: **May the rulers bow down, and all the nations do service to God.**

(Long Pause for Silent Prayer)

Intercessor: God of light, we long for the deliverance of the poor and oppressed in their distress, and for your pity to be known among the lowly and needy. Today, we pray especially for:

People: **Elia, Eulogio, Emily, Harry, Monica, Amy, Alan, William, Betty, Angel, Dakota, Dina, Anthony, Rebecca, Beth, Seamus, Thomassina, Gregory, Julie, Denise, Jason, the Juline Family, Laurie, Peggy, Joanna, Mark, Margie, Bonnie, Keith, Connie, and Jack.**

(Long Pause for Further Names)

Intercessor: God of light, you redeem the lives of your people, and hold their blood dear in your sight. We pray for all who have died.

(Long Pause for Further Names)

Celebrant: Blessed be the LORD GOD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous deeds. May our eyes be open to God's light, and may we be faithful in God's service, that all the earth may be filled with God's glory.

People: **Amen.**

Confession & Absolution

Celebrant Let us confess our sins to God. *(Please kneel as you are able; a brief silence may be kept.)*

All **God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.** *(Please share the peace by greeting your siblings in Christ.)*

Pre-Offertory Hymn # 372

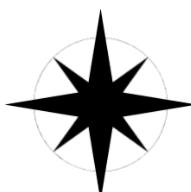
Praise to the Living God

Hymnal 1982

Offertory Sentence

O Lord our God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power; because you have created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being. *-Revelation 4:11*

Collecting an offering is a way for us to remember that all we have is a gift from God, and that we are responsible to be good stewards of the gifts entrusted to us. Guests should feel no obligation to give. Electronic giving is possible using the QR code found on the back of the bulletin. After the collection, the offering is brought forward as we stand to sing together the following song of thanksgiving.



Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above all heavenly hosts, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

The Holy Communion – Enriching Our Worship, Eucharistic Prayer 1

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 our thanks and praise.
 Celebrant It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

Flowingly

Paul Fejko

6

11

©2013 tsunami productions

Celebrant Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace. But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah and Hagar you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

(continued...)

| | | |
|-----------|---|--|
| Celebrant | On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, 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." | |
| | As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." | |
| Celebrant | Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith: | |
| All | Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. | |
| Celebrant | Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. | |
| People | (In a loud voice!) AMEN! | |
| 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, For ever and ever. Amen. |

Fraction & Invitation

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Celebrant | Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. |
| All | Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia! |
| Celebrant | This is the table not of the church but of our Lord Jesus. It is made ready for those who love him and those who want to love him more. So come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, because it is Jesus who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here. |

All those interested in receiving communion should make their way forward to the rail, while the elements are prepared for distribution to the congregation.

Episcopal theology recognizes baptism as the formal entry into the Christian community, and baptism is normally a prerequisite to receiving communion. However, we also recognize that God meets us wherever we are on our journey of faith. Moreover, Jesus regularly welcomed and ate with people from outside of his normal community. Therefore, all are welcome at this table - including children!

Kneel or stand at the rail, as you are comfortable. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are available – just hold up one finger to receive either of these alternative elements. The priest will distribute wafers, which you receive in your outstretched hands. If you wish to receive the cup, you may drink from the chalice or dip your wafer; it is also okay to receive the wafer only – we believe that Jesus is fully present in each of the elements of communion. (If you prefer not to receive, you are still warmly invited to come forward and cross your arms to receive a blessing.

Post Communion Prayer & Blessing

Celebrant Let us stand and pray together the post communion prayer.

All **God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Blessing Rev. Chris Micklewright

Announcements *Please pick up a sheet of announcements from the table in the back of the church.*

Closing Hymn #347

Go Forth for God

Hymnal 1982

Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

All are invited to listen to the postlude, and then to join us for a time of fellowship in Riverside Hall.

Gloria Dei Clergy and Staff

Rev. Dr. Chris Micklewright, Rector
440-865-1490, rector@old-swedes.org

Christine McBride, Parish Administrator
215-389-1513, info@old-swedes.org

Jim and Paula Minacci, Sextons

Adam Haines, Organist and Music Director

Gloria Dei Vestry

*Gabrielle Barbour, Ann Brilliant, Angel Guido, Re Henning, Carol Jenkins (Rector's Warden),
Christine Pickup, Candace Roberts (Accounting Warden), Cathy Ufheil (Secretary), Jeanette Woehr*

Online Giving Available

It is possible to give to Gloria Dei on our website,
www.old-swedes.org/give, or using the QR code:

