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Day of Epiphany
Holy Eucharist Rite Two
Sunday, January 5, 2025
8:30 AM

PRELUDE

Instrumental

ENTRANCE HYMN *We Three Kings of Orient Are* Words and Music by John Henry Hopkins, Jr.

VERSE

♩ = 132

Em B7 Em B7 Em

1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are, bear - ing gifts we trav - erse a - far
2. Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown Him a - gain,
3. Frank in - cense to of - fer have I, in - cense owns a De - i - ty nigh;
4. Myrrh is mine, its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom:
5. Glo - rious now be - hold Him a - rise, King and God and sac - ri - fice;

5

D G Am Em/B B7 Em D D7

field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star. O
King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
Prayer and prais - ing all men rais - ing, wor - ship Him, God on high.
Sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Peals thru the earth and skies.

CHORUS

G C G C G Em D

star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright; West - ward lead - ing,

15

C D G C G

still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

The people standing, the Celebrant says

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

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.*

GLORIA

The following is said, all standing

Glory to God in the highest,
 and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
 we worship you, we give you thanks,
 we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
 have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
 receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
 Jesus Christ,
 with the Holy Spirit,
 in the glory of God the Father. *Amen.*

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

²For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

³Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

⁵Then you shall see and be radiant;

your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

PSALM: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Remain seated.

¹ Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son,

² That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;

³ That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.

⁴ He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.

⁵ He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.

⁶ He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.

⁷ In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

¹⁰ The rulers of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, *
and the rulers of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.

¹¹ All rulers shall bow down before him, *
and all the nations do him service.

¹² For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress *
and the oppressed who has no helper.

¹³ He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; *
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.

¹⁴ He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, *
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-12

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Ephesus.

¹This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to human-kind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the

Spirit: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

SEQUENCE HYMN *There's Something About That Name*
Words by William J. Gaither & Gloria Gaither;
Music by William J. Gaither

CHORUS

♩ = 70 C Em/G C9 F

Je - sus, Je - sus, Je - sus! There's just some - thing a -

6 B \flat 9 C F/G C Em/G Em7(\flat 5) A7

bout that name! Mas - ter! Sav - ior! Je - sus! Like a

13 Am7/D D7 Dm7 G9 C Em/G C9

fra - grance af - ter the rain. Je - sus, Je - sus, Je -

20 F E7sus E7 A A9

sus! Let all heav - en and earth pro - claim, Kings and king - doms may

27 Am7/D D7 Dm7 G9 C

all pass a - way, But there's some - thing a - bout that name! _____

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GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

All stand.

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

Rev. Benedict Varnum

THE CREED

All stand.

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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped 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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

All remain standing.

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. We pray especially for: John, Recia, Jim, Judy, Joey, Sadie, Evelyn, Irene, Barbara, Marge, Jami, Susie, Marilyn, Donna, Norma, Elle, Brendan, Carolyn, Chris, Carol, Jill, Michael, Roxann, Chloe, Danette, Bob, Deb, Dick, Ben, Jean, Lorraine, William, Carl, Ann, Vicki, and Hayden & family. Are there any others who need our prayers?

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Presider

Source of grace and truth, accept the prayers we offer on this joyful feast. May we come to see the true light who shines throughout the world and who is God for all eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

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 Priest stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the
grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of
the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

THE PEACE

All stand.

<i>Celebrant</i>	The peace of the Lord be always with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays: Kathy Lake and Sue Atchley

Anniversaries:

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Chalk Blessing

The Holy Communion

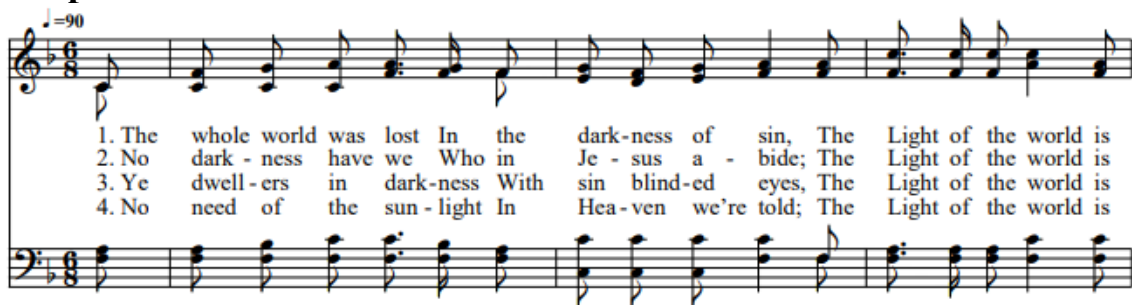
OFFERTORY SENTENCE

The Celebrant says

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High. *Psalm 50:14*

OFFERTORY HYMN *The Light of the World is Jesus*

Philip Paul Bliss



♩ = 90

1. The whole world was lost In the dark-ness of sin, The Light of the world is
2. No dark - ness have we Who in Je - sus a - bide; The Light of the world is
3. Ye dwell - ers in dark-ness With sin blind-ed eyes, The Light of the world is
4. No need of the sun - light In Hea - ven we're told; The Light of the world is

