Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and The Lord be with you.

The congregation is seated.

Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men. We Prophets.

Gloria

Collect For Welcome

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name: through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Gloria

Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men. We give thanks to thee for thy great glory. O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty, O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Lamb of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. That takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For thou art holy, thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you. And with thy spirit. Let us pray. 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 liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Collect For Welcome (in unison)

Light within all light, soul behind all souls, guide our hearts and minds as we welcome those who worship today at Bethesda-by-the-Sea. Give us discerning hearts to recognize the face of the Beloved in each child of God, for often goes the Christ in the stranger’s guise. In the name of the undivided Trinity. Amen.

The congregation is seated.

Lesson

Isaiah 9:1-4

There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphthali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joys; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. Amen.

Reader The Word of the Lord. People Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 27:1-5,13

(Read antiphonally)

1 The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? * The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?

5 One thing have I asked of the Lord; one thing I seek; * that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;

6 To behold the fair beauty of the Lord * and to seek him in his temple.

7 For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter; * he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling and set me high upon a rock.

8 Even now he lifts up my head * above my enemies round about me.

9 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation with sounds of great gladness; * I will sing and make music to the Lord.

10 Hearken to my voice, O Lord, when I call; * have mercy on me and answer me.

11 You speak in my heart and say, “Seek my face.” * Your face, Lord, will I seek.

12 Hide not your face from me, * nor turn your servant away in displeasure.

13 You have been my help; cast me not out, * do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.

The congregation stands as the Gospel is introduced.

Gospel

Matthew 4:12-23

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

People Glory be to thee, O Lord.

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, leaving their nets and following him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

People Praise be to thee, O Christ.

Homily

The Rev. Margaret McGhee

A brief period of silence follows the Homily.

NICEEN 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.

Prayers of the People

The reader adds specific intercessions to the prayers where appropriate. Let us pray for the whole state of Christ’s Church and the world.

Almighty and everlasting God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to lead, guide, and turn continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, that they may teach by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, to comfort and succor all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ’s sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.
Consecration of Sin and Absolution (congregation kneeling)

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all men: We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy dear Son Jesus Christ; And we are justly fallen into thy wrath and justly worthy of thy scourging and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us, the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that we have past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Celebrant pronounces absolution and then the congregation stands.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you. And with thy spirit.

Greeting and Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory

Members of the congregation will present the offerings and obligations of our life and labor to the Lord.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up unto the Lord.

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial and sacrifice of thy Son Jesus Christ's body and blood, which was once sacrificed for our sins; and we do stretch forth our hands to thee and offer unto thee, O Lord Jesus Christ, the same gifts, with our most devout supplications and prayers mingled with them.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto you the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord; and by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. Amen.

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say, Our Father, which 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, the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

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.

The congregation begins moving forward to the altar rail as soon as the Celebrant says the words, “The Gifts of God for the People of God.”

Communion

In the Episcopal Church, all baptized Christians are encouraged to receive communion. This is the Lord’s table. It is the Lord who invites you. It is his wish that those who want him should meet him here. During communion, please come forward at the direction of the ushers, to the high altar, filling in at the altar rail from right to left, and either kneeling or standing to receive. For those who prefer not to use the steps, please request from an usher that communion be brought up to you.

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Give us this bread, which is the Body of Christ.