

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for,
the conviction of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany
12th Sunday after Pentecost
August 11, 2013, 10:30 am

We worship today 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: *Faith of Our Fathers*.....558

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always
those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without
you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will;
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 – Isaiah 1:1, 10-20

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, which he saw concerning
Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz,
and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

Hear the word of the LORD,
you rulers of Sodom!

Listen to the teaching of our God,
you people of Gomorrah!

What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices?
says the LORD;

I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams
and the fat of fed beasts;

I do not delight in the blood of bulls,
or of lambs, or of goats.

When you come to appear before me,
who asked this from your hand?

Trample my courts no more;
bringing offerings is futile;

incense is an abomination to me.

New moon and sabbath and calling of convocation--
I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity.

Your new moons and your appointed festivals
my soul hates;

they have become a burden to me,
I am weary of bearing them.

When you stretch out your hands,
I will hide my eyes from you;

even though you make many prayers,
I will not listen;

your hands are full of blood.

Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean;
remove the evil of your doings

from before my eyes;

cease to do evil,

learn to do good;

seek justice,

rescue the oppressed,

defend the orphan,

plead for the widow.

Come now, let us argue it out,

says the LORD:

though your sins are like scarlet,

they shall be like snow;

though they are red like crimson,

they shall become like wool.

If you are willing and obedient,

you shall eat the good of the land;

but if you refuse and rebel,

you shall be devoured by the sword;

for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 50:1-8, 23-24

Refrain:

The LORD, the God of gods, has spoken;

**he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to
its setting.**

The LORD, the God of gods, has spoken; *

**he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to
its setting.**

Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, *

God reveals himself in glory.

Our God will come and will not keep silence; *

**before him there is a consuming flame,
and round about him a raging storm.**

He calls the heavens and the earth from above *

to witness the judgment of his people.

"Gather before me my loyal followers, *

**those who have made a covenant with me
and sealed it with sacrifice."**

Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause; *

for God himself is judge.

Hear, O my people, and I will speak:

"O Israel, I will bear witness against you; *

for I am God, your God.

I do not accuse you because of your sacrifices; *

your offerings are always before me.

Consider this well, you who forget God, *

lest I rend you and there be none to deliver you.

Whoever offers me the sacrifice of thanksgiving honors me; *

**but to those who keep in my way will I show the
salvation of God."**

Refrain:

The LORD, the God of gods, has spoken; he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

The Epistle - Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old-- and Sarah herself was barren-- because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Sequence – Luke 12:32-40 (the people stand)

Hymn: *O God of Bethel*.....709
Verses 1-3

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

"Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

"But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house

be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

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

Hymn: *O God of Bethel*.....709
Verses 4-5

Sermon The Rev Dr Wells Warren

The Nicene Creed

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 St. Mark's, Boligee; for our companion diocese of Haiti and its bishops, Zaché and Ogé; for the Department of Stewardship; and for Jubilee Ministry and all Jubilee Centers. (*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: **Lynda** Denton, **Dot** and **Thurman** Harris, **Charlotte** and **Lannon** Poole, **Pam** Harper, **Dee** Shell, **Dezsel** Oliver (Kathy Haynie), **Billie** Wilkinson, **Lindsey** Burt (Eddie and Pam Harper), **Kathy** Brumbleloe (Jere and Pam Van Etten), **Oletta** Goodwin, **Sherry** Gritz (Jean Kerr), **Jack** Heil (Ramona Heil-Norris), **Clifford** Flood (Jean Kerr), **Lois** Shytle (Bill Shell), and **James** Barnes (Bill Shell). (*Silence, during which the people offer their own petitions*)

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.

The Celebrant adds 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: *I Want To Be Ready*

Refrain:

I want to be ready,

I want to be ready

I want to be ready

To walk in Jerusalem just like John.

John said the city was just four-square

Walk in Jerusalem just like John

And he declared he'd meet us there

Walk in Jerusalem just like John.

Oh, John, oh John, what do you say?

Walk in Jerusalem just like John

That we'll be there at the coming day

Walk in Jerusalem just like John.

If you get there before I do

Walk in Jerusalem just like John

Tell all my friends I'm a-coming too

Walk in Jerusalem just like John.

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

(Eucharistic Prayer C, BCP p 369)

(Musical Response in the Hymnal at S 120)

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:

Sanctus: *Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord.....S 130*

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 and Mothers; God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, and Jacob and Rachel; 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.

Fraction Anthem: *O Lamb of God*.....S 157

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: *Peace Give I To Thee*.....SH-29

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*):

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken.....522

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Serving at Epiphany this week . . .

Ushers: Laura Williams and Nancy Dupree
Altar Guild: Laura Williams
Lay Reader: Lavonne Hart
Piano: Caleb Hart

Chalice Bearer: Jean Kerr
Refreshments: Amanda Borden
Stewards: Pam and Jere Van Etten

and next . . .

Ushers: Maurice and Debra McCord
Altar Guild: Jean Kerr
Lay Reader: Amanda Borden
Piano: Caleb Hart

Chalice Bearer: Tom Bray
Refreshments: Janet Bray
Stewards: Maurice and Debra McCord