

Come As You Are Eucharist

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

January 29, 2023

5:00 PM



Saint Luke's Parish
Darien, Connecticut

Welcome!

Whoever you are and wherever you may be on your spiritual journey, we are so glad you have joined us for worship. May you know the presence of the living God who welcomes you here. Everything you need to participate in today's service is included in this leaflet. Ushers are available to answer any questions or direct you as needed. If this is your first time with us, we invite you to complete and return a welcome card so we can be in touch. May God bless you now and always.

About Today's Service

In today's Eucharist, we continue the theme of Epiphany season: the manifestation of Jesus as the Son of God. One of the ways the Lord was shown forth as God's Son was in teaching, and today's Gospel, the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount, reveals in the Beatitudes Christ's call to holiness, and his promise of the Kingdom of God.

The Old Testament reading from the prophet Micah is a call from God to holiness, as well. In its closing words, we hear the same principles of living in response to God expressed in the Beatitudes.

Certainly, Jesus' hearers, steeped as they were in the words of the prophets, saw immediately that God was speaking through him in many ways consistent with the divine Word given through the prophets. Ultimately, however, it was not in his teaching that the fullest revelation was made by the Lord, but in his crucifixion.

Paul, seeking to inspire the Corinthian church to unity, points out that God's wisdom was most fully revealed in the cross of Christ. What, in terms of the world's wisdom, appeared to be foolishness, is to us who believe, God's deepest wisdom.

As we gather in Eucharist, we are one with God's people throughout the ages. We are one with apostles and prophets and faithful people in every age who have met the Lord in Word and Sacrament: people who by God's grace have before us the blessedness of and promise of God's coming reign.

*Adapted from The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year.
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The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Come As You Are Holy Eucharist

In order to prepare for worship and allow for private prayers,
please observe silence upon entering the church.

“Be still and know that I am God.” -Psalm 46:10

Prelude “How Deep the Father’s Love For Us”

Rector’s Welcome

“In Christ Alone”

In Christ alone, my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone, who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones he came to save
Til on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave he rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Til He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

Opening Acclamation & Collect of the Day

Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
Glory to God for ever and ever.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Word of God

The First Lesson | Micah 6:1-8

Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the Lord has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

Welcome to visitors and members alike. Our church's motto is: "The Episcopal Church Welcomes You" and we hope you find this a most hospitable place to worship, to grow, and to be.

The order for our service is from the **Book of Common Prayer**. The order is called the liturgy, which means "work of the people." It is responsive and participatory because your contribution to worship is what truly makes us a worshiping community.

“In Christ Alone”
by Keith Getty & Stuart Townend
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The Lectionary: The choice of readings comes from the Revised Common Lectionary, a three-year cycle of readings covering the whole Bible that we share with other major Christian denominations.

“O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!
For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.
O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

“With what shall I come before the Lord,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,
with calves a year old?
Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”
He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

“Stronger”

There is love that came for us.
Humbled to a sinners cross.
You broke my shame and sinfulness
You rose again victorious

Faithfulness none can deny
Through the storm and through the fire
There is truth that sets me free
Jesus Christ who lives in me

Chorus:

You are stronger, You are stronger
Sin is broken, You have saved me
It is written, Christ is risen
Jesus, You are Lord of all

No beginning and no end
You're my hope and my defense
You came to seek and save the lost
You paid it all upon the cross

[Chorus]

So let Your name be lifted higher
Be lifted higher, be lifted higher
(x4)

[Chorus]

The Gospel | Matthew 5:1-12

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

There is always a **Gospel** reading and it is proclaimed by the deacon or priest from among the people. The gospel is the story of Jesus Christ among us, but it is also our story, the good news of our faith.

The Homily

The Rev. Susan C. Wyper

“Praise the Father, Praise the Son”

O sov'reign God, O matchless King
The saints adore, the angels sing
And fall before the throne of grace
To You belongs the highest praise

These sufferings, this passing tide
Under Your wings I will abide
And every enemy shall flee
You are my hope and victory

Chorus:

Praise the Father, Praise the Son
Praise the Spirit, Three in One
Clothed in power and in grace
The name above all other names

To the valley, for my soul
Thy great descent has made me whole
Your word my heart has welcomed home
Now peace like water ever flows

[Chorus]

Yours is the kingdom
Yours is the power
Yours is the glory forever
(x2)

[Chorus]

“Praise the Father, Praise the Son”
By Chris Tomlin & Ed Cash
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The prayers of the people are always responsive. They are “of the people” because everyone gives voice to the supplications. It is part of our liturgy where it is most evident that we would be noticeably less without the contribution of each person present.

