



Episcopal Church of the Epiphany
 Fourth Sunday of Easter
 Stewardship of Creation Sunday
 April 29, 2012, 9:30 am

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is
 Your name in all the earth!

Psalm 8:1

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

The Liturgy of the Word

Processional Hymn

All Creatures of Our God and King.....400
 Verses 1, 4, 5, and 7

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

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.**

The Hymn of Praise

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee.....376

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Gracious Father, creator of all life, you opened your loving
 hand and filled all things living with plenty, and you made us
 to be stewards of your beloved creation. Bless the lands and
 waters and living creatures, and multiply the harvests of the
 world; let your Spirit go forth to renew the face of the earth;
 and save us from the selfish use of what you give, that men
 and women everywhere may give you thanks and safeguard
 the earth and its creatures from generation to generation;
 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 – Job 38:1-11; 16-18

Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind: "Who is
 this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Gird
 up your loins like a man. I will question you, and you shall
 declare to me. 'Where were you when I laid the foundation of
 the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who
 determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who
 stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or
 who laid its cornerstone when the morning stars sang
 together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy? Or who
 shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the
 womb?—when I made the clouds its garment, and thick
 darkness its swaddling band, and prescribed bounds for it,

and set bars and doors, and said, 'Thus far shall you come,
 and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be
 stopped?'"

"Have you entered into the springs of the sea, or walked in
 the recesses of the deep? Have the gates of death been
 revealed to you, or have you seen the gates of deep
 darkness? Have you comprehended the expanse of the
 earth? Declare, if you know all this."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Psalm – Psalm 8

Refrain:

**O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all
 the earth!**

O Lord, our Lord, *

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens. *

**Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have
 founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence
 the enemy and the avenger.**

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, *
the moon and the stars that you have established;
 what are human beings that you are mindful of them, *
mortals that you care for them?

Yet you have made them a little lower than God, *
and crowned them with glory and honor.

You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet,

all sheep and oxen, *

and also the beasts of the field,

the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, *

whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

Refrain:

**O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all
 the earth!**

The Epistle – Romans 8:19-25

For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of
 the children of God; the creation was subjected to futility, not
 of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in
 hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage

to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Sequence – Mark 4:26-32 (the people stand)

Hymn – *Earth and All Stars*.....412
Verses 1-3

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

He also said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.'

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

Hymn – *Earth and All Stars*.....412
Verses 4-6

Sermon.....The Revd Canon Patrick J Wingo

The Nicene Creed (*the people stand*)

**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.**

A Litany for the Stewardship of Creation

Let us pray for the needs of the church and the whole world, and especially for the stewardship of your creation.

Father, we pray for the Church universal, that through the spread of your Word and in our faithful witness, it may seek to restore a balance within nature.

That our relationship with creation may reflect your blessing of it as good.

Lord Jesus, you asked Peter three times if he loved you, calling him each time into the care of your flock. May we each affirm our love as did Peter.

That our love may be expressed through the right use of the resources you have given us.

Holy Spirit, who hovered over the waters at creation bringing forth order from chaos, we pray that you will so guide and govern the leaders of the Church, both lay and ordained.

That their decisions may reflect your sustaining presence with the world.

Father, before whom governments tremble and to whom all knees shall bend, we pray that our temporal decisions as communities and nations may seek to preserve your creation.

That generations to come may see your majesty in the windswept beauty of the skies.

Lord Jesus, who stilled the winds and calmed the sea, speak your word into our unruly hearts that the fear that leads us to abuse your creation may cease.

That all may enjoy the abundance you provide.

Holy Spirit, who filled the prophets with passion for your Word; fill our hearts also with zeal for your creation.

That in our just use of it all peoples may see your righteous will and great compassion.

Father, who sent your son to be among us as servant and savior, we pray that we may preserve your creation in all its glory, following his pattern.

That those who follow you may know you and love your creation because of our obedience to you.

Lord Jesus, who was lifted from the tomb on the third day, thus ending forever the dominion of death, move us to nurture life for all your creatures.

That the great variety of creation may be preserved.

Holy Spirit, in whose companionship the Father and Son are one, help us to see ourselves as intimately linked with all your creation.

That all things may be brought to their completion in you.

Collect

O loving God, you made all that is and called us to be your stewards; you made all things and filled them with your blessing; you put your own breath into every living thing. Keep us mindful of our vocation to care for your creation, and give us the hope and courage we need to preserve and protect your fragile world; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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 - *Sing Alleluia to the Lord*

**Sing Alleluia to the Lord; sing Alleluia to the Lord.
Sing Alleluia, sing Alleluia,
Sing Alleluia to the Lord.**

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.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glorify to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us.

By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

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

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **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.

Communion Hymn:

He's Got the Whole World In His Hands.....SH-6

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*)

This Is My Father's World.....651
(We will use the better known *Terra Beata* as the tune)

Alleluia. Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Page 1 image: "Wild Twins" – wildflowers blooming this week at Longleaf Breeze, the farm of Lee and Amanda Borden.

While Father Arnold enjoys his high school reunion, we are pleased to welcome The Revd Canon Patrick J Wingo as our supply priest today. He is the Deputy for Ministry Development for the Alabama Diocese of the Episcopal Church. During Sunday School, he will share some helpful ideas for congregational development. Welcome to Epiphany, Pat!

Serving at Epiphany today:

Ushers: Eddie and Pam Harper
Altar Guild: Jean Kerr and Janet Bray
Lay Reader: Mike Edwards
Chalice Bearer: John Haynie
Refreshments: Laura Williams
Stewards: Jere and Pam VanEtten