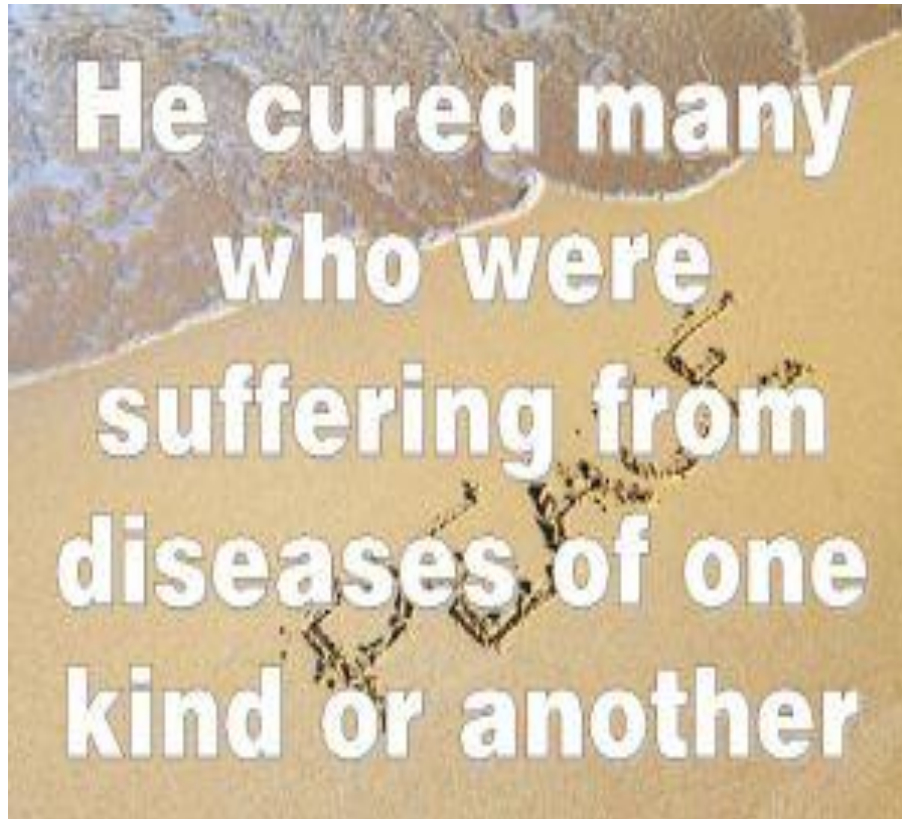


Sunday, February 7, 2021
The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany



Episcopal Church of St. Thomas
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Processional Hymn: LEVAS #60 “How Great Thou Art”

1 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
 Consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars I hear the rolling thunder,
 Thy pow’r throughout the universe displayed.

*Then sings my soul, my Savior, God, to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!*

2 When through the woods and forest glades I wander
 And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
 And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze.

Refrain

3 And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
 Send him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
 He bled and died to take away my sin.

Refrain

4 When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
 And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
 And there proclaim, my God how great thou art.

Refrain

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Celebrant says

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 following is sung, all standing

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant says

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All sit.

First Reading

Isaiah 40:21-31

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain and spreads them like a tent to live in; who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, 'My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God'? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 147:1-12, 21c

- 1 Hallelujah!
How good it is to sing praises to our God! *
how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!
- 2 The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; *
he gathers the exiles of Israel.
- 3 He heals the brokenhearted *
and binds up their wounds.
- 4 He counts the number of the stars *
and calls them all by their names.
- 5 Great is our LORD and mighty in power; *
there is no limit to his wisdom.
- 6 The LORD lifts up the lowly, *
but casts the wicked to the ground.
- 7 Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; *
make music to our God upon the harp.
- 8 He covers the heavens with clouds *
and prepares rain for the earth;
- 9 He makes grass to grow upon the mountains *
and green plants to serve mankind.
- 10 He provides food for flocks and herds *
and for the young ravens when they cry.
- 11 He is not impressed by the might of a horse; *
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;
- 12 But the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him, *
in those who await his gracious favor.
- 21 Hallelujah!

