



Episcopal Church of the Epiphany
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
July 8, 2012, 9:30 am

“O God, you have taught us to keep
all your commandments by loving
you and our neighbor . . .”

From today’s collect

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

The Liturgy of the Word

Processional Hymn
How Firm a Foundation.....636

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
**And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.
Amen.**

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
Amazing Grace.....671
Verses 1-2

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

O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments
by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your
Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole
heart, and united to one another with pure affection; 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 – Ezekiel 2:1-5

The Lord said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I
will speak with you. And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered
into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to
me. He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of
Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me;
they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this
very day. The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am
sending you to them, and you shall say to them, "Thus says
the Lord GOD." Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they
are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a
prophet among them.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Psalm – Psalm 123

Refrain:
Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy.
To you I lift up my eyes, *
to you enthroned in the heavens.

As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, *
and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,
So our eyes look to the LORD our God, *
until he show us his mercy.

Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy, *
for we have had more than enough of contempt,
Too much of the scorn of the indolent rich, *
and of the derision of the proud.

Refrain:
Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy.

The Epistle – 2 Corinthians 12:2-10

I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught
up to the third heaven -- whether in the body or out of the
body I do not know; God knows. And I know that such a
person-- whether in the body or out of the body I do not know;
God knows -- was caught up into Paradise and heard things
that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat.
On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I
will not boast, except of my weaknesses. But if I wish to boast,
I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain
from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is
seen in me or heard from me, even considering the
exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep
me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a
messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too
elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it
would leave me, but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for
you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So, I will boast
all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of
Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with
weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities
for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am
strong.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Sequence – Mark 6:1-13 (the people stand)

Hymn: *Here I Am, Lord*.....SH-61
Verses 1-2

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

Jesus left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

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

Hymn: *Here I Am, Lord*.....SH-61
Verse 3

Sermon.....The Rev Ben Alford

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 I, page 383 of the Book of Common Prayer)

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For Tallassee, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For seasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who travel on land, on water, or in the air, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For **Lynda Denton, Dot Harris, John Rand, Alice Williams, Lannon Poole, Zoe Bush, Dawn Jones** (Jere and Pam VanEtten), **Amber, Jared and Dezsel Oliver** (Kathy Haynie), **Brandon Boland** (Cathy Jones), **James Wray Bush** (Arnold Bush), **Bobby Borden** (Amanda Borden), the family and friends of **Ed Christian, Ladarius Phillips, and Demario Pitts** (Arnold Bush), **Chris Eady** (Lynne Eady), and the others we now name: (*the people here add their own petitions*), let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Defend us, deliver us, and in thy compassion protect us, O Lord, by thy grace. **Lord, have mercy.**

In the communion of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God. **To thee, O Lord our God.** *(Silence)*

The Celebrant may add 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

Offertory Hymn: *Pass It On*.....SH-55

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.

For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world.

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

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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.*

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 – *Father, I Adore You*.....SH-36

*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)

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling.....657

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Image on page 1: One of the “God Speaks” signs that appeared in 1998 in Florida and eventually across the US on some 10,000 billboards.

We are delighted to welcome The Rev Ben Alford as our supply priest today. Father Ben is the retired rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in Wetumpka. Before attending seminary and serving as a priest, Ben served in the Peace Corps and with the Boy Scouts of America. He and his wife Lynn live on Lake Jordan near Titus.

Serving at Epiphany this week

Ushers: Greg Dubay and Lynne Eady
Altar Guild: Ann Easley and Laura Williams
Lay Reader: Mike Edwards
Chalice Bearer: John Haynie

Refreshments: Laura Williams
Stewards: Eddie and Pam Harper
Grounds: Maurice McCord and Lee Borden