Je-sus! Like sun - shine at noon-day, His glor-y shone in. The Light of the world is
 Je-sus! We walk in the light When we fol - low our Guide! The Light of the world is
 Je-sus! Go, wash, at His bid - ding, And light will a - rise. The Light of the world is
 Je-sus! The Lamb is the Light In the ci - ty of gold, The Light of the world is

Refrain

Je-sus!
 Je-sus! Come to the light, 'tis shin-ing for thee; Sweet-ly the light has dawned up-on me.
 Je-sus!
 Je-sus!

Once I was blind, but now I can see: The Light of the world is Je-sus!

SURSUM CORDA

The People remain standing.

<i>Celebrant</i>	God be with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	We lift them to the Lord.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
<i>People</i>	It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is truly right to glorify you, Holy One, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we say,

SANCTUS WLP 858

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. * Bless - ed is the one who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The People stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues

We acclaim you, holy God, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Holy God, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, Jesus lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose Jesus gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for Christ who died and rose for us, you sent the Holy Spirit, your own first gift for those who believe, to complete your work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for Jesus to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper 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 shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Almighty God, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ’s death and descent among the dead, proclaiming Christ’s resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting Christ’s coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Celebrant and People

We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, Lord our God.

EPICLESIS

The Celebrant continues

God our Creator, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with St. Augustine and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours,
Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.
AMEN

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

People and Celebrant

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,
 forever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

FRACTION ANTHEM

This is the true bread which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.

Whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

INVITATION

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

DISTRIBUTION

The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

The Body (Blood) of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life.

[*Amen.*]

COMMUNION HYMN

Beautiful Star of Bethlehem

Words & Music by Adgar McDavid Pace R. Fisher Boy

VERSE

D



1. Oh, beau - ti - ful Star of Beth - le - hem, shin - ing a -
 2. Oh, beau - ti - ful Star, the hope of light, guid - ing the
 3. Oh, beau - ti - ful Star, the hope of rest, for the re -

2 G D Bm



-far thru shad - ows dim, giv - ing a light for those who long have
 pil - grim thru the night, o - ver the moun - tain 'til the break of
 -decmed, the good and blest, yon - der in glo - ry when the crown is

4 A E7/B A/C# D



gone; _____ And guid - ing the wise men on their way un - to the
 dawn; _____ And in - to the light of per - fect day it will give
 won; _____ For Je - sus is now that Star di - vine, bright - er and

6 G D E7/B A7



place where Je - sus lay, beau - ti - ful Star of Beth - le - hem, shine
 out a love - ly ray, beau - ti - ful Star of Beth - le - hem, shine
 bright - er He will shine, beau - ti - ful Star of Beth - le - hem, shine

CHORUS

8 D G/D D D A D G D



on. _____ Oh, beau - ti - ful Star _____ of Beth - le - hem, _____ shine up - on
 on. _____ Oh, beau - ti - ful Star _____ of Beth - le - hem, _____ shine up - on
 on. _____ Oh, beau - ti - ful Star _____ of Beth - le - hem, _____ shine up - on

11 Bm A E⁷/B A/C# D

us un-til the glo-ry dawn; _____ And guid-ing the wise men on their way un-to the
 us un-til the glo-ry dawn; _____ And in-to the light of per-fect day it will give
 us un-til the glo-ry dawn; _____ For Je-sus is now the Star di-vine, bright-er and

14 G D E⁷/B A⁷ D G/D D

place where Je-sus lay, beau-ti-ful Star of Beth-le-hem, shine on. _____
 out a love-ly ray, beau-ti-ful Star of Beth-le-hem, shine on. _____
 bright-er He will shine, beau-ti-ful Star of Beth-le-hem, shine on. _____

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POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

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.

BLESSING

The Priest blesses the people, saying

The Wisdom of God
the Love of God
and the Grace of God
strengthen you
to be Christ's hands and heart in this world,
in the name of the Holy Trinity. *Amen.*

(source: Celtic)

POST-COMMUNION HYMN *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

Words by John W. Work, Jr.;

Music: Traditional African-American Spiritual

CHORUS

D G/D D Bm⁷ Em G/A A⁷ D G/D D G/D



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and ev - ry - where;

5 D G/D D Bm⁷ E⁹ G/A A⁷ D G/D D



Go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ - is born.

