



Episcopal Church of the Epiphany
Second Sunday in Lent
March 4, 2012, 9:30 am

If any want to become my followers,
let them deny themselves and take up their cross
and follow me.

Mark 8:34

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
Day by Day..... 654

The Collect of the Day

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

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious
to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them
again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and
hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ
your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons (the people sit)

The First Lesson – Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared
to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before
me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between
me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous."
Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me,
this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a
multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram,
but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the

ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you
exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings
shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between
me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their
generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you
and to your offspring after you."

God said to Abraham, "As for Sarah your wife, you shall not
call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her,
and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her,
and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall
come from her."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn (the people stand)
The God of Abraham Praise..... 401
Verses 1-3

(The people sit)
The Psalm – Psalm 22:22-30

Refrain:

**All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn
to the LORD.**

Praise the LORD, you that fear him; *
**stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel;
all you of Jacob's line, give glory.**

For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;
neither does he hide his face from them; *
but when they cry to him he hears them.

My praise is of him in the great assembly; *
**I will perform my vows in the presence of those
who worship him.**

The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: *
"May your heart live for ever!"

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the
LORD, *
**and all the families of the nations shall bow before
him.**

For kingship belongs to the LORD; *
he rules over the nations.

To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust fall before him.

My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him; *

they shall be known as the LORD'S for ever.

They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.

Refrain:

**All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn
to the LORD.**

The Epistle – Romans 4:13-25

The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") -- in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Sequence – Mark 8:31-38 (the people stand)

Hymn – *As the Deer Pants for the Water*.....SH-95
Verses 1-2

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

Then Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

"The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, Lord Christ.

Hymn – *As the Deer Pants for the Water*.....SH-95
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 St. Mary's, Childersburg; for St. Paul's, Lowndesboro; for our companion diocese of Haiti and its bishop, Zaché; for the Vocare Steering Committee and the Happening Steering Committee; 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, John Rand, Dawn Jones (Jere and Pam VanEtten), Roxie Zabner (Amanda Borden), Jim Cantrell (Al Cantrell), Xander Kerr, infant son of Kelly and Dan Kerr (Jean Kerr), Amber and Dezel Jared (Kathy Haynie), Troy Warlick (Kathy Haynie), Mary Alice Merith (Shea Boland), Michelle Waswallier (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

There Is a Balm in Gilead..... 676

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

Breathe On Me Breath of God.....508

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)

Before Thy Throne, O God We Kneel.....#574

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

Image on page one: "Jesus on the Cross" from www.FTFTMission.org, a ministry of Coptic Orthodox youth working to alleviate poverty. "FTFT" stands for "First Timothy Four Twelve." Look it up.

Serving at Epiphany this week:

Ushers: John and Kathy Haynie
Altar Guild: Betty Weldon and Pam VanEtten
Lay Reader: Kathy Haynie
Chalice Bearers: Jere and Pam VanEtten
Refreshments: Laura Williams
Stewards: Jere and Pam VanEtten