

Ante Communion Service Epiphany 4B January 31, 2021

Opening Hymn

Blessed Jesus, At Your Word

The Orchard Enterprises JS Bach

*Blessed Jesus, at your word, we are gathered all to hear you.
Let our hearts and souls be stirred, now to seek and love and fear you.
By your teaching pure and holy, teach us, Lord, to love you solely.*

*All our knowledge, sense, and sight, lie in deepest darkness shrouded,
till your Spirit breaks our night, with your beams of truth unclouded.
You alone to God can win us; you must work all good within us.*

*Glorious Lord, yourself impart; Light of Light, from God proceeding,
open lips and ears and heart; help us by your Spirit's leading.
Hear the cry your church now raises; Lord, accept our prayers and praises.*

Celebrant Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom 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 Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A moment of silence for self-reflection

Celebrant Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

People

Gracious God, have mercy on us.

**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.**

Celebrant Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Celebrant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People

And also with you.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our holy house, and for all who offer their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and every shall be. World without end. Amen.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him.

Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords— yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. “Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Mark 1:21-28

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

Hymn

'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

Acapeldridge

*'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, just to take Him at His word;
Just to rest upon His promise; just to know, Thus saith the Lord.*

*[refrain] Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him, how I've proved Him o'er and o'er,
Jesus, Jesus, Precious Jesus! O for grace to trust Him more.*

*O how sweet to trust in Jesus, just to trust His cleansing blood;
Just in simple faith to plunge me, 'neath the healing, cleansing flood. [refrain]*

*Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus, just from sin and self to cease;
Just from Jesus simply taking, life, and rest, and joy, and peace. [refrain]*

*I'm so glad I learned to trust Thee, precious Jesus, savior, friend;
And I know that Thou art with me, wilt be with me to the end. [refrain]*

Nicene Creed

Said by all.

**We believe in one God, the Father 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
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 worshipped 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

Celebrant With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church,
those in need, and all of God's creation. In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the peace and unity of the world;
That a spirit of respect may grow among nations and peoples.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.

For all who love and trust in God, that divisions may cease;
And that all may be one, as you and the Father are one.

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 wisdom in this time of pandemic;
That our actions may protect the health of ourselves and others.

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.*
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. Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them. **Who put their trust in you.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we pray together:

**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.**

We pray together for Christ's presence:

**My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the bread and wine.
I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart.
I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you.
Amen.**

Celebrant: While we long to receive the sacrament of Christ's Body,

People: **We become the sacrament of Christ's Body.**

Celebrant: Let your lives be manna to feed our hunger for communion.

People: **The love we share becomes bread for the world.**

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 in you, among you,
and remain with you always. **Amen**

Closing Hymn

O Christ, the Healer [Tallis]

First Plymouth Church, Lincoln NB

*O Christ, the healer, we have come, to pray for health, to plead for friends.
How can we fail to be restored, when reached by love that never ends?*

*From every ailment flesh endures, our bodies clamor to be freed;
yet in our hearts we would confess, that wholeness is our deepest need.*

*In conflicts that destroy our health, we diagnose the world's disease;
our common life declares our ills: is there no cure, O Christ, for these?*

*Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your community may find
the wholeness that, enriching us, shall reach the whole of humankind.*

Dismissal

The Lord Bless You and Keep You [Lutkin]

Acapeldridge

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