VERSE

9 D A/C# Bm⁷ Em G/A A⁷ D G/D



1. While shep-herds kept their watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night, be -
2. The shep-herds feared and trem - bled when lo a - bove the earth, rang -
3. Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born, and

14 D A/C# Bm⁷ E D/E E A^{7sus} A⁷ D.C.

-hold through -out the heav - ens there shone a ho - ly light. _____
 out the an - gel chor - us that hailed the Sav - ior's birth. _____
 God sent us sal - va - tion that bles - sed Christ - mas morn. _____

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DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

POSTLUDE *Instrumental*

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Epiphany Proclamation

An old tradition from times before prevalent calendars, we're adapting the Epiphany Proclamation to reflect some of our liturgical celebrations at St Augustine's for 2025!

Please know that this coming year:

- Ash Wednesday shall fall on Wednesday, March 5th
- Easter Sunday shall fall on Sunday, April 20th
- Pentecost shall fall on Sunday, June 8th
- Trinity Sunday shall fall on Sunday, June 15th
- Kickoff Sunday has been set for Sunday, August 17th
- All Saints Sunday shall be observed on Sunday, November 2nd
- Advent shall begin on Sunday, December 7th
- And we're planning to keep Christmas Eve on December 24th

Blessings for this coming year!

Noon Bible Study Returns! I Corinthians

In **January and February**, we will journey through the first letter to the Church in Corinth, a Christian community seated within a large, diverse, international metropolis. All are welcome to join us as we study the trials that this community encountered and their ultimate discovery that love never fails. The same class will take place on **Tuesdays at noon or Wednesdays at 6:30 PM**. Here is our schedule of the study:

- Session 1: I Corinthians 1-3 (1/7 or 1/8)
- Session 2: I Corinthians 4-8 (1/14 or 1/15)
- Session 3: I Corinthians 12 (1/21 or 1/22)
- Session 4: I Corinthians 9-11 (2/4 or 2/5)
- Session 5: I Corinthians 13 (2/11 or 2/12)
- Session 6: I Corinthians 14-16 (2/18 or 2/19)

Newcomer Brunch Sunday February 9 in-between services

Please join us for a Newcomer Brunch! We will meet in the parish hall to welcome newcomers to the church. In addition to a fabulous brunch and fellowship, we'll do a very brief presentation on ways everyone can become involved in the life of our vibrant parish community. We have opportunities that run anywhere from our Elaine Randall Book Club, to lending a hand in the garden.

Introducing The Reconciliation Book Club

Join us to kick off the **Reconciliation Book Group**! St. Augustine's recent Sacred Ground Circle built community and a deep desire to continue exploring how each of us can *Become A Beloved Community*, supporting the Episcopal church's long-time commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in our personal lives, parish, and society. To continue our rich discussions, which are grounded in faith, we invite you to join us to kick off a **Reconciliation-focused monthly book group starting Thursday January 23, 2025 from 6:30 to 8:00PM**, where we will brainstorm ideas, topics, and books for readings in the coming months. We will also discuss *Reforming Criminal Justice: A Christian Proposal* by Matthew T. Martens, to prepare anyone interested in taking part in an Omaha-wide book discussion, *Balancing the Scales* (Episcopal Diocese Ministry) Book Study taking place at St. Andrews or on Zoom during the following times: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 from 9-10:30, and Wednesday, January 29, 2025, from 7-8:30 PM or on zoom. For information on the Reconciliation Book Group or for more details about the Omaha-wide discussion, please contact Hannah Early Gerjol haneearly22@gmail or Laura Calese lcalese@gmail.com.

Caring for a Loved One with Memory Loss

On Saturday, **February 15, 9 am-12 pm**, join us at St. Augustine or on Zoom for this EfM (Education for Ministry) event. Listen to three short presentations from our panelists, along with personal stories of family members. There will be two breakout sessions and time for questions at the end. All are welcome! Clergy or lay, affiliated with the Episcopal Church or not, this event will provide information to all those called to caregiving for a loved one. \$25 suggested donation to The Benedictine Way (thebenedictineway.org) or The Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration (theaftd.org). To participate, please register at: <https://bit.ly/2025EfMEvent>.

Bishop Barker's Visit

The bishop's annual visit to St. Augustine's will be Sunday, **February 16th**. This is an opportunity for us to hear from our diocesan leader, as well as participate in the renewal of our baptismal covenant, Confirmation, Reception or Reaffirmation.

- **Confirmation** is for those who have been baptized and will now be making an affirmation of their own commitment to Christ. Confirmation is for those who have not been previously confirmed by a bishop in another denomination.
- **Reception** is for those who have been previously confirmed in a church other than the Episcopal Church and wish to make a public affirmation of their faith and commitment in the Episcopal Church.
- **Reaffirmation** is for anyone who is already baptized and confirmed and who wishes to acknowledge a renewal of their commitment to Christ.

If you would like to participate in any of these please speak with Fr. Ben or Mtr. Lisa.

