



St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

SEEK SERVE SHARE

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Holy Eucharist, Rite II, Year A

February 8, 2026 | 10:00 a.m.

Celebrant	The Rev. Alyssa Stebbing
Deacon	The Rev. Vicki Knipp
Family Minister	Lyssa Williford, Director
Verger	Scott Cummings
Seminarians	Christina Allen and Casey Clough
Music	Ann Vail, Director of Music
	Michael Davis, Piano
	John Cotten, Guitar
	St. Christopher's Choir

Visitors

Welcome! We are so blessed you've joined us for worship today. Please connect by text, email, phone. **Childcare** is available for Formation and Worship.

Restrooms

Church: near the Nursery. Parish Hall: to the right as you enter.

Fellowship

Follow the crowd after the service for conversation and treats.

wifi network | St. Christopher

wifi password | StChristophers8724

Prayer Requests Please complete a prayer card and drop it in the offering plate, or contact our office by phone, email, or on our website.



The Connection enewsletter

If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please contact the office or scan the QR code with your phone.

Ways to support the ministry of St. Christopher's

Support the life and ministry of St. Christopher's. Contact the office for more information.

St. Christopher's clergy and staff will never ask for an urgent favor, purchase of gift cards, or other financial items, or your personal info via email or text. Please delete these without responding.



In Person



Automatic Giving



Online Banking



Online



Mobile



Text

Please remember to enter **pledge** on the memo line and choose **Operating Pledge** online.

Large print bulletins are available in the narthex.

Digital bulletins are on the home page stchristophersaustin.org

✠ Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in Thanksgiving for the life of Wintom Wing Tong Chan by the Tufton Family. ✠

Worship Schedule (see also Connection)

Acolyte
Renee

Altar Guild

Cathy, Pat, Michael

Bell Ringer

Gabbi

Epistoler

Tilly

Eucharistic Minister

Renee

Fellowship

Tina, Heidi, Debra

Flowers

Tufton Family

Godly Play

Lyssa and Cathy

Lector

Heidi

Nursery

Athena

Ushers

Chuck and Guy

Vestry of the Day

Chris and Rob

Sunday | 9a Nursery | 9a Adult Form. | 10a Children's Form. | 10a Holy Eucharist, Rite II | 11a Fellowship

Monday | 9a Morning Prayer **Wednesday** | noon House of Prayer

Office | Mon-Thu: 9:30am – 2:30pm | 512.288.0128 | office@stchrisatx.org | rector@stchrisatx.org

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

As the Prelude begins we invite you to you to finish conversations and find a place in the nave to prepare for worship.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

(Please kneel as you are able)

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

(Please stand as you are able and join in singing.)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Hymnal 1982, # 372

1 Praise to the living God!
All praised be his Name
who was, and is, and is to be
for ay the same.
The one eternal God
ere aught that now appears:
the first, the last, beyond all thought
his timeless years!

2 Formless, all lovely forms
declare his loveliness;
holy, no holiness of earth
can his express.
Lo, he is Lord of all.
Creation speaks his praise,
and everywhere above, below,
his will obeys.

3 His Spirit floweth free,
high surging where it will:
in prophet's word he spoke of old;
he speaketh still.
Established is his law,
and changeless it shall stand,
deep writ upon the human heart,
on sea, on land.

4 Eternal life hath he
implanted in the soul;
his love shall be our strength and stay
while ages roll.
Praise to the living God!
All praised be his Name
who was, and is, and is to be,
for ay the same.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP, p. 355

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP, p. 355

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**

During the singing of the Gloria the children will follow the cross and return at the Peace

GLORIA

1 Glo - ry is to our God King Glo - ry to God
2 He is our King We praise His name,

Glo - ry to God in the High - est
Je - sus is Lord And we wor - ship

Him ____ 3 Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia

Al - le - lu - ia A - MEN A - MEN

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray

COLLECT FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

BCP, p. 216

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

(Please be seated for the readings)

FIRST LESSON:

Isaiah 58:1-9a

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;

they ask of me righteous judgments,
they delight to draw near to God.

“Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,
and oppress all your workers.

Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;

your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
The LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.
Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

RESPONSE

PSALM 112:1-9

The response is from Psalm 112, please read responsively by whole verse.

1 Hallelujah!

Happy are they who fear the LORD *
and have great delight in the LORD's commandments!

**2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land; *
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

**3 Wealth and riches will be in their house, *
and their righteousness will last for ever.**

**4 Light shines in the darkness for the upright; *
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

**5 It is good for them to be generous in lending *
and to manage their affairs with justice.**

**6 For they will never be shaken; *
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

**7 They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; *
their heart is right;
they put their trust in the LORD.**

**8 Their heart is established and will not shrink, *
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

9 They have given freely to the poor,*
and their righteousness stands fast for ever;
they will hold up their head with honor.

