**Nativity Worships Epiphany 3**

**January 26, 2025**

**The Rev. Kirsten Snow Spalding, Presiding**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Prelude  | Rhosymedre | arr. John Edwards 19th C |
| Opening | Hail to the Lord’s anointed | H 616 |
| Gradual | O God of gentle strength | WLP 771 |
| Offertory     | Our Father, by whose name [v.1,3] | H 587 |
| Communion  | My God, thy table now is spread [vv 1,2,4] | H 321 |
| Closing | In Christ there is no East or West | H 529 |
| Postlude | Meadowlands | Russian horsemen’s song |

## The Collect

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen*.

## Old Testament Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

All the people of Israel gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

## The Psalm 19 *Caeli enarrant*

1 The heavens declare the glory of God, \*
and the firmament shows his handiwork.

2 One day tells its tale to another, \*
and one night imparts knowledge to another.

3 Although they have no words or language, \*
and their voices are not heard,

4 Their sound has gone out into all lands, \*
and their message to the ends of the world.

5 In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; \*
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again; \*
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

7 The law of the Lord is perfect
and revives the soul; \*
the testimony of the Lord is sure
and gives wisdom to the innocent.

8 The statutes of the Lord are just
and rejoice the heart; \*
the commandment of the Lord is clear
and gives light to the eyes.

9 The fear of the Lord is clean
and endures for ever; \*
the judgments of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether.

10 More to be desired are they than gold,
more than much fine gold, \*
sweeter far than honey,
than honey in the comb.

11 By them also is your servant enlightened, \*
and in keeping them there is great reward.

12 Who can tell how often he offends? \*
cleanse me from my secret faults.

13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
let them not get dominion over me; \*
then shall I be whole and sound,
and innocent of a great offense.

14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my
heart be acceptable in your sight, \*
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

## The New Testament 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--Jews or Greeks, slaves or free--and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts.

## The Gospel Luke 4:14-21

Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,

to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

**The Prayers**

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. Timothy’s Danville, whose feast day is Timothy and Titus, Companions of St. Paul (January 26th).

We pray for our parish members: Members: Jamie, Nancy B, Nina A, Marian, Norma, Duane, Amanda, Ruth, Steve K, Dick, Barbara B, Uwe and our families and friends: Myles, David, John, Violet & John, B. Y., Justin, John B, Laura, Tanner, Phil, Greg, Nick and Phoebe. We pray also for all those impacted by the fires in Los Angeles.

We pray for those who have died and those who mourn remembering especially Bill Shepherd, Lisa and Fr. Michael Hiller and those who have died in the wars in Israel, Palestine, Ukraine and Sudan and those who have died in the fires in Los Angeles.

**Announcements**After our 10 a.m. service today we’ll have a discussion about the Scottish Episcopal Eucharistic prayer (that we are using this season) at 11:30. Listen carefully and we’ll talk about what’s different about this prayer and how it might open us to new understandings of the Eucharist.

Join us for our Annual Meeting on February 2nd. We’ll provide lasagna, bring other things to share for our potluck lunch. We’ll elect vestry members, deanery representatives and celebrate 2024. We will also celebrate Candlemas with a blessing of the altar candles and candles for your homes.

February 8th, we’ll have a Vestry Retreat. Please consider joining the vestry. Maybe you have been on vestry before either at Nativity or somewhere else. Or maybe you don’t know what’s entailed, but you would like to get more involved in shaping the future of our church. It’s a wonderful group of people and our work together is really prayer-filled and lifegiving. I hope you will consider joining us this year. Reach out to Senior Warden, Kim Bromley or Rev. Kirsten.

February 9th Souper (Super) Bowl Sunday. Bring a can of soup to support the SF-Marin Food Bank! We’ll bless the soup as part of our offerings at the altar.

February 23rd. Discussion about the Nativity Red Door Community Garden after the 10 a.m. service. Come meet the girl scout troop that has built our garden boxes. We’ll discuss next steps for renting the boxes and nurturing the garden. Girl Scout Cookies will be for sale and we’ll do a garden blessing.

February 28th. Teen Success Breakfast at Marin Community School. Join us in preparing and serving a nourishing breakfast for the students at Marin Community School. Calling for shoppers, cooks and servers. Reach out to Rev. Kirsten if you can help.

We will with thanksgiving receive offerings of **Nativity pledges and plate** today. You can contribute by sending a check to the church or by using the “Give” button on our website, [www.nativityonthehill.org](http://www.nativityonthehill.org).

All who participate in this Holy Eucharist virtually receive the full benefits of the sacrament by coming with the intention of being united with Christ and one another.