



Episcopal Church of the Epiphany
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Instructed Eucharist
August 26, 2012, 9:30 am

“Be strong in the Lord and in
the strength of his power.”

Ephesians 6:10

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

A Thought about Vestments

Processional Hymn

Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus.....561

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.**

****We begin with a song of praise****

Hymn of Praise

O God, Our Help in Ages Past.....680

Verses 1-3

****The following prayer is called a “Collect” – pronounced
KOLL ect – because it collects the prayers of us all.****

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered
together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your
power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through
Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

****We draw each week’s scripture readings from the Revised
Common Lectionary used by churches around the world; it
organizes most of the Bible into a 3-year cycle****

The Lessons (the people sit)

The First Lesson – Joshua 24:1-2a,14-18

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and
summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers
of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And
Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God
of Israel:

"Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity
and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors
served beyond the River, and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.
Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day
whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served
in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in
whose land you are living; but as for me and my household,
we will serve the LORD."

Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should
forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our
God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of
Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great
signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we
went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed;
and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the
Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve
the LORD, for he is our God."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Psalm – Psalm 34:15-22

Refrain:

The righteous cry, and the LORD hears them.

The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, *
and his ears are open to their cry.

The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, *
to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.

The righteous cry, and the LORD hears them *
and delivers them from all their troubles.

The LORD is near to the brokenhearted *
and will save those whose spirits are crushed.

Many are the troubles of the righteous, *
but the LORD will deliver him out of them all.

He will keep safe all his bones; *
not one of them shall be broken.

Evil shall slay the wicked, *
and those who hate the righteous will be punished.

The LORD ransoms the life of his servants, *
and none will be punished who trust in him.

Refrain:

The righteous cry, and the LORD hears them.

The Epistle – Ephesians 6:10-20

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

****We stand and sing as part of the Gospel Sequence, anticipating the good news of Jesus Christ.****

The Gospel Sequence – John 6:56-59 (the people stand)

Hymn: *I Come with Joy to Meet the Lord*.....304
Verses 1-3

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

Jesus said, "Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

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

Hymn: *I Come with Joy to Meet the Lord*.....304
Verses 4-5

Commentary in place of the Sermon

****We stand to declare our faith****

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 are in the form of a bidding prayer.****

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 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, **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), **Chris** Eady (Lynne Eady), **Beverly** Johnson, **Bobby** Gillis, and **Columbus** Gillis (Ann Easley), **Lisa** Wallace (Laura Williams), **Eli** and **Adrian** Olson (Lee Borden), **the family and friends of Emily** McQueen Borden and **Starr** Brooks (Amanda Borden), 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 first part of the liturgy ends here, and the second part begins. Note in this second part the four actions of Christ: He took, He blessed, He broke, He gave.****

The Holy Communion

Offertory Hymn:
Glorify Thy Name.....SH-2

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.

All are invited to the Lord's table to receive communion.

Communion Hymn

Alleluia, He Is Coming.....SH-72

We join together in the Post-Communion Prayer for thanksgiving and sending.

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)

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

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Coffee and juice will be served in the rear of the Nave.

Page 1 image: The crest of the Episcopal Church USA.

Serving at Epiphany this week

Ushers: Al Cantrell and Laura Williams
Altar Guild: Cathy Jones and Laura Williams
Lay Reader: Laura Williams
Chalice Bearer: Tom Bray

Refreshments: Amanda Borden
Stewards: Al Cantrell and Ann Easley
Grounds: Jimmy Weldon and John Haynie