



Episcopal Church of the Epiphany
Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 20, 2012, 9:30 am
Ascension Sunday

“Holy Father, protect them in your name
that you have given me, so that they
may be one, as we are one.

John 17:11b

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

Crown Him with Many Crowns.....494

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

Jesus Shall Reign.....544
Verses 1-3

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son
Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do
not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to
strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior
Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The Lessons (the people sit)

The First Lesson – Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together
the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and
said, "Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy
Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a
guide for those who arrested Jesus -- for he was numbered
among us and was allotted his share in this ministry. So one
of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that
the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the

baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us--
one of these must become a witness with us to his
resurrection."

So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was
also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and
said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of
these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry
and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his
own place." And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on
Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Psalm – Psalm 1

Refrain:

**The LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the
way of the wicked is doomed.**

Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the
wicked, *

**nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!**

Their delight is in the law of the LORD, *
and they meditate on his law day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; *
everything they do shall prosper.

It is not so with the wicked; *

they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment
comes, *

nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, *
but the way of the wicked is doomed.

Refrain:

**The LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the
way of the wicked is doomed.**

The Epistle – 1 John 5:9-13

If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Sequence – John 17:6-19 (the people stand)

Hymn – *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*.....450
Verses 1-3

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

Looking up to heaven, Jesus prayed, "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled.

But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth."

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

Hymn – *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*.....450
Verses 4-5

Sermon

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.

The Prayers of the People (Form IV, page 388 of the Book of Common Prayer)

Let us pray for Saint Luke's, Scottsboro; for Saint Matthew's-in-the-Pines, Seale; for our companion diocese of Haiti and its bishop, Zaché; for the Department of Camp McDowell' and for the editor and staff of The Alabama Episcopalian. (*Silence*)

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the Church and for the world. Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. (*Silence*) Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. (*Silence*) Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. *(Silence)* Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. *(Silence)* Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal these persons: *The Lay Reader reads the first names from the Parish Prayer List:* **Lynda** Denton, **Dot** Harris, **John** Rand, **Alice** Williams, **Dawn** Jones (Jere and Pam VanEtten), **Xander** Kerr (Jean Kerr), **Amber**, **Jared** and **Dezsel** Oliver (Kathy Haynie), **Mike**, **Cindy**, **Johnnie**, and **Kelly** (Ann Easley), **Neil** Sharpton (Lee Borden), **Brandon** Boland (Cathy Jones), **James Wray** Bush (Arnold Bush), and **Bobby** Borden (Amanda Borden).

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. *(Silence)* Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. *(Silence)* Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.
The people may add their own petitions.

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

Offertory Hymn: *Wind, Wind*.....SH-27

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.

Glory 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: *Spirit Song*.....SH-45

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

Alleluia. Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Page 1 image: "Ascension of Christ" by Benvenuto Tisi, now housed in the Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Antica, Rome. Tisi is popularly known as "Garofalo," because he often signed his paintings with a clover leaf (in Italian, "garofalo").

Mission Statement: What should our mission statement be? Here are three options: Option #1: "The purpose of Episcopal Church of the Epiphany is to know Christ and make Him known." Option #2: "The purpose of Episcopal Church of the Epiphany is to know Christ and make Him known to all through our open doors, open windows, and open hearts." Option #3: "The mission of Episcopal Church of the Epiphany is to worship God, share the gospel, and carry on the work of Christ."

Is any of these the right choice? Is there another option we should consider? More about our mission statement on EpiphanyTallassee.org.

Sermon Outline: Did you know that Father Arnold's sermon outline is usually available on the church web site before each Sunday worship service? Father Arnold sends it to Jean Kerr and Amanda Borden, and they take turns each week editing it for publication. If you'd like to get an e-mail alert when the outline is posted so you can print it and refer to it in worship, just let Lee or Amanda Borden know.

Relay for Life Silent Auction is scheduled for today immediately following Sunday School. This is the main way we fund our participation each year in Relay for Life. Please come and buy one of our treasures!

Serving at Epiphany this week

Ushers: Greg DuBay and Lynne Eady
Altar Guild: Jean Kerr and Janet Bray
Lay Reader: Lee Borden
Chalice Bearer: Tom Bray

Refreshments: Amanda Borden
Stewards: Maurice and Debra McCord
Beans & Rice: Ann Easley, Cathy Jones, and Shea Boland
Grounds: Tom Bray and Caleb Hart