



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
ESSEX, NY

St. John's Episcopal Church  
Essex, NY

**The Rev. Catherine Nichols**

**Last Sunday after Epiphany**

**In-Person & Zoom Worship**  
**February 11, 2024 □ 10:00 A.M.**

**Loose Plate Offering**  
**ReNew**

**Zoom Link for Sunday Worship:**  
**<https://www.stjohnsessexny.org/worshipmeet>**

**Processional** (Please stand) “Morning Has Broken”

**Hymn 8**

*Presider:*

Blessed are you, holy and living One.

**You have come to your people to set them free.**

The Collect of Purity:

**Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known,**

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 Gloria      S278**

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

## **The Collect of the Day – The Last Sunday after Epiphany**

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.*

*Please be seated for the readings*

## **The First Reading: 2 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

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**

**Psalm 50: 1-6** *we will read it by alternating half verse.*

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.

## **The Epistle: 2 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.

Hear what the spirit is saying to God's people.

**Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn "Christ Upon the Mountain Peak"

Hymn

129

*\*last verse after the Gospel*

*reading*

The Gospel **Mark 9: 2-9**

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.

*Presider:*

The Holy gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to Mark

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Homily (Please be seated)

The Rev. Catherine Nichols

**The Nicene Creed** (Please stand)

BCP 358-359

*The intercessor then leads **The Prayers of the People** (Intercessor)  
The people stand or kneel as is their custom or take a posture of prayer as able.*

This week in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for the Province of the Episcopal church of South Sudan.

**Hear us when we pray to you.**

Prayer for the Bishop Elect

**Pray for the Bishop-Elect Eternal God, our Shepherd and Guide, we bless and thank you for your servant, Jeremiah, Bishop-Elect of your Episcopal Diocese of Albany.**

**By the working of your Holy Spirit grant him grace and every spiritual gift**

**as he prepares to take up his role as our chief pastor and teacher.**

**Make him a shepherd after your own heart, who will walk in your ways and watch over your people with loving care.**

**Strengthen and guide him to lead in vision.**

**Fill him with courage to teach your truth.**

**Prepare our hearts to welcome Father Jeremiah, Jennifer, Oscar, and Isaiah joyfully into our Diocesan community.**

**Continue to purify our intentions, and lead us into holiness, that we may bear witness to your Son without shame or fear, in unity, humility, and mutual charity, devoted to your will for the good of the world.**

**This we ask in Jesus' name and for the sake of his love. Amen.**

God of many names, God beyond all names; the beginning and the end of every story, the meaning of every life; infinite Mystery both hidden and revealed.

**Hear us when we pray to you.**

Blessed are you who join us together in the communion of Christ's Body. Renew and energize your holy Church, in this parish of St John's, and throughout the world, that we may be a resurrection people, manifesting your incarnate love in our common life of praise and service.

**Hear us when we pray to you.**

O perfect Wisdom, direct and rule the hearts of the leaders and shapers of society, raise up prophets of justice and peace, and empower your people for the holy vocation of repairing the world, We pray especially for the people of Israel, Gaza, and Ukraine that they may be led to wise decisions which will lead to peace. May we entrust all our labors to the work of your hand.

**Hear us when we pray to you.**

O Deliverer, you unlock every door and make a way where there is no way. Set free all who are afflicted or distressed in body, mind or spirit, with your incarnate love, grant them peace and refreshment, and restore their joy.

**Hear us when we pray to you.**

O compassionate One, hold us in your mercy: heal the sick, mend the broken, protect the vulnerable, shelter the refugee, strengthen the weary, rescue the lost, and give courage to all who struggle: we pray especially for **Geoffrey, Lois, Joyce, Abra, Mike, Beverly, Noa, Lillian, Chris, Rae, Olivia, Cheryl, Larry, Steven, Tom, Karen, Sally, Chris, Lynne, Eve, Anne, Ella, Louis, John, and Lee.**

**Hear us when we pray to you.**

O Morning Star, bright splendor of the light eternal, illumining all things with your radiance: Come, enlighten all who sit in darkness, and those who dwell in the shadow of violence and death. Grant us your peace, and teach us to live in the dawn of your unfailing promise.

