



Episcopal Church of the Epiphany
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Stewardship of Creation
October 7, 2012, 9:30 am

We worship during Pentecost according to the Holy Eucharist: Rite Two, beginning on page 355 of the Book of Common Prayer.
Today as we celebrate Stewardship of Creation, our liturgy also draws from materials suggested by the Alabama Diocese.

The Liturgy of the Word

Processional Hymn

All Things Bright and Beautiful.....405

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.
Amen.**

The people pray in unison (BCP p 833):

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Hymn of Praise

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

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and grant that we, remembering the account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons (the people sit)

The First Lesson – Genesis 2:15-24

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

The LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and

every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
this one shall be called Woman,
for out of Man this one was taken."

Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Psalm – Psalm 8. Today's psalm supplies its own refrain.

O LORD our Sovereign, *
how majestic is your Name in all the world!

Out of the mouths of infants and children *
your majesty is praised above the heavens.

You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries, *
to quell the enemy and the avenger.

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, *
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

What is man that you should be mindful of him? *
the son of man that you should seek him out?

You have made him but little lower than the angels; *
you adorn him with glory and honor;

You give him mastery over the works of your hands; *
you put all things under his feet:

All sheep and oxen, *
even the wild beasts of the field,

The birds of the air, the fish of the sea, *
and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.

O LORD our Sovereign, *
how majestic is your Name in all the world!

The Epistle – Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through

whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. But someone has testified somewhere,

"What are human beings that you are mindful of them,
or mortals, that you care for them?"

You have made them for a little while lower than the angels;
you have crowned them with glory and honor,
subjecting all things under their feet."

Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying,

"I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Sequence – John 6:1-14 (the people stand)

Hymn: *Now Thank We All Our God*.....397
Verses 1-2

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

Glory to You, Lord Christ.

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little."

One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, Lord Christ.

Hymn: *Now Thank We All Our God*.....397
Verse 3

Collect for the Conservation of Natural Resources:

Almighty God, in giving us dominion over things on earth, you made us fellow workers in your creation: Give us wisdom and reverence so to use the resources of nature, that no one may suffer from our abuse of them, and that generations yet to come may continue to praise you for your bounty; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sermon

The Affirmation of Faith (*the people stand*)

**You, O God, are supreme and holy.
You created the world,
and you continue to create, giving us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us.
You are God.
You, O God, are infinitely generous,
good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved your love for us in
Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now.
You are God.
You, O God, are the Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal: you overcome death.
You are God. We worship you.**

The Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the Church and for the world, giving thanks for God's goodness.

The minister and people pray responsively.

Caring God,

We thank you for your gifts in creation:

for our world,

the heavens tell of your glory;

for our land, its beauty and resources,

for the rich heritage we enjoy.

We pray:

for those who make decisions about the resources of the earth,

that we may use your gifts responsibly;

for those who work on the land and sea, in cities and in industry,

**that all may enjoy the fruits of their labors
and marvel at your creation;**

for artists, scientists and visionaries,

**that through their work we may see creation
afresh.**

Silence

We thank you for giving us life;
for all who enrich our experience.

We pray:

for all who through their own or others' actions are
deprived of fullness of life,
**for prisoners, refugees, the handicapped, and all
who are sick;**

for those in politics, medical science, social and relief
work,
and for your Church, here and throughout the world,
for all who seek to bring life to others.

Silence

We thank you that you have called us to celebrate your
creation.

Give us reverence for life in your world.

We thank you for your redeeming love;
**may your word and sacrament strengthen us to love you
as you love us.**

Silence

God, Creator, bring us new life.
Jesus, Redeemer, renew us.

Holy Spirit, strengthen and guide us.

The celebrant concludes with

Blessed are you, God of growth and discovery; yours is the
inspiration that has altered and changed our lives; yours is the
power that has brought us to new dangers and opportunities.
Set us, your new creation, to walk through this new world,
watching and learning, loving and trusting, until your kingdom
comes. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin (the people stand or kneel)

God has promised forgiveness to all who truly repent, turn to
Christ in faith and are themselves forgiving. In silence we call
to mind our sins.

Silence

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

**Merciful God,
we have sinned in what we have thought and said,
in the wrong we have done
and in the good we have left undone.
We have sinned in ignorance,
we have sinned in weakness;
we have sinned through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry.
We repent and turn to you.
Forgive us, for our Savior Christ's sake,
and renew our lives to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

Through the cross of Christ, God have mercy on you, pardon
you and set you free. Know that you are forgiven and be at
peace. God strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in
life eternal. **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

This Is My Father's World.....651

We will use the more familiar *Terra Beata* tune

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

Have You Seen Jesus, My Lord.....SH-10

After Communion, the people stand or kneel and the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Most loving God, creator and redeemer, we give you thanks for this foretaste of your glory. Through Christ, and with all your saints, we offer ourselves and our lives to your service. Send us out in the power of your Spirit, to stand with you in your world. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the servant, our friend and brother. Amen.

The Blessing

Recessional Hymn (the people stand)

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee.....376
(This is one of Lavonne Hart's favorites)

Grace be with you.

Thanks be to God.

Go in peace.

We go in the name of the Christ.

Page 1 image: Amanda Borden holds green bean seed she saved from her garden.

Join us this afternoon at 3:00 pm for the Blessing of the Animals around the old well, in honor of St Francis of Assisi.

Mark your calendars. Next Sunday, October 14, we will join members of the Grace Episcopal Church in Mt Meigs and visit the extensive gardens Jim Scott maintains at his house on Lake Martin.

Serving at Epiphany this week

Ushers: Al Cantrell and Laura Williams
Altar Guild: Betty Weldon and Pam Van Etten
Lay Reader: Lee Borden
Chalice Bearer: Lee Borden

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