



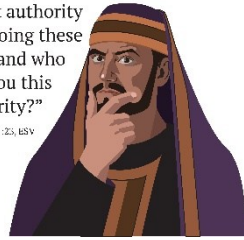
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Epiphany Parish

September 27, 2026 – 10:00am

Rite II

“By what authority
are you doing these
things, and who
gave you this
authority?”
Matthew 21:23, ESV



We gather with joy in the power of Jesus' name, to care for one another
and to include all people through our fellowship, education and outreach.

The Prelude

The Opening Hymn

H#365 Come, thou almighty King

The Sunday School Song

'This is the Day'

This is the day, this is the day
that the Lord has made,
that the Lord has made;
we will rejoice,
we will rejoice and be glad in it,
and be glad in it.

This is the day that the Lord has made;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day,
this is the day that the Lord has made.

The Word of God

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity

p355

The Gloria

S-280

The Collect of the Day (in Unison)

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The First Reading

Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32

The word of the Lord came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and

commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Psalm 25:1-8

- ¹ To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- ² Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- ³ Show me your ways, O Lord, *
and teach me your paths.
- ⁴ Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.
- ⁵ Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.
- ⁶ Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.
- ⁷ Gracious and upright is the Lord; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- ⁸ He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.

The Epistle Reading

Philippians 2:1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the

Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Gradual Hymn

H#419 Lord of all being

The Gospel

Matthew 21:23-32

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from

heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Christen H. Mills

The Nicene Creed

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The Prayers for the People Form IV

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The Confession of Sin

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The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

The Offertory Hymn

Sung by The Choir

The Doxology

H#380(verse 3)



The Eucharistic Prayer B

p367

The Sanctus (sung)

H# S-125

The Lord's Prayer

p364

The Breaking of the Bread

p364

The Communion Hymn

H#546, Awake, my soul

The Post Communion Prayer

p365

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.

The Blessing

The Closing Hymn

H#609 Where cross the crowded ways of life, vs 1-3

The Dismissal

Invitation for Spiritual Communion

This prayer is a personal prayer that you can say when you desire communion but are unable to receive the sacrament. Lord Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you. Let me never be separated from you. Amen.

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More Announcements – September 27, 2026

Give and Take Pantry

There is now a small free 'Give and Take' Pantry in the downstairs hallway of the church. Everyone is welcome to take anything they need or leave any extra non-perishable food items you may have.



**The Next Come Together Community Meal will be
October 5, 2026, 5:30PM-6:30PM**

To RSVP for the October Dinner, please scan the QR code

A Big Thank You to the Junior Women Club of Walpole
for hosting October's Come Together.



RSVP October

ECDC Nursery School of Walpole - Tiger Class Openings

Our neighbor, ECDC, has openings in their Tiger Class which is on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00am to Noon. Tigers Class is age ranges from 3 to 4 years old.

Child must be 3 by November 1st.

Contact Dawn at ecdcwalpole@hotmail.com

(508) 660-1328

www.ecdcwalpole.com

58 Front Street, P.O. Box 656, Walpole, MA 02081

Main Streets Live Bake Sale Fundraiser Thank You's

We had such a fun time selling popcorn and baked goods at Main Street Live on Friday night! Thank you to everyone who stopped by our table, said hello, and bought desserts! Also, a HUGE thank you to all of the bakers, set-up crew, and sellers from our church.

