



Episcopal Church of the Epiphany  
Holy Baptism and Holy Eucharist  
March 18, 2012, 9:30 am

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish  
but may have eternal life.

John 3:16

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.**  
There is one Body and one Spirit;  
**There is one hope in God's call to us;**  
One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;  
**One God and Father of all.**  
The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Let us pray.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise  
*Rock of Ages*.....685

The Lessons (the people sit)

The First Lesson – Numbers 21:4-9

From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us."

So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

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

Hymn (the people stand)  
*Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*.....686

(The people sit)  
The Psalm – Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Refrain:

**Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,  
and his mercy endures for ever.**

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, \*  
**and his mercy endures for ever.**

Let all those whom the LORD has redeemed proclaim \*  
**that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.**

He gathered them out of the lands; \*  
**from the east and from the west,  
from the north and from the south.**

Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; \*  
**they were afflicted because of their sins.**

They abhorred all manner of food \*  
**and drew near to death's door.**

Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, \*  
**and he delivered them from their distress.**

He sent forth his word and healed them \*  
**and saved them from the grave.**

Let them give thanks to the LORD for his mercy \*  
**and the wonders he does for his children.**

Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving \*  
**and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.**

Refrain:

**Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,  
and his mercy endures for ever.**

The Epistle – Ephesians 2:1-10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. God, who is rich in mercy, out of

the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ-- by grace you have been saved-- and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God-- not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

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

The Gospel Sequence – John 3:14-21 (the people stand)

Hymn – *Amazing Grace*.....671  
Verses 1-3

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

Jesus said to Nicodemus, "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

Hymn – *Amazing Grace*.....671  
Verses 4-5

The Sermon

Presentation and Examination of the Candidate for Baptism

*Celebrant:*  
The Candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

*The Parents and Godparents present the candidate, as follows:*

*Parents and Godparents:*  
**I present Alexander Philip to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.**

*Celebrant:*  
Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

*Parents and Godparents:*  
**I will, with God's help.**

Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

**I will, with God's help.**

Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

**I do.**

Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

**I do.**

Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

**I do.**

*The Celebrant addresses the congregation, saying:*

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

**We will.**

Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

**I will, with God's help.**

Prayers for the Candidate

*The Celebrant then says to the congregation:*

Let us now pray for this person who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

*The Lay Reader leads the following petitions:*

Deliver him, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Open his heart to your grace and truth.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Fill him with your holy and life giving Spirit.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Keep him in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Teach him to love others in the power of the Spirit.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Send him into the world in witness to your love.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Bring him to the fullness of your peace and glory.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

*The Celebrant says:*

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving over the Water

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water*

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and

born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Baptism

*The candidate is presented by name to the Celebrant, who then immerses, or pours water upon, the candidate, saying:*

Alexander Philip, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon this your servant the forgiveness of sin, and have raised him to the new life of grace. Sustain him, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give him an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

*Then the Priest places a hand on the child's head, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross and saying to him:*

Alexander Philip, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. **Amen.**

*The Celebrant says:*

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.**

Introduction of Parents and Godparents

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

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

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.*

*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)

*I Want To Walk as a Child of the Light.....490*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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Image on p 1: "Water" from "Living Sacrifice," by The Revd Christopher M Mahar in Providence, RI. The image appears in honor of Alexander Philip Kerr (Xander), who will be baptized today.

Xander's parents are Kelli Inez Wilson Kerr and Daniel Warren Kerr. His godparents are Jonathan Atmore Wilson, Jr and Crystal Moreland Wilson, as well as Russell Steven Halasz and Kristina Lynn Halasz. Xander's grandparents are Joe and Beverly Wilson, and of course our own Jean Kerr, who invites all present to adjourn to the parish hall immediately following worship for a celebration in Xander's honor.

### **Parish Prayer List**

#### **Members:**

- **Pam** Stewart
- **Lynda** Denton
- **Dot** Harris
- **John** Rand

#### **Friends and Relatives** ("B&R" means this name was lifted up in prayer through our Beans & Rice ministry)

- **Dawn** Jones (Jere and Pam VanEtten)
- **Roxie** Zabner (family and friends) (Amanda Borden)
- **Jim** Cantrell (Al Cantrell)
- **Xander** Philip (Zander) Kerr, infant son of Kelly and Dan Kerr (Jean Kerr)
- **Amber, Jared, and Deysel** Oliver (Kathy Haynie)
- **Troy** Warlick (Kathy Haynie)
- **Emmett** Nolan (Maurice McCord)
- **Harold** Baker (B&R)
- **Annie Lee** Dubose (B&R)
- **Melvin** Cannon (B&R)
- **Emmy** Moncrief (B&R)
- **Carol** (B&R)
- **All those living in nursing homes** (B&R)
- **Mike, Cindy, Johnnie, and Kelly** (Ann Easley)

### **Serving at Epiphany this week:**

Ushers: Greg DuBay and Lynne Eady  
Altar Guild: Jean Kerr and Janet Bray  
Lay Reader: Betty Weldon  
Chalice Bearer: John Haynie  
Refreshments: Kathy Haynie  
Stewards: Maurice and Debra McCord