

"But we had to celebrate and rejoice,
because this brother of yours was dead
and has come to life;
he was lost and has been found."

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany
Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 10, 2013, 10:30 am

Luke 15:32

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

The Liturgy of the Word

*At the sound of the bell, all rise
for the silent procession*

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
His mercy endures for ever.

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.**

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

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

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down
from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world:
Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in
him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons (the people sit)

The First Lesson – Joshua 5:9-12

The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you
the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this
day.

While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the
passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in
the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that
very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes
and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the
produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna;
they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 32

Refrain:

**Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.**

Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, *
and whose sin is put away!

Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, *
and in whose spirit there is no guile!

While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, *
because of my groaning all day long.

For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; *
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, *
and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." *
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time
of trouble; *
**when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach
them.**

You are my hiding-place;
you preserve me from trouble; *
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should
go; *"

I will guide you with my eye.

Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; *
**who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you."**

Great are the tribulations of the wicked; *
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.

Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; *
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Refrain:

**Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.**

The Epistle – 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

From now on, we regard no one from a human point of view;
even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view,
we know him no longer in that way. If anyone is in Christ, there
is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see,
everything has become new! All this is from God, who
reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the
ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling
the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against
them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So
we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his
appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be
reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who
knew no sin, so that in him we might become the
righteousness of God.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Sequence – Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 (the
people stand)

Hymn: *Jerusalem, My Happy Home*.....620
Verses 1-3

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

Glory to You, Lord Christ.

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So Jesus told them this parable:

"There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe--the best one--and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, Lord Christ.

Hymn: *Jerusalem, My Happy Home*.....620
Verse 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 VI, page 392 of the Book of Common Prayer)

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence.

For all people in their daily life and work;

**For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for
those who are alone.**

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

**For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and
oppression.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

**For those who minister to the sick, the friendless,
and the needy.**

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

**For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek
the Truth.**

For Katharine, our Presiding Bishop, for Kee and Santosh, our bishops; for Arnold, our priest, and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

Let us pray for **Lynda Denton, Dot Harris, Alice Williams, Charlotte and Lannon Poole, Pam Harper, Amber, Jared and Dezel Oliver** (Kathy Haynie), **Brandon Boland** (Cathy Jones), **Chris Eady** (Lynne Eady), **Lisa Wallace** (Laura Williams), **Jenna Moates** (Kelli Kerr), **John Myer** (Ann Easley, John and Kathy Haynie), **Ed Clayton** (Jean Kerr), **Billie Wilkinson, Lindsey Burt** (Eddie and Pam Harper), **Melinda Henderson** (Ann Easley), **Kathy Brumbleloe** (Ann Easley), **Lee Musso** (Cathy Jones), **Oletta Goodwin, Sherry Gritz,** (Arnold Bush),

Jackie Henderson (Ann Easley), **Kyle** Pearson (Arnold Bush), and the others we now name: *(the people here add their own petitions).*

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.
Silence.

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.
Silence. The People may add their own thanksgivings.

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence. The People may add their own petitions.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.
Silence may be kept.

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Celebrant concludes with an absolution or a suitable Collect.

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: *Just As I Am*.....693
Verses 1, 2 and 5

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.

You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

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.*

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast.

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: *Softly and Tenderly*

**Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
Calling for you and for me;
See, on the portals He's waiting and watching,
Watching for you and for me.**

Refrain:

**Come home, come home,
You who are weary, come home;
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
Calling, O sinner, come home!**

**O for the wonderful love He has promised,
Promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, He has mercy and pardon,
Pardon for you and for me. (Refrain)**

*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: *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing...686*

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday: Our good friend The Rev Dr Wells Warren will teach in Sunday School about Holy Week day-by-day and serve as Supply Priest.

Maundy Thursday: Silent come-and-go prayer vigil 3:00-8:00 pm. Stripping of the altar at 6:30 pm.

Good Friday: Worship at 6:30 pm. Passion of John.

Easter: We are delighted to welcome The Rev Brandt Montgomery, who will teach us during Sunday School about Bishop Charles Carpenter at work in the Alabama Diocese and then serve as Supply Priest for the Easter Eucharist. A music major in college, The Rev Montgomery plans to sing the Exsultet and to intone the Eucharist. Immediately after worship, we will all pose for a church picture followed by an Easter Egg hunt and lunch.

-----Thanks to Esther Hart for acting as pianist today in Caleb's absence-----

Serving at Epiphany this week . . .

Ushers: Greg Dubay and Lynne Eady
Altar Guild: Ann Easley and Laura Williams
Lay Reader: Lavonne Hart

Chalice Bearer: Jere Van Etten
Refreshments: Amanda Borden
Stewards: Maurice and Debra McCord

and next . . .

Ushers: Jere and Pam Van Etten
Altar Guild: Jean Kerr
Lay Reader: Amanda Borden

Chalice Bearer: Laura Williams
Refreshments: Cathy Jones
Stewards: Jere and Pam Van Etten