

"Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight."

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany  
Morning Prayer  
2nd Sunday of Advent  
December 8, 2013, 10:30 am

Matthew 3:3b

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:

*Hail To the Lord's Anointed*.....616

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight  
in the desert a highway for our God.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Hymn: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*.....56  
Verses 1,3, and 4

Call to Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*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

*The people 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.**

Our King and Savior now draws near: Come let us adore  
him.

*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 72:1-7, 18-19 (the people remain  
standing)*

Give the King your justice, O God, \*  
**and your righteousness to the King's Son;**  
That he may rule your people righteously \*  
**and the poor with justice;**

That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, \*  
**and the little hills bring righteousness.**

He shall defend the needy among the people; \*  
**he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**

He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \*  
**from one generation to another.**

He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \*  
**like showers that water the earth.**

In his time shall the righteous flourish; \*  
**there shall be abundance of peace till the moon  
shall be no more.**

Blessed be the Lord GOD, the God of Israel, \*  
**who alone does wondrous deeds!**

And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! \*  
**and may all the earth be filled with his glory.  
Amen. Amen.**

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

*The First Lesson - Isaiah 11:1-10*

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's  
den.

They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the  
peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling  
shall be glorious.

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

Hymn: *First Song of Isaiah*.....SH-18  
(*The people remain seated*)

*The Epistle: Romans 15:4-13*

Whatever was written in former days was written for our  
instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the  
encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May  
the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to  
live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ  
Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the  
God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has  
welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ  
has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the  
truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises  
given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might  
glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,  
and sing praises to your name";

and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";

and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him";

and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in  
believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of  
the Holy Spirit.

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

Canticle 17 - The Song of Simeon

Lord, you now have set your servant free  
to go in peace as you have promised;

**For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior,  
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:**

A Light to enlighten the nations,  
and the glory of your people Israel.

**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 Gospel Lesson : Matthew 3:1-12*

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of  
Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has  
come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah  
spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
'Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt  
around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey.  
Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out  
to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were  
baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming  
for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who  
warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy  
of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We  
have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able  
from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now  
the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore  
that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the  
fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more  
powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry  
his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.  
His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his  
threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but  
the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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.**

Show us your mercy, O Lord;

**And grant us your salvation.**

Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

**Let your people sing with joy.**

Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

**For only in you can we live in safety.**

Lord, keep this nation under your care;

**And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

Let your way be known upon earth;

**Your saving health among all nations.**

Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

**Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

Create in us clean hearts, O God;

**And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

## The Collects

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

## Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

## The Offertory

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.

The Offertory Hymn: *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

**Come, Thou long expected Jesus  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us,  
Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's Strength and Consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear Desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.**

**Born Thy people to deliver,  
Born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all sufficient merit,  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.**

## The Presentation (*the people stand*)

**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 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 Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Katharine, our Presiding Bishop, Kee and Santosh, our Bishops, Wells, our Priest, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For Barack, our President, Robert, our governor, Bobby, our mayor, 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 reasonable 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** and **Thurman** Harris, **Charlotte** and **Lannon** Poole, **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), **Clifford** Flood (Jean Kerr), **Robert** Lumpkin (Barbara Trogon) and the others we now name: (*Silence, during which the people offer 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 adds a concluding Collect:*

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**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.**

Recessional Hymn:

*People Look East*

**People, look east. The time is near  
Of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able,  
Trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the guest, is on the way.**

**Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,  
One more seed is planted there:  
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
That in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the rose, is on the way.**

**Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim  
One more light the bowl shall brim,  
Shining beyond the frosty weather,  
Bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the star, is on the way.**

**Angels, announce with shouts of mirth  
Christ who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming  
With the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Lord, is on the way.**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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

Ushers: Greg and Lynne Dubay  
Altar Guild: Laura Williams  
Lay Reader: Ramona Heil-Norris  
Piano: Caleb Hart

Officiant: Mike Harber  
Refreshments: Lavonne Hart  
Stewards: Maurice and Debra McCord

**and next . . .**

Ushers: Eddie and Pam Harper  
Altar Guild: Jean Kerr  
Lay Reader: Betty Weldon  
Piano: Caleb Hart

Eucharistic Minister: Laura Williams  
Refreshments: Sharon Cleary  
Stewards: Eddie and Pam Harper