

And the Word became flesh  
and lived among us.

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany  
1st Sunday after Christmas  
December 29, 10:30 am

John 1:14a

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:

*Joy To the World!*.....100

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: *God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen*.....105

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

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your  
incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts,  
may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons (the people sit)

*The First Lesson – Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3*

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.  
For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
and her salvation like a burning torch.  
The nations shall see your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the LORD will give.  
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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

*Psalms 147:13-21*

Women:

**Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; \*  
praise your God, O Zion;**

Men:

**For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; \*  
he has blessed your children within you.**

♀ **He has established peace on your borders; \*  
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.**

♂ **He sends out his command to the earth, \*  
and his word runs very swiftly.**

♀ **He gives snow like wool; \*  
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.**

♂ **He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; \*  
who can stand against his cold?**

♀ **He sends forth his word and melts them; \*  
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.**

♂ **He declares his word to Jacob, \*  
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.**

All:

**He has not done so to any other nation; \*  
to them he has not revealed his judgments.  
Hallelujah!**

*The Epistle - Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7*

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded  
under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law  
was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be  
justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no  
longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son,  
born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem  
those who were under the law, so that we might receive  
adoption as children. And because you are children, God has  
sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba!  
Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a  
child then also an heir, through God.

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

The Gospel Sequence – John 1:1-18 (the people stand)

Hymn: *Of the Father's Love Begotten*.....82  
Verses 1-2

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

Hymn: *Of the Father's Love Begotten*.....82  
Verses 3-4

Sermon Father Wells

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 III, page 387 of the Book of Common Prayer)

Father, we pray for Saint Stephen's, Huntsville; for Grace Church, Anniston; for our companion diocese of Haiti and its bishops, Zaché and Oge; for the board, officers and members of Episcopal Church Women; for the trustees of the University of the South; and for your holy Catholic Church;

**That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

**That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

We pray for Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury, for Katharine, our presiding bishop, for Kee and Santosh, our bishops, for Wells, our priest, and for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

**That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

We pray for Barack, our President; for Robert, our governor; for Bobby, our mayor; and for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

**That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

**That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

**That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Give to the departed eternal rest.

**Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

**May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Let us pray 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 Trogdon), **Emmanuel** Rico (Mike and Elizabeth Harber), **Carrie** Phillips (Sharon Cleary), and the others we now name: (*the people may add their own petitions*).

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*The Celebrant may add a suitable 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:

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*.....81

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 B, BCP p 367)*

*(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.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

*(Father Wells says a Proper Preface)*

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:

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

*The people stand or kneel*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Fraction Anthem: *Jesus, Lamb of God*.....S 164

The gifts of God for the people of God.

*The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.*

Communion Hymn: *Away in a Manger*.....101

*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*):

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*.....107

Alleluia, Alleluia. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

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We will celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany January 5:

- No Sunday School
- Festival Holy Eucharist at 10:30 am
- Epiphany Sunday Dinner
- Annual church membership meeting

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Fifth Sunday Lunches in 2014.

Here are the other dates set for lunch on the grounds after worship during 2014:

- March 30
- June 29
- August 31
- November 30

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Eucharistic Minister Training. All who wish to serve as Eucharistic Ministers are invited to a training workshop in the nave on January 12 immediately following worship. We hope all who wish to serve will be present, even those who have been serving already. We can all use a refresher!

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

Ushers: Pam and Jere Van Etten  
Altar Guild: Laura Williams  
Lay Reader: Lavonne Hart  
Piano: Caleb Hart

Eucharistic Minister: Lee Borden  
Refreshments: Cathy Jones  
Stewards: Maurice and Debra McCord

***and next . . .***

Ushers: To be determined  
Altar Guild: To be determined  
Lay Reader: Jean Kerr  
Piano: Caleb Hart

Eucharistic Minister: To be determined  
Refreshments: To be determined  
Stewards: To be determined