

"For God's temple is holy,
and you are that temple."

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany
7th Sunday after the Epiphany
February 23, 10:30 am

1 Cor 3:17b

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:

Come Down, O Love Divine.....516

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.**

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Lord, you have taught us that without love whatever we do is
worth nothing: Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts
your greatest gift, which is love, the true bond of peace and
of all virtue, without which whoever lives is accounted dead
before you. Grant this for the sake of your only Son Jesus
Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons (the people sit)

The First Lesson – Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say
to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to
the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your
harvest. You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the
fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the
poor and the alien: I am the LORD your God.

You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; and you shall
not lie to one another. And you shall not swear falsely by my
name, profaning the name of your God: I am the LORD.

You shall not defraud your neighbor; you shall not steal; and
you shall not keep for yourself the wages of a laborer until
morning. You shall not revile the deaf or put a stumbling
block before the blind; you shall fear your God: I am the
LORD.

You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be
partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall
judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer
among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of
your neighbor: I am the LORD.

You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall
reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You
shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of
your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I
am the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 119:33-40

Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, *
and I shall keep it to the end.

Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; *
I shall keep it with all my heart.

Make me go in the path of your commandments, *
for that is my desire.

Incline my heart to your decrees *
and not to unjust gain.

Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; *
give me life in your ways.

Fulfill your promise to your servant, *
which you make to those who fear you.

Turn away the reproach which I dread, *
because your judgments are good.

Behold, I long for your commandments; *
in your righteousness preserve my life.

The Second Lesson - 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled
master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is
building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to
build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the
one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's
Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God
will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and you
are that temple.

Do not deceive yourselves. If you think that you are wise in
this age, you should become fools so that you may become
wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.
For it is written,

He catches the wise in their craftiness,

and again,

The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are
futile.

So let no one boast about human leaders. For all things are
yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life
or death or the present or the future -- all belong to you, and
you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Sequence – Matthew 5:38-48 (the people stand)

Hymn: *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*.....657
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, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, Lord Christ.

Hymn: *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*.....657
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 Grace Church, Cullman; St. Matthias, Tuscaloosa; for our companion diocese of Haiti and its bishops, Zaché and Ogé; for all parish administrators; for all who serve on parish vestries; 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 **Aggie** Ledbetter, **Charlotte** Williams, **Zoe** Bush and 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, **Arnold** Bush, **Dezell** 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), **Emmanuel** Rico (Mike and Elizabeth Harber), **Nancy** Jones (Nancy Dupree), **Dan** Merrill (Hugh Thompson), **Jane** Clayton (Jean Kerr), **Adam** Dorough (Kelli Kerr), **Tommy** Johnson (Amanda Borden), **Ruth** Schulte & her family (Hugh Thompson), 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: *Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive*.....674

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:

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love.....602

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*):

The Church's One Foundation.....525

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

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Our Service Roster is now more or less complete through June. To see when you are scheduled to serve, go to the church web site at EpiphanyTallasse.org and look for the link on the left hand side on the bottom that says "Service Roster." If you have questions about your service or would like to be added in the rotation for a service area, here are the coordinators for each service area:

Ushers: Maurice McCord
Altar Guild: Jean Kerr
Lay Readers: Lee Borden
Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Jere Van Etten

Refreshments: Cathy Jones
Stewards: Betty Weldon
Grounds: Jimmy Weldon

Serving at Epiphany this week . . .

Ushers: Jim Davis
Altar Guild: Betty Weldon
Lay Reader: Lannon Poole
Piano: Caleb Hart

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

and next . . .

Ushers: Lavonne Hart and Nancy Dupree
Altar Guild: Jean Kerr
Lay Reader: John Rand
Piano: Caleb Hart

Eucharistic Minister: Jere Van Etten
Refreshments: Debra McCord
Stewards: Pam Van Etten & Sharon Cleary