

Do not neglect to do good and to share  
what you have, for such sacrifices are  
pleasing to God.

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany  
Morning Prayer  
15th Sunday after Pentecost  
September 1, 2013, 10:30 am

Hebrews 13:16

We worship today according to the appointed order for Daily Morning Prayer: Rite Two,  
beginning on page 75 of the Book of Common Prayer.

Processional Hymn:

*Come, Let Us with Our Lord Arise*.....49

Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our strength and our redeemer.

### Call to Confession of Sin

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth his praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us stand or kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

*Silence. The people stand or kneel.*

**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 us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

### The Invitatory and Psalter

*All stand*

Lord, open our lips.

**And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: Come let us adore him.

The Invitatory

*Jubilate - Psalm 100*

**Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands;  
serve the Lord with gladness  
and come before his presence with a song.**

**Know this: The Lord himself is God;  
he himself has made us, and we are his;  
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving;  
go into his courts with praise;  
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.**

**For the Lord is good;**

**his mercy is everlasting;**

**and his faithfulness endures from age to age.**

*The Psalm - Psalm 81:1, 10-16 (the people remain standing)*

Refrain:

**Sing with joy to God our strength  
and raise a loud shout to the God of Jacob.**

Sing with joy to God our strength \*  
**and raise a loud shout to the God of Jacob.**

I am the LORD your God,  
who brought you out of the land of Egypt and said, \*  
**"Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it."**

And yet my people did not hear my voice, \*  
**and Israel would not obey me.**

So I gave them over to the stubbornness of their hearts, \*  
**to follow their own devices.**

Oh, that my people would listen to me! \*  
**that Israel would walk in my ways!**

I should soon subdue their enemies \*  
**and turn my hand against their foes.**

Those who hate the LORD would cringe before him, \*  
**and their punishment would last for ever.**

But Israel would I feed with the finest wheat \*  
**and satisfy him with honey from the rock.**

Refrain:

**Sing with joy to God our strength  
and raise a loud shout to the God of Jacob.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

The Lessons (the people sit for all of the lessons)

*The First Lesson - Jeremiah 2:4-13*

Hear the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel. Thus says the LORD:

What wrong did your ancestors find in me  
that they went far from me,  
and went after worthless things, and became worthless  
themselves?

They did not say, "Where is the LORD  
who brought us up from the land of Egypt,

who led us in the wilderness,  
in a land of deserts and pits,  
in a land of drought and deep darkness,  
in a land that no one passes through,  
where no one lives?"  
I brought you into a plentiful land  
to eat its fruits and its good things.  
But when you entered you defiled my land,  
and made my heritage an abomination.  
The priests did not say, "Where is the LORD?"  
Those who handle the law did not know me;  
the rulers transgressed against me;  
the prophets prophesied by Baal,  
and went after things that do not profit.  
Therefore once more I accuse you, says the LORD,  
and I accuse your children's children.  
Cross to the coasts of Cyprus and look,  
send to Kedar and examine with care;  
see if there has ever been such a thing.  
Has a nation changed its gods,  
even though they are no gods?  
But my people have changed their glory  
for something that does not profit.  
Be appalled, O heavens, at this,  
be shocked, be utterly desolate,  
says the LORD,  
for my people have committed two evils:  
they have forsaken me,  
the fountain of living water,  
and dug out cisterns for themselves,  
cracked cisterns  
that can hold no water.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*From Canticle 12 - A Song of Creation*

Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord, \*  
**praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**  
In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, \*  
**praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**  
Glorify the Lord, you angels and all powers of the Lord, \*  
**O heavens and all waters above the heavens.**  
Sun and moon and stars of the sky, glorify the Lord, \*  
**praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**  
Glorify the Lord, every shower of rain and fall of dew, \*  
**all winds and fire and heat.**  
Winter and summer, glorify the Lord, \*  
**praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**  
Glorify the Lord, O chill and cold, \*  
**drops of dew and flakes of snow.**  
Frost and cold, ice and sleet, glorify the Lord, \*  
**praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**  
Glorify the Lord, O nights and days, \*  
**O shining light and enfolding dark.**  
Storm clouds and thunderbolts, glorify the Lord, \*  
**praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**  
Glorify the Lord, O nights and days, \*  
**O shining light and enfolding dark.**  
Storm clouds and thunderbolts, glorify the Lord, \*  
**praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

*The Epistle: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16*

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;  
I will not be afraid.  
What can anyone do to me?"

Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: *Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee*.....642

*The Gospel Lesson : Luke 14:1, 7-14*

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

The Apostles' Creed (the people stand)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the  
dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## The Prayers

*The people stand or kneel*

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

**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.**

Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;  
**Govern and uphold them, now and always.**

Day by day we bless you;  
**We praise your Name for ever.**

Lord, keep us from all sin today;  
**Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, show us your love and mercy;  
**For we put our trust in you.**

In you, Lord, is our hope;  
**And we shall never hope in vain.**

## The Collects

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. **Amen.**

## The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

## Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

## The Offertory

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

The Offertory Hymn: *The Servant Song*.....SH-59

## 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 Prayers of the People (Form IV, page 388 of the Book of Common Prayer)

Let us pray for Trinity Church, Florence; for our companion diocese of Haiti and its bishops, Zaché and Ogé; for the Department of Ministry in Higher Education; and for our Episcopal campus ministries in Auburn, Birmingham, Jacksonville, Montevallo, Florence, Montgomery, Tuscaloosa, and Tuskegee. (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, Deysel 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 **David** Bru 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.**

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made.**

**We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.**

**And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but**

**in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days.**

**Through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn:

*Here I Am, Lord*.....SH-61

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore.

**Amen.**

***Serving at Epiphany this week . . .***

Ushers: Greg and Lynne Dubay  
Altar Guild: Betty Weldon and Pam Van Etten  
Lay Reader: Lannon Poole  
Piano: Caleb Hart

Officiant: Laura Williams  
Refreshments: Jean Kerr  
Stewards: Cathy Jones and Laura Williams

***and next . . .***

Ushers: Eddie and Pam Harper  
Altar Guild: Laura Williams  
Lay Reader: Ramona Heil-Norris  
Piano: Caleb Hart

Eucharistic Minister: Tom Bray  
Refreshments: Laura Williams  
Stewards: Pam and Jere Van Etten