



Episcopal Church of the Epiphany  
Last Sunday after the Epiphany  
February 19, 2012, 9:30 am

. . . and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!"

*Mark 9:7*

We worship during the season of Epiphany according to The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two, beginning on page 355 of the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer.

### The Word of God

Processional Hymn (the people stand)

*When Morning Gilds the Skies*.....#427

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

**And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.  
Amen.**

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 in Excelsis (found in the Hymnal at S 280)*

**Glorify to God in the highest,  
and peace to his 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

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### The Lessons (the people sit)

The First Lesson – 2 Kings 2:1-12

Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD

will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm – Psalm 50:1-6

Refrain:

**God reveals himself in glory.**

The LORD, the God of gods, has spoken; \*  
**he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.**

Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, \*  
**God reveals himself in glory.**

Our God will come and will not keep silence; \*  
**before him there is a consuming flame, and round about him a raging storm.**

He calls the heavens and the earth from above \*  
**to witness the judgment of his people.**

"Gather before me my loyal followers, \*  
**those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice."**

Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause; \*  
**for God himself is judge.**

Refrain:

**God reveals himself in glory.**

The Epistle – 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Sequence – Mark 9:2-9 (the people stand)

Hymn – *On Eagle's Wings*.....SH #80  
Verses 1-2

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

**Glory to You, Lord Christ.**

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

Hymn – *On Eagle's Wings* (cont) .....SH #80  
Verses 3-4

Sermon

“Mountaintop Encounters with Jesus”

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.**

The Prayers of the People (Form III, page 387 of the Book of Common Prayer)

Father, we pray for Grace Church, Cullman; for St. Matthias, Tuscaloosa; for our companion diocese of Haiti and its bishop, Zaché; for the work and witness of all missionaries in the Episcopal Church; and your holy Catholic Church;

**That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

**That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

We pray for Katharine, our presiding bishop, for Kee, our bishop, for Arnold, our priest, and for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

**That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

We pray for Barack, our President; for Robert, our governor; for George, our mayor; and for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

**That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

**That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

**That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Give to the departed eternal rest.

**Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

**May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Let us pray for these persons: *The Lay Reader reads the first names from the Parish Prayer List:* **Pam Stewart, Lynda Denton, Dot Harris, Zoe Bush, Dawn Jones** (Jere and Pam VanEtten), **Roxie Zabner** (Amanda Borden), **Jim Cantrell** (Al Cantrell), **Alexander Philip** (Zander) Kerr, infant son of Kelly and Dan Kerr (Jean Kerr), **Amber and Dexsel Jared** (Kathy Haynie), **Troy Warlick** (Kathy Haynie), **Mary Alice Merith** (Shea Boland), **Michelle Waswall** (Al Cantrell),

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*The People may add their own petitions.*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

Confession of Sin (the people stand or kneel)

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**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.**

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.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

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## The Holy Communion

The Offertory Hymn

*The First Song of Isaiah.....SH*

#The Presentation

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

The Great Thanksgiving

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.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your son Jesus Christ our Lord.

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:

*The people sing (found in the Hymnal at S 129)*

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*The people stand or kneel*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ 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 he 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."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. (+) Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

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,

**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.**

## The 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.**

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

Hymn During Communion

*Father, I Adore You.....SH #36*

*After Communion, the people stand or kneel and the Celebrant says*

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.**

## The Blessing

Recessional Hymn (the people stand)

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!.....#460

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Image on page one: "The Transfiguration," thought to be the last painting by the Italian High Renaissance master Raphael. Raphael died without finishing it; it's believed his pupil Giulio Romano completed it shortly after Raphael's death in 1520. It hangs now in the Vatican Museum.

**Farewell to "Alleluia."** The word "Alleluia" (or Hallelujah) is a transliteration of the Hebrew "Praise Yah" or "Praise God." By tradition, we Episcopalians avoid the use of the word during the season of Lent that begins Wednesday, so savor it today! We won't be using it in worship again until Easter Sunday.

Please join us in the Parish Hall immediately following worship for light refreshments and Church School. Today we begin a six-week study on "Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts and Putting Them To Work," led by Lee and Amanda Borden. The study requires the use of a book costing \$9.

Join us in the Parish Hall for Shrove Tuesday pancake supper Tuesday evening at 6:30 pm. So we can get a good count, please RSVP to Betty Weldon on or before **Monday, Feb 20 at noon**.

Ash Wednesday

Imposition of Ashes, Sermon and Eucharist with music

6:30 pm in the Nave

**Serving at Epiphany this week:**

Ushers: Maurice and Debra McCord  
Altar Guild: Jean Kerr and Janet Bray  
Lay Reader: Lee Borden  
Chalice Bearer: Tom Bray  
Refreshments: Amanda Borden  
Stewards: Eddie and Pam Harper