



Episcopal Church of the Epiphany  
First Sunday in Lent  
February 26, 2012, 9:30 am

. . . the Spirit immediately drove Jesus out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan.

*Mark 1:12-13*

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

**The Word of God**

*At the sound of the bell, the people stand for the silent procession.*

Bless the Lord, who forgives all our sins.  
**His mercy endures for ever.**

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.**

Hymn of Praise  
*Before Thy Throne, O God We Kneel*.....#574  
Verses 1-2

**The Collect of the Day**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**The Lessons (the people sit)**

The First Lesson – Genesis 9:8-17

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth

with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

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

Hymn (the people stand)  
*Forty Days and Forty Nights*.....#150

The Psalm – Psalm 25:1-9

Refrain:  
**Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

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.**

Let none who look to you be put to shame; \*  
**let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.**

Show me your ways, O LORD, \*  
**and teach me your paths.**

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.**

Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, \*  
**for they are from everlasting.**

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.**

Gracious and upright is the LORD; \*  
**therefore he teaches sinners in his way.**

He guides the humble in doing right \*  
**and teaches his way to the lowly.**

All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness \*  
**to those who keep his covenant and his  
testimonies.**

Refrain:

**Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your  
paths.**

The Epistle – 1 Peter 3:18-22

Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you-- not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Sequence – Mark 1:9-15 (the people stand)

Hymn – *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*.....#657  
Verses 1-2

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

**Glory to You, Lord Christ.**

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

Hymn – *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*.....#657  
Verse 3

Sermon

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 Christ Church, Albertville; for Iglesia Episcopal de la Gracia, Birmingham; for our companion diocese of Haiti and its bishop, Zaché; for the Commission on Hispanic Ministry; for our Hispanic congregations in Aliceville, Montgomery, and Birmingham; and for 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** Waswaller (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

## The Holy Communion

### The Offertory Hymn

*Give Thanks (Repeated).....SH #22*

### 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.

You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

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*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.*

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
**Therefore let us keep the feast.**

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

*Lord, Be Glorified (Repeated).....SH #34*

*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)

*Dear Lord and Father of Mankind.....#652*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

---

Image on page one: "Temptations of Christ," by Sandro Botticelli, in the Sistine Chapel.

Join us in the Parish Hall immediately following worship for light refreshments and Church School. Today we continue with the second in 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. It is not too late to join in this study!

Please remember the items needed to improve and renovate our nursery. A list of donations needed is on the church web site and also available from Ann Easley, Kathy Haynie, or John Haynie. Cash is also always welcome.

### Serving at Epiphany this week:

Ushers: Eddie and Pam Harper  
Altar Guild: Ann Easley and Cathy Jones  
Lay Reader: Mike Edwards  
Chalice Bearer: Jean Kerr  
Refreshments: Ann Easley  
Stewards: Maurice and Debra McCord