

"O God, . . . in our weakness we
can do nothing good without you"

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany
6th Sunday after the Epiphany
February 16, 10:30 am

From Today's Collect

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:

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

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.**

Glory to God in the Highest.....S 280

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

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in you: Mercifully
accept our prayers; and because in our weakness we can do
nothing good without you, give us the help of your grace, that
in keeping your commandments we may please you both in
will and deed; 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 – Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Moses said to all Israel the words which the Lord
commanded him, "See, I have set before you today life and
prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the
commandments of the LORD your God that I am
commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God,
walking in his ways, and observing his commandments,
decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become
numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land
that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away
and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other
gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall
perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are
crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and
earth to witness against you today that I have set before you
life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you
and your descendants may live, loving the LORD your God,
obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to
you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that
the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to
Isaac, and to Jacob."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 119:1-8

Happy are they whose way is blameless, *
who walk in the law of the LORD!

Happy are they who observe his decrees *
and seek him with all their hearts!

Who never do any wrong, *
but always walk in his ways.

You laid down your commandments, *
that we should fully keep them.

Oh, that my ways were made so direct *
that I might keep your statutes!

Then I should not be put to shame, *
when I regard all your commandments.

I will thank you with an unfeigned heart, *
when I have learned your righteous judgments.

I will keep your statutes; *
do not utterly forsake me.

The Second Lesson - 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual
people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ.
I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for
solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of
the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling
among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according
to human inclinations? For when one says, "I belong to Paul,"
and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely
human?

What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom
you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted,
Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the
one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only
God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one
who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive
wages according to the labor of each. For we are God's
servants, working together; you are God's field, God's
building.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Sequence – Matthew 5:21-37 (the
people stand)

Hymn: *Blessed Jesus At Thy Word*.....440
Verse 1

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

Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not murder'; and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

"It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

"Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.' But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No'; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

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

Hymn: *Blessed Jesus At Thy Word*.....440
Verses 2-3

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 Iglesia Episcopal de la Gracia, Birmingham; for our companion diocese of Haiti and its bishops, Zaché and Ogé; for the Commission on Hispanic Ministry; for our Hispanic congregations in Aliceville, Montgomery, and Birmingham; for the convention of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Alabama; 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 all 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, Barbara Trogdon, Zoe and Arnold Bush, Dezsél 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), Nancy Jones (Nancy Dupree), Dan Merrill (Hugh Thompson), Jane Clayton (Jean Kerr), Adam Durough (Kelli Kerr), Tommy Johnson (Amanda Borden), 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: *Trust and Obey*

**When we walk with the Lord
in the light of his word,
what a glory he sheds on our way!
While we do his good will,
he abides with us still,
and with all who will trust and obey.**

Refrain:

**Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.**

**Not a burden we bear,
not a sorrow we share,
but our toil he doth richly repay;
not a grief or a loss,
not a frown or a cross,
but is blest if we trust and obey.**

(Refrain)

**But we never can prove
the delights of his love
until all on the altar we lay;
for the favor he shows,
for the joy he bestows,
are for them who will trust and obey.**

(Refrain)

**Then in fellowship sweet
we will sit at his feet,
or we'll walk by his side in the way;
what he says we will do,
where he sends we will go;
never fear, only trust and obey.**

(Refrain)

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: *Prayer of St Francis*.....SH-74

*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*):

Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing.....344

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

Serving at Epiphany this week . . .

Ushers: Hugh Thompson and Sharon Cleary
Altar Guild: Pam Van Etten
Lay Reader: Maurice McCord
Piano: Caleb Hart

Chalice Bearer: Maurice McCord
Refreshments: Kara Shea Davis
Stewards: Laura and Michael Williams

and next . . .

Ushers: Jim and Kara Shea Davis
Altar Guild: Betty Weldon
Lay Reader: Kara Shea Davis
Piano: Caleb Hart

Eucharistic Minister: Kara Shea Davis
Refreshments: Jean Kerr
Stewards: Eddie and Pam Harper