Winter Weather Request

With the arrival of winter (and potentially snow), we would like to remind all groups meeting at the church, whether in the Sanctuary, the Parish Hall or the Classrooms, to **please text Jay (402-200-8793) AT LEAST 2 HOURS before the scheduled start time if you are CANCELLING your meeting or event because of snow/inclement weather.** This will allow her to coordinate efforts with our snow removal company for maximum cost effectiveness and safety!

December Special Collection –

Our Special Collection in December will go to purchase our cans next year. We will have a total of \$1441.00 to spend on our Canned Food Tree thanks to your generosity and commitment to this annual ministry! A big Thank You to everyone!

Blood Drive-

Our quarterly blood drive for the winter will be on **Saturday, January 18**. These were started by Amy Churchill at St A's, who decided with the best kind of stubbornness that she was going to make sure that our drives gave back as much blood as her treatments needed throughout the course of fighting cancer. We believe that she had done all of that and more in the many blood drives she hosted before she passed away.

Amy's Blood Drives have become a core ministry for us at St Augustine's, so we will continue them in her honor as long as we have friends show up to give blood. If you are able to help with this drive or have friends who would like to give back to others by donating blood, please join us. We would love to beat our previous donation totals in honor of Amy!! Please sign up online through the link in the newsletter, or on the paper sign up next to the bulletins.

Seeking Nominations for Parish Offices

At our upcoming parish Annual Meeting (January 26th, 2025, after a combined 9:30 am worship service), we will elect various parish offices. Presently, both our Junior and Senior Warden plan to remain in their roles (which are nominated annually by the rector). We expect to have need of nominating:

- One Vestry Seat concluding after 2026 (monthly vestry meetings; official parish board; 2 years)
- Three Vestry Seats concluding after 2027 (monthly vestry meetings; official parish board; 3 years)
- One Legacy Society Director (quarterly check-ins on our portfolio; occasional communication about our Legacy Society; 3-year term)

Our outgoing Vestry class — Ali Threlkeld, Mary Jane Smith, and Pat Zimmerman — will serve as our nominating committee, or nominations may be made directly to Fr Ben. Fr Ben will confirm that each nominee is Confirmed or Received in the Episcopal Church, and that the nominee wishes to stand for election to the relevant seat. For more information about our nominations process or the roles of these parish offices, please contact Fr Ben.

December Vestry Notes

The Vestry (our parish board) met on Sunday, December 15th to review regular reports and set our 2025 budget. Our Treasurer and Finance Committee chair reported a very strong response to our stewardship campaign this past Fall, and several people voiced the thanks of our church community for the commitments we've all made together, and how they helped us create a strong budget. The budget will be presented at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 26th, which is held after a combined service of worship (church at 9:30 am; annual meeting at 10:30 am). The Vestry also reviewed some details for a sabbatical leave that Father Ben will be taking in the Spring of 2025; further details will be forthcoming as they are finalized. The Vestry also celebrated the "Grateful for St A's" campaign organized by vestry member Hannah Early this past November and determined that the UTO Gratitude Ingathering in Spring 2025 might be a good time to renew those celebrations. The next Vestry meeting will be held on Sunday, January 19th after the later service, and all members are invited to attend.

Save The Date

Sunday, Jan. 5

**Feast of the Epiphany Celebrated
“Pop-up” Epiphany Pageant
@ 10:30 service**

Wednesday, Jan. 8

**Family Dinners Resume
Youth Group Resumes**

Sunday, Jan. 26

**Combined 9:30 AM Service followed by
Annual Parish Meeting**

Sunday, Feb. 9

Newcomer Brunch (between services)

Saturday, Feb. 15

**EfM Event: Caring for Loved One w/
Memory Loss (9AM-Noon)**

Sunday, Feb 16

Bishop Barker Visit

Ministers of the Day	This Week 01/05/2025	Next Week 01/12/2025
Musicians 8:30am:	Joyful Noise Band	Joyful Noise Band
Musicians 10:30	Carole Seitz	Dirk Lindner
Deacon:	Rebecca Smith	Rebecca Smith
Liturgical Shepherd:	Erin Vest	Pam Wright
Acolytes 10:30am:	Danica Suhr Gage Suhr Nathan Pasko	Josie Aguilar Cole Fogarty Justice Sutter
10:30 am Greeter:	Leslie Lewis	Leslie Lewis
8:30 am Lector:	Judy Tomanek	Kathy Lake
10:30 am Lector	Pageant	OPEN
Altar Guild 8:30 am:	Mary Jane Smith	Kathy Lake
Altar Guild 10:30 am	OPEN	Kathy Pospichal
A/V Tech 8 :30 am	Dave Wright	Rich Hill
A/V Tech 10:30 am	Dave Wright Alice Threlkeld	Rich Hill Erin Vest