The Prayers of the People | A New Zealand Prayer Book

In peace, let us pray for ourselves and others.

Silence may be kept.

Loving God, enliven the Church for its mission,
That we may be salt of the earth and light to the world.

Breathe fresh life into your people.
Give us power to reveal Christ in word and action.

Creator of all, lead us and every people into the ways of justice and peace,
That we may respect one another in freedom and truth.

Awaken in us a sense of wonder for the earth and all that is in it.
Teach us to care creatively for its resources.

God of truth, inspire with your wisdom those whose decisions affect the lives of others,
That all may act with integrity and courage.

Give grace to all whose lives are linked with ours.
May we serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us.

God of hope, comfort and restore all who suffer in body, mind or spirit.
May they know the power of your healing love.

We remember with thanksgiving those who have died.
Father, into your hands we commend them.

We praise you for Mary, Luke, and all your saints who have entered your eternal glory.
May their example inspire and encourage us.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

The People may add their own petitions, aloud or silently.

Your Word is a lamp for our feet.
In darkness and in light, in trouble and in joy, help us, O God, to trust your love, to serve your purpose, and to praise your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

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 Celebrant 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

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

The Clergy and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Welcome and Announcements

The Peace has been exchanged at the Eucharist since the time of the Apostles. It is both the proper response to the Word, and our expression of reconciliation with one another before we come to the altar to be reconciled with God.

The Holy Communion

At the Offertory, we gratefully offer back to God a portion of what God has given us, symbolically in the bread and wine, and in the money we give. To make an electronic gift today, please either visit www.saintlukesdarien.org/give or scan the QR code below with your phone. Thank you for your generosity.



Offertory Sentence

Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works
and give glory to your Father in heaven.

-Matthew 5:16

Offertory Song "Wonderful, Merciful Savior"

The Great Thanksgiving | Enriching Our Worship 2

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 God thanks and praise.

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

Sanctus & Benedictus

Sung by all.

Grayson Warren Brown

Ho-ly, ho - ly,____ ho-ly, ho - ly,____ ho-ly Lord God____ of hosts.____
Hea-ven and earth are____ filled with your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.____
Bless-ed is he who____ comes in the name____ of the Lord,____ of the Lord.____
Ho - san - na____ in the high - est.____
Ho - san - na in the high - est.____

The people remain standing as the Celebrant continues

The Offertory is where we bring our gifts of bread, wine, money, and our very selves to present to the Lord as our initial act of Thanksgiving, which is what Eucharist means.

For Episcopalians, the Eucharist, rather than the sermon, is the principle act of Christian worship. The Eucharistic prayer always entails a full proclamation of the heart of the Gospel.

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, 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. Again, he gave thanks to you, 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."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever

AMEN.

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

The Lord's Prayer

**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 Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

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

The Lord's Prayer is the prayer that Jesus gave to his followers when they asked him to teach them to pray. It is a form on which we can model our prayers.

Invitation to Communion

The Table is ready. So, come, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have fallen short. Come, because it is Christ who invites you to meet him here.

All baptized Christians are invited to receive Holy Communion, regardless of age or denomination. If you require a gluten-free wafer, please request one. If you wish to receive a blessing instead of Communion, please cross your arms over your chest.

Communion Song “O Come to the Altar”

Postcommunion Prayer

Let us pray.

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.

The 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.**

“Nothing But the Blood”

Your blood speaks a better word
Than all the empty claims I've heard upon this earth
Speaks righteousness for me
And stands in my defense
Jesus it's Your blood
(x2)

Chorus:

What can wash away our sins?
What can make us whole again?
Nothing but the blood
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
What can wash us pure as snow?
Welcomed as the friends of God
Nothing but Your blood
Nothing but Your blood, King Jesus

Your cross testifies in grace
Tells of the Father's heart to make a way for us
Now boldly we approach
Not by earthly confidence
It's only Your blood, Your blood

[Chorus]

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Eucharist, or **Communion**, is reminiscent of the Passover meal that Jesus shared with his disciples before his death. Now he shares it with us and invites all of us to share symbolically in his life, death, and resurrection, through it. It should remind us that we are Christ's body in our time.

The **Postcommunion Prayer** concludes the Eucharist. In it we always say “thank you” to God for the gift of Christ, the Spirit, and the community of the Church.

“Nothing But the Blood”
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The **Dismissal** is an important part of the service. Having heard the gospel and been served at the table of Christ, we are sent out into the world to proclaim the good news and be Christ's hands and feet on earth.

