The Holy Eucharist
The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany
February 17, 2019  •  11:15 AM
Washington National Cathedral

The people’s responses are in bold.

The Entrance Rite

Carillon Prelude
Gaudeamus for carillon
John Knox (b. 1932)

Organ Prelude
Passacaglia (1967)
Leo Sowerby (1895-1968)

The people remain seated for the Introit.

Introit
Steal away
arr. Nicholas White (b. 1968)
Steal away, steal away, steal away to Jesus. Steal away, steal away home, I ain't got long to stay here. My Lord, he calls me, he calls me by the thunder; the trumpet sounds within-a my soul, I ain't got long to stay here. Green trees are bendin', poor sinners stand a-tremblin'; the trumpet sounds within-a my soul, I ain't got long to stay here.
(Negro spiritual)

The people stand as able.

Processional Hymn  •  423
Immortal, invisible, God only wise
St. Denio

The Opening Acclamation
Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity
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.
HYMN OF PRAISE

Gloria in excelsis Deo

Robert Powell (b. 1932)

The Word of God

THE COLLECT FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPiphany

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in you: Mercifully accept our prayers; and because in our weakness we can do nothing good without you, give us the help of your grace, that in keeping your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The people are seated.
THE FIRST READING

Thus says the Lord: “Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord. They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse—who can understand it? I the Lord test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 1

chant: Thomas A. Walmisley (1814-1856)

Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!
Their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and they meditate on his law day and night.
They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither;
everything they do shall prosper.

It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.
Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.
For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked is doomed.

All sing the antiphon.

THE SECOND READING

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The people stand as able at the introduction of the hymn.

HYMN AT THE SEQUENCE • 296

We know that Christ is raised and dies no more

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus came down with the twelve apostles and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. Then he looked up at his disciples and said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The people are seated at the invitation of the preacher.

THE SERMON

Mr. Michael Gerson

THE NICE 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. 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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

After each intercession,

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

The presider prays the concluding collect, and the people respond, Amen.

THE CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

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 presider offers absolution and the people respond, Amen.
THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

The people greet one another with a sign of God’s peace and are then seated.

THE OFFERTORY

An offering is received to support the Cathedral’s ministry of sharing God’s love with the world.
The altar is prepared for Holy Communion.

ANTHEM AT THE OFFERTORY

Blessed are the poor in spirit

Ronald Arnatt (b. 1930-2018)

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you. Ye are the light of the world: let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Amen. (Matthew 5:3-10, 12, 14, 16)

The people stand as able at the introduction of the hymn.

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION

Through north and south and east and west

Lasst uns erfreuen

Through north and south and east and west may God’s immortal Name be blessed: Al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia! Till ev’ry-where be-neth the sun, God’s reign be-gins; God’s will is done:


THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The presider offers thanks to God for the grace and mercy made available in Christ, and in response the people sing:
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 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.

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.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

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 Saint Peter, Saint Paul, and 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. AMEN.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Notre Père..., Padre nostro..., Vater unser..., 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.

The presider breaks the bread in silence.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD & THE FRACTION ANTHEM

James Moore (b. 1951)

Taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

The invitation to holy communion

The people are seated.

All who seek God and a deeper life in Christ are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please receive the bread in open and outstretched hands and sip the wine from the chalice, guiding it gently to your lips; or you may dip the wafer into the wine. Gluten-free wafers are available; please make your need known to the minister. Respond to receiving Communion by saying “Amen.” If you prefer to receive a blessing instead, please indicate your choice by crossing your hands across your chest. Those who wish to have Holy Communion brought to them at their seat should notify an usher.

During the administration of Holy Communion, the laying on of hands and prayers for healing are offered in St. John’s Chapel. Please enter the chapel by the ramp or stairs to the right of the pulpit.

ANTHEM DURING THE COMMUNION

Draw us in the Spirit’s tether

Harold Friedell (1905-1958)

Draw us in the Spirit’s tether; for when humbly, in thy Name, two or three are met together, thou art in the midst of them. Alleluia! Alleluia! Touch we now thy garment’s hem. As the brethren used to gather in the Name of Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the Father break the bread and bless the cup, Alleluia! Alleluia! So knit thou our friendship up. All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of thee, that by caring, helping, giving, we may true disciples be. Alleluia! Alleluia! We will serve thee faithfully. (Percy Dearmer, 1867-1936)
The people stand as able.

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty and everlasting 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 BLESSING

The presider blesses the people, and people respond, Amen.

HYMN AT THE CLOSING • 537

Christ for the world we sing! Moscow

THE DISMISSAL

Go in the light and peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Praeludium in F

Dieterich Buxtehude (c. 1637-1707)

The Washington Ringing Society will ring the Cathedral bells following the service.

Thank you for worshipping at the Washington National Cathedral today! We invite you to support the mission and ministry of the Cathedral by using our mobile giving program. Simply text the dollar amount you wish to give to (202) 856-9005. You'll be taken to a secure website to enter your credit card information, which is kept safe and secure. Thank you in advance for your generosity and please know that your presence with us today has been a blessing.

Those wishing to make flower gifts for Easter 2019 are invited to submit their gifts to the Altar Guild before March 21.

WORSHIP LEADERS


FLOWERS

The flowers throughout the Cathedral are given to the glory of God. The High Altar: in memory of Paul H. Kea, FAIA; War Memorial Chapel Altar: in loving memory of Lt. James Berkeley McLendon, USN, on the 50th anniversary of Lt. McLendon’s accidental death during Naval flight training exercise near Meridian, Mississippi; Bethlehem Chapel Altar: in honor of the anniversary of Sarah Farmer Wall and John Edgar Wall, Jr.