**Hear us when we pray to you.**

O Lover of souls, when we wander far away, lead us back to you; as you led the Wise Men of old, when we refuse your embrace, do not give up on us; when we forget you, do not forget us. **Hear us when we pray to you.**

O Desire of every heart, the answer to every longing: you are the strong force that draws us into the mystery of love divine. Forgive us those things which distract and delay us, and lead us ever deeper into the Way, the Truth and the Life.

**Hear us when we pray to you.**

God who has come, God who does come, God who is yet to come: Make us a light filled people, ready and alert to welcome and receive you in the stranger's face, the loving act, the moment of grace, the presence of healing, the birth of possibility, the gift of wonder. Let every heart prepare you room.

**Hear us when we pray to you.**

Dear people of God, what else, or who else, should we pray for?

*Silence is kept, during which time all are invited to offer their own intercessions either silently or aloud.*

**Dear Lord, grant us your wisdom and guidance as we undergo our search process. Help us to humbly discern and accomplish your will for St. John's. We know this will be a challenging journey for all of us, but we pray that it will strengthen our faith, and our respect and love for each other. Help us to share more deeply our faith in you as we learn to listen to each other with open hearts and minds and to hear your voice in all that we say and do. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

*Presider says:*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**God of all mercy,  
we confess that we have sinned against you,  
resisting your will in our lives.  
We have not honored you in ourselves, in each other,  
And in the world which you have made.  
Reach out your saving arm  
And rescue us from our sin.  
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us  
through our Savior Jesus Christ,  
that we may abide in your love  
and serve only your will  
for your people and all creation. Amen**

*The Presider, stands and 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  
Peace

Prayer for Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays this week: Heather Maxey, Val Glass  
**Watch over our sisters and brothers, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand: comfort them when**





## **Sanctus**

*The Presider continues:*

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

*Presider and People:*

**Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life.  
Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

*The Presider continues:*

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with [blessed St John], and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

*Presider and People:*

**Blessed are you now and for ever. Amen.**

*Presider:*

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

**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.***

*Presider:*

Christ, our Passover is sacrificed for us.  
**Therefore, let us keep the feast.**

**Fraction Anthem  
S158**

*Presider:*

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

*Congregation comes forward at this time to receive communion.*

*For those worshipping on Zoom, the following prayer is suggested to deepen your spiritual communion:*

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, O Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I pray you to let me never

be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen

**Communion Hymn:** Book of Flexible Anthems “Ubi Caritas” arr. Alan Bullard (p. 273) From the Oxford

### **The Post Communion Prayer**

*Presider:* Let us Pray

**Creator of all, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ to 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.**

### The Blessing

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world, and band the blessing of God who created you, Jesus Christ who was born for you and the Holy Spirit who broods over the world like a mother hen over her chicks be with you and those you love this day and always.

**Closing Hymn** “Ye watchers and ye holy ones”

**Hymn 618**

Dismissal

*Presider:*

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

*The ringing of the bell signals the end of the service.  
Please join us in Persell Hall for coffee & goodies*

*The ringing of the bell signals the end of the service.  
Please join us for coffee in Persell Hall*

## **Ministers of the Service**

Officiant & Preacher: The Rev. Catherine Nichols  
Interim Priest-in-charge: The Very Rev. Diane Nancekivell

Usher Greeters: Anne Zilch & Joel Pero

Altar Guild: Bobbi Perez

Altar Flowers: Bobbi Perez

Lector: Bill Tribou

Intercessor: Kristine Tribou

Crucifer: Linda Rockefeller

Lay Eucharistic Minister: Darcey Hale

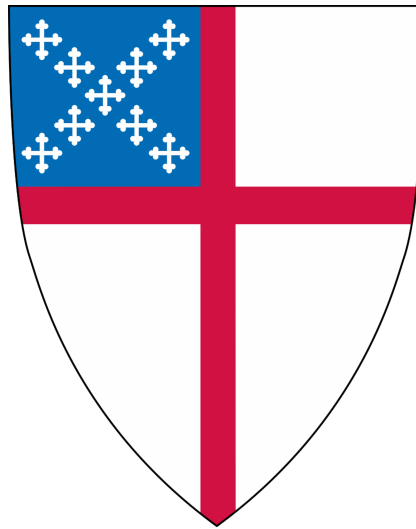
Acolytes:

Zoom host: Carole Harsh

Coffee Hour Hosts: The O'Neill's

Organist & Music Director: Jennifer Moore

Cantor: Michael Bergman



St. John's Episcopal Church | 4 Church Street, Essex, NY 12936



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