Participants in Today's Service

Celebrant	The Rev. Hannah G. Pommersheim
Preacher	The Rev. Susan C. Wyper
Lay Reader	Tom Dickson
Intercessor	Charlie Keyes
Chalice Bearers:	Tom Dickson, Charlie Keyes
Altar Guild	Laura Wilcock
Musicians	Tod Baharian, Guitar, Vocals Tom Barracco, Percussion Tod Hedrick, Bass Anna Jacobson, Vocals Bob Leinbach, Keyboards, Vocals

About these Prayers

Saint Luke's is a community committed to prayer. Holding one another's joys, sorrows, and concerns before God in prayer is a spiritual practice at the heart of our life together. We encourage you to pray throughout the week for these members of our parish family.

We invite you to add yourself or others to the Saint Luke's prayer list by submitting a prayer request card or notifying the Parish Office at 203-655-1456 or info@saintlukesdarien.org.

Pastoral Visits

Please notify us if you or a family member is hospitalized and/or in need of a pastoral call or visit. We often have no other way of knowing a visit is needed. Please email a member of the clergy or call the Parish Office.

Sharing Holy Communion

If illness prevents you or a loved one from joining us for services, a priest or a lay eucharistic visitor can share Holy Communion with you at home or in a health care facility. Please contact the Parish Office.

Celebrations

If you would like to ask for prayers for the celebrations in your life or in the life of a loved one, please contact the Parish Office.

Flowers

The Flower Guild adorns the church with flowers and greens thanks to donations given in memory of loved ones or in thanksgiving for special occasions. The names are listed in the service bulletins. If you would like to make a gift of flowers, please contact Lynn Biggart at 203-655-3343 or sevnenbiggs@aol.com.

12 Step Groups

Saint Luke's hosts multiple 12 Step Recovery and Support groups, including AA, AlAnon, Alateen, and Fabulous Women of Wednesday. Call the Parish Office for meeting times, or see our online calendar.

Prayer List

For the Church

In our Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for The Church of Pakistan (United).

In our Diocese, we pray for Christ & the Epiphany, East Haven; St. John's, East Windsor; Christ's Church, Easton; Holy Trinity, Enfield; Comite Hispano, Spanish-language Cursillo, and all Latino/Hispanic ministries in CT.

In our parish cycle of prayer, we pray for those from Saint Luke's currently on pilgrimage in the Holy Land.

Those who have requested our prayers

For members and friends of the parish who are sick, sorrowful, or in any kind of trouble: Sheila, Charlie, Caroline, Campbell, Rex, Cody, Roz, Lauren, John, Jim, Mark, Ronnie, Kate, and Todd.

In our Outreach cycle of prayer, we pray for Homefront, for their staff, volunteers, and for all those who have benefited from home repairs.

We pray for Miranda Wilson, as she serves with the Young Adult Service Corps in Geneva, Switzerland.

Those who have died

All who have died from COVID-19.

Saint Luke's Parish

A parish in the Episcopal Church in Connecticut,
a member of the world-wide Anglican Communion.

The Most Rev. Jeff W. Mello, Presiding Bishop
The Rt. Rev. Ian T. Douglas, Bishop of Connecticut The Rt. Rev. Laura J. Ahrens, Bishop Suffragan

Rector

The Rev. Ryan C. Fleenor

2022-2023 Vestry

Rob Hulick, *Senior Warden* Wendy Moore, *Junior Warden* Bill Bowman, *Treasurer* Lisa Baird, *Clerk*

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Maggie Machir
Michael Moore

Class of 2024

Chris Bolton
Merrill Collins Peterkin
Brian Van Elslander

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The Rev. Susan C. Wyper
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Associate Rector

H. David Pulliam
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Will Roslak
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Maggie Domont
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Erika Caputo
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Dave Scam
Buildings and Grounds Supervisor

Ron Wilson
Director of Finance

Paul Keene
Seminarian Intern

Cindy Scam
Director of Administration

Priest Associates

The Rev. Gina Gore
The Rev. Dawn Stegelmann
The Rev. Don Thompson

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Elizabeth Hearle
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Nancy Coughlin
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Saint Luke's Parish

Grow

Love

Serve

Our Vision

A world transformed by the love of Jesus Christ for all people.

Our Mission

Living together as disciples of Christ, we seek to:

Grow personally in faith,
acknowledging our imperfection and need of grace;

Build an accepting & transforming community,
extending God's unconditional welcome to all;

Work alongside our neighbors,
forming partnerships to serve the world.

Let it begin with me.

Our Invitation

Grow in love of God.

Love your neighbor as yourself.

Serve the world in Christ's name.

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