EPISTLE:

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,

what God has prepared for those who love him”—

these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you are able and join in singing.)

SEQUENCE HYMN

Hymnal 1982, # 551

1 Rise up, ye saints of God!
Have done with lesser things,
give heart and soul and mind and strength
to serve the King of kings.

3 Lift high the cross of Christ!
Tread where his feet have trod;
and quickened by the Spirit's power,
rise up, ye saints of God!

2 Rise up, ye saints of God!
His kingdom tarries long:
Lord, bring the day of truth and love
and end the night of wrong.

GOSPEL:

Matthew 5:13-20

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Christ

SEQUENCE HYMN

Instrumental

Hymnal 1982, # 656

(Please be seated for the sermon.)

SERMON

The Rev Alyssa Stebbing

(Please stand as you are able)

NICENE CREED

BCP, p 358

Deacon

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection, let us proclaim our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

**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.

(Please kneel or continue standing as you are able)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Deacon

Creating God, you have made us in your image that we might reflect your glory, hear us now as we say, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

The Leader and People pray responsively

Be present in and guide your church that it might always stand for the way that leads to life and light.

We pray for the whole Anglican Communion, and for Sally, Archbishop of Canterbury.

We pray for our church, for Sean our Presiding Bishop, for Andy, Kai, Jeff, Brian, and Hector our bishops, for St. James', Austin, St. James', La Grange, St. James', Taylor, and for our whole diocese.

We pray for our parish, for Alyssa our priest; Vicki our deacon, Lyssa, our family minister, Casey and Christina, our seminarians, and all our leaders and ministers.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Grant your wisdom and mercy to all who hold authority in our lives that their leadership might benefit all people and bring about a just and equitable world.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We offer to you the deepest needs and longings of our own hearts, help us to grow into the people you created us to be and to take up the work you have given us to do.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Open our eyes to behold the glory of your Creation that we might take up our responsibilities to preserve and protect it with joy.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Extend your healing presence to all who suffer and restore them to a sense of wholeness.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Welcome all who have died into your loving presence and bring us also into that new kingdom in your new age.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Silence

The Deacon concludes with Intercessions

Celebrant

You have offered us the gift of grace and reconciliation through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. Let us live into your Son's example that we might also know abundant life in your presence. All we ask, we ask through our Lord and intercessor, who with you and Holy Spirit lives reigns eternally. **Amen**

Deacon

Let us humbly confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

(Please continue kneeling or kneel as you are able)

CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP, p. 360

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

ABSOLUTION

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.

(Please stand as you are able)

PEACE

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

The Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of Jesus Christ.

(Please be seated for the announcements)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSING

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

BCP, p. 376

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Lift Every Voice, # 120

1 There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord.
There are sweet expressions on each face,
And I know they feel the presence
of the Lord.

Refrain

Sweet Holy Spirit, Sweet Heavenly Dove,
Stay right here with us,
filling us with your love.
And for these blessings
we lift our hearts in praise;
Without a doubt we'll know
that we have been revived
when we shall leave this place.

2 There are blessings you cannot receive
Till you know Him in His fullness,
and believe.
You're the one to profit when you say,
"I am going to walk with Jesus all the way."
[Refrain]

3 If you say He saved you from your sin,
Now you're weak, you're bound,
and cannot enter in,
you can make it right if you will yield;
You'll enjoy the Holy Spirit that we feel.
[Refrain]

(Please stand as you are able)

DOXOLOGY

Hymnal 1982, # 380

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

(Please remain standing.)

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 him thanks and praise.

The Celebrant continues

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, ...

The Celebrant continues with the Proper Preface

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS

Hymnal 1982, # S 130

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of power and
might. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord,
God of power and might, hea-ven and earth are
full, full of your glo - ry. Ho-
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na
in the high - est. Bles - sed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na
in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est

(Please remain standing or kneel as you are able)

The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: ...

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People say together.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, ...

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.
AMEN.

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

LORD'S PRAYER

BCP, p. 364

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.

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.

FRACTION ANTHEM

Hymnal 1982, # S164

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

INVITATION

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Please follow the guidance of the ushers to approach the altar to receive communion. Gluten free wafers available. If you would prefer you may receive a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest. Please ask an usher if you need communion brought to you.

(Please sit or kneel as you prefer after receiving Holy Communion)

Communion Hymn

Refrain

Taste and see.

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

O Taste and see.

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord,
of the Lord.

1 I will bless the Lord at all times.

His praise shall always be on my lips;

my soul shall glory in the Lord;

for He has been so good to me.