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to

all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

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

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
Open our hearts, O Lord, To listen to the words of Your Son.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Holy Gospel

Mark 1:29-39

All stand and turn to face the Gospel

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

After Jesus and his disciples left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

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

Celebrant: The Rev. Joseph Mumita

Nicene Creed

All stand.

**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

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, for Alan & Gayle our bishops and for all bishops and other Ministers.

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence

The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

The people may add their own petitions.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence may be kept.

Leader 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.**

The Priest 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.**

Peace

All stand.

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.

Holy Communion

The Celebrant says

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:2

Offertory Meditation Song: Hymnal #133 “O Light of Light”

1 O Light of Light, love given birth;
Jesus, Redeemer of the earth:
More bright than day your face did show,
Your raiment whiter than the snow.

2 Two prophets, who had faith to see,
With your elect found company;
The heav'ns above your glory named,
Your Father's voice his Son proclaimed.

3 May all who seek to praise aright
Through purer lives show forth your light.
To you, the King of glory, now
All faithful hearts adoring bow.

The people remain standing.

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 him thanks and praise.

The Celebrant proceeds

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

Celebrant and People

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of 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.

The people kneel.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Celebrant then continues

As our Savior Christ
has taught us,
we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

**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**

Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All baptized persons regardless of denomination are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

Communion Hymn: “Will You Take The Time?”

Refrain

**Will you take the time to come and heal, my friend? Then I'll know there is a reason to
believe in you.**

1. Whoever lives in me will never die; In your faith you will know the rising of each other's life.

Refrain

2. Father I thank you for lifting up the life of our sister as we touch to heal her wounds. ***Refrain***

3. How he loved those who followed him, searching for new meaning and a wholeness in their
lives. ***Refrain***

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Blessing

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

Recessional Hymn: LEVAS #90 “No, Not One!”

1 There's not a friend like the lowly Jesus—
No, not one! no, not one!
None else could heal all our soul's diseases—
No, not one! no, not one!

Refrain:

Jesus knows all about our struggles,
He will guide till the day is done;
There's not a friend like the lowly Jesus—
No, not one! no, not one!

2 No friend like Him is so high and holy—
No, not one! no, not one!
And yet no friend is so meek and lowly—
No, not one! no, not one! [Refrain]

3 There's not an hour that He is not near us —
No, not one! no, not one!
No night so dark but His love can cheer us—
No, not one! no, not one! [Refrain]

4 Did ever saint find this Friend forsake Him?
No, not one! no, not one!
Or sinner find that He would not take him?
No, not one! no, not one!

5 Was e'er a gift like the Savior given?
No, not one! no, not one!
Will He refuse us a home in heaven?
No, not one! no, not one! [Refrain]

Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia.
People Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

Prayer is a very important part of our life at St. Thomas

Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEVs) deliver communion and prayers to the ill and homebound each month. To sign up for this important ministry, please call 508-824-9595.

In the Parish Cycle of Prayer, we pray for five households each week. This is a way for us to reach out in prayer to all our members on a systematic and regular basis. This week we pray for the Schubert Family, the Schultz Family; the Shaikh Family; the Shallcross Family and the Shearer Family. Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you.

Scriptural Readings, 2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9.
Prayers for the Homebound and Ill members of our parish include..... Joe Andrade, Wayne Perkins, Julie Moore, Joann Frazier, Virginia Ames, Judy Lincoln, & Janice Crepeau.

Prayers for those who serve in the Armed Forces and Overseas... Daniel Snowdall, Megan Drewniak, Adam Dyke, William Marsh IV, Donald Souza, Noel Souza, Ryan Vohnoutka, Christopher French, Alex Bolton, and Scott Larson.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer this week we pray for Parishes of the Boston Harbor Deanery: Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Boston; The Crossing MANNA Community; The Cathedral Chapter Episcopal Boston; Chinese Ministry Postulants and Candidates for Holy Orders.

Flowers on the Altar in loving memory of Thomas & Jane Arden by Loved Ones; Humphrey & Helen Baker; Thomas Riley by Family; Alan L. Litchfield by Bob & Linda Belenger; Gabe Silvia, Brenda Silvia & Marion & Val Dunphe by Carole Silvia & Family. **Memorial Tribute** in loving memory of Antone & Dorothy Roderick by Gordon Roderick.