

Oh, how good and pleasant it is,
when brethren live together in unity!

Psalm 133:1

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

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany
2nd Sunday of Easter
Morning Prayer
April 8, 2018, 10:30 am

Processional Hymn:
Low in the Grave He Lay (songsheet)

Alleluia. Christ is risen.
The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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.

Alleluia. The Lord is risen indeed: Come let us adore him. Alleluia.

Venite - Psalm 95.....S 35

The Psalm - Psalm 133 (the people remain standing)

Oh, how good and pleasant it is,*
when brethren live together in unity!

It is like fine oil upon the head*
that runs down upon the beard,

Upon the beard of Aaron,*
and runs down upon the collar of his robe.

It is like the dew of Hermon*
that falls upon the hills of Zion.

For there the Lord has ordained the blessing:*
life for evermore.

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 – Acts 4:32-35

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Canticle 10 – The Second Song of Isaiah - (Isaiah 55: 6-11)

**Seek the Lord while he wills to be found;
call upon him when he draws near.
Let the wicked forsake their ways
and the evil ones their thoughts;
And let them turn to the Lord, and he will have compassion,
and to our God, for he will richly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor your ways my ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways,
and my thoughts than your thoughts.
For as rain and snow fall from the heavens
and return not again, but water the earth,
Bringing forth life and giving growth,
seed for sowing and bread for eating,
So is my word that goes forth from my mouth;
it will not return to me empty;
But it will accomplish that which I have purposed,
and prosper in that for which I sent it.
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 Epistle - 1 John 1:1-2:2

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life-- this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us-- we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Canticle 9 – The First Song of Isaiah - (Isaiah 12:2-6)
(songsheet)

The Gospel Lesson : John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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.**

Suffrage

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.

Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Collect for Sundays

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.**

The Peace

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

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

The Offering

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

Hymn: *Bind Us Together*

(Chorus)

**Bind us together, Lord, bind us together
With cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord,
Bind us together,
Bind us together with love.**

**There is only one God,
There is only one King;
There is only one Body,
That is why we sing:
(Repeat chorus)**

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.**

A Collect for Guidance (the people sit)

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.**

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

Intercessions

Dear Lord, in accordance with the Diocesan Cycle, we pray for our Companion Diocese of the Virgin Islands and its bishop, Ambrose. We pray for the Diocese of Alaska and its bishop, Mark. We pray too for El Hogar and Farm School, Honduras Grace Church, Cullman Grace Church, and Sheffield Grace Church, Woodlawn, Birmingham.

We pray for Jean Kerr, Jim Rand, Eddie Harper, Greg Dubay, our Beans & Rice clients, Connie Manoliu, Leanna Wallace, and the family of Barbara Dennis recovering from the fire that damaged their home. And the others we now name . . .

We pray for the souls of those who have died, including Barbara Harper, Michael Luketic, and the others we now name . . .

We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The General Thanksgiving

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.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

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:

Good Christians, All, Rejoice and Sing!.....205

Alleluia. Alleluia. Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.



Father Wells is enjoying a well-deserved Sunday off today. Thanks to Lee and Amanda Borden for planning and officiating at our Morning Prayer service. We will welcome Father Wells back a week from today.

Serving at Epiphany this week . . .

Ushers: John and Kathy Haynie
Altar Guild: Betty Weldon
Lay Reader: Kathy Haynie

Piano: Esther Hart
Refreshments: Pam and Jere Van Etten
Grounds: Maurice McCord and Lee Borden

and next . . .

Ushers: A.B. and Lulu Campbell
Altar Guild: Pam Van Etten
Lay Reader: Mike Harber
Piano: Esther Hart

Lay Eucharistic Minister: Jere Van Etten
Refreshments: Cathy Jones
Grounds: Jimmy and Betty Weldon