Refrain

Communion Praise Song

1 Beautiful beautiful

Jesus is beautiful

And Jesus makes beautiful

Things of my life

Communion Praise Song

1 Father, we love You

We worship and adore You

Glorify Your name in all the earth

Glorify Your name, Glorify Your name

Glorify Your name in all the earth

2 Jesus, we love You

We worship and adore You

Glorify Your name in all the earth

Glorify Your name, Glorify Your name

Glorify Your name in all the earth

Lift Every Voice, # 154

2 Glorify the Lord with me.

Together let us all praise His name.

I called the Lord and He answered me;

from all my troubles He set me free.

Refrain

3 Worship the Lord all you people.

You'll want for nothing if you ask.

Taste and see that God is good;

in Him we need put all our trust.

Refrain

Dennis Cleveland

2 Carefully touching me

Causing my eyes to see

Jesus makes beautiful

Things of my life

Donna Adkins

3 Spirit, we love You

We worship and adore You

Glorify Your name in all the earth

Glorify Your name, Glorify Your name

Glorify Your name in all the earth

(Please kneel or stand as you are able)

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

BCP, p. 365

Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

(Please stand or continue standing and join in singing)

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Hymnal 1982, # 542

1 Christ is the world's true Light,
its Captain of salvation,
the Daystar clear and bright
of every race and nation;
new life, new hope awakes,
for all who own his sway:
freedom her bondage breaks,
and night is turned to day.

2 In Christ all races meet,
their ancient feuds forgetting,
the whole round world complete,
from sunrise to its setting:
when Christ is throned as Lord
all shall forsake their fear,
to ploughshare beat the sword,
to pruning-hook the spear.

3 One Lord, in one great Name
unite us all who own thee;
cast out our pride and shame
that hinder to enthrone thee;
the world has waited long,
has travailed long in pain;
to heal its ancient wrong,
come, Prince of Peace,
and reign. Amen

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

*Thank you for joining us in worship today.
Please know that your participation
with us has been a blessing.*

Prayers of the People are from Hear Our Prayer, Church Pub Inc. Kindle
Psalm is from Psalter for the Christian People, Liturgical Press. Kindle
The music in today's service was reproduced under OneLicense.net #A-7368,
CCLI Copyright #1104703 , CCLI Streaming # 21874931

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please help us keep our Prayer List current.

Please send any updates for the Prayer List to the office at office@stchrisatx.org

Prayers for Healing, Comfort, and Peace: Sally, Mike, Elizabeth, Bob, George, Finn, Hailey, Judy, Ian, Elena, Paula, Bobby, Mary, Caroline, Alison, Ward, Mary, MJ, Erin, Robert, Pam, Joe, Cheryl, Ray, Michael, Nick, Samuel, Nicholas, Jean, Nate, Shannon, Winn, Diana, June, Linda, Beth, Randa

Prayers for those in Service to Our Country: Kenyon, Daniel, Cale, Joshua, Joyce

Prayers for Expectant Mothers: Pam, Kaitlyn

ANNOUNCEMENTS See the Connection or scan the QR.

Annual Parish Meeting | TODAY

We hope everyone will be with us as we hear about the state of St Christopher's and our plans for 2026. Contact the office for a hard copy of the report.

Migration with Dignity Prayer Vigil | Wed, Feb 11 @ 6:30

Interfaith prayer vigil for refugees, asylum seekers, and other immigrants at St. David's (301 E 8th). Meal available @ 5:30 for \$10 donation. Parking is free.

Lent Retreat | Sat, Feb 14, 9a-1p

A creative exploration of the Psalms.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper | Feb 17 @ 5:30p

It's that time of year again as we prepare for Lent.

Ash Wednesday Services | Feb 18, noon and 7p

We will have two services and hope you can begin this most holy season with us.

Vestry Retreat | Feb 21, 9a-3p

Fr. Gerry Sevick will facilitate a formation retreat for the vestry. We will meet at the Seminary of the Southwest library. Lunch will be provided so please let Rev Alyssa know of any dietary requirements.

Lenten Series: Poets and Provocateurs | Feb 25 - Mar 25, 5:30 - 7p

We will be reading Psalms and some Prophets in the context of our Lenten observance. Led by Steve Bishop.

Diocesan Council | Feb 27 - 28

Please pray for our delegates, Colleen Horner, Matt Davila, Michael Welch, and Renee Sinicki, and our clergy, Rev Alyssa, and Deacon Vicki.

Community Iftar Dinner/Gathering | Sun, Mar 15, 6:45 - 8p @ St Alban's

Ramadan is the month when Muslims focus on prayer, charity, and thanking God for God's blessings. Fasting takes place from dawn to sunset, and the fast-breaking is a truly sacred moment. Registration link in the Connection.

