

Welcome to Saint Mary's Episcopal Church!



The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ January 31, 2021

For 134 years, Saint Mary's has been
a Christ-centered community
with a mission to express God's love for all people.

Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ: Revelation in Transfiguration

Welcome

Opening Song *Spread, O Spread, Thou Mighty Word (vs 1, 3, 4)* Hymnal #530
<Screen share>

Opening Collect

Leader Jesus, your justice goes beyond the ancient law, your wisdom embodies all prophetic insight; make us glad to be yours, and able to follow you to Jerusalem. God of Glory you gave the vision of your Son to those who watched on the mountain; grant that by our glimpses of him we may be changed into his glorious likeness.

Psalm

Psalm 111:1a, 7, 9

Leader Please join in saying the Psalm.

People **Praise the Lord. I will extoll the Lord with all my heart. The work of his hands is faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy. He has provided redemption for his people; he has ordained his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name.**

First Reading

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him. For this is what you asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, "Let us not hear the voice of the Lord our God nor see this great fire anymore, or we will die." The Lord said to me: "What they say is good. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him. I myself will call to account anyone who does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name. But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, is to be put to death."

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that “We all possess knowledge.” But knowledge puffs up while love builds up. Those who think they know something do not yet know as they ought to know. But whoever loves God is known by God. So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that “An idol is nothing at all in the world” and that “There is no God but one.” For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”), yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live. But not everyone possesses this knowledge. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat sacrificial food they think of it as having been sacrificed to a god, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled. But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do. Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak. For if someone with a weak conscience sees you, with all your knowledge, eating in an idol’s temple, won’t that person be emboldened to eat what is sacrificed to idols? So this weak brother or sister, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. When you sin against them in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel

Mark 1:21-28

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, “What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”

“Be quiet!” said Jesus sternly. “Come out of him!” The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.

The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, “What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him.” News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Rt. Rev. Craig Loya was consecrated the X Bishop of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota on June 6, 2020. Bishop Loya served as Dean of Trinity Cathedral in Omaha, Nebraska, from 2013-2020, and was the Canon to the Ordinary in the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas from 2009-2013. He received his Master of Divinity from Yale University and a Diploma in Anglican Studies from Berkeley Divinity School at Yale in 2002. Joining Bishop Loya in Minnesota are his wife, Melissa, and their two children.

Statement of Belief and Baptismal Covenant

People **We trust in God who is always making things new. We trust in Jesus, risen from the dead. We trust in the Spirit, always calling us to new life.**

Leader And now we join with our Episcopal brothers and sisters in translating the beliefs in our hearts to action in our lives, in these Baptismal questions:
Will you continue in the apostle's teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Leader Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Leader Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Leader Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Leader Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Prayers of the People

Sung response:

God, our good - ness, Light a - bove. God of all wis - dom and light of all

lo - ve.

Leader For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors;
For those on the “front lines” and for those who are alone;
For this community, our nation and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom and peace;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice and oppression;
For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble.

People *<Sung response>*

Leader For those who minister to the friendless, and the needy;
For all the sick, infirmed, in nursing homes and hospitals;
For peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel and all who seek the truth;
For Craig our Bishop, for all Bishops and all other ministers;
For all who serve God in the church.

People *<Sung response>*

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

Silence. The people may add their own Thanksgivings.

For your mercy is great.

People *<Sung response>*

Leader 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 shine upon them.

People **<Sung response>**

Blessings, Prayers, and Thanksgivings

Speak up if you've got a birthday, anniversary, transition, concern or thanksgiving to share.

Peace

Leader The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Lord's Prayer

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

People **Our creator, who is in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven,
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Announcements

