Unless the LORD builds the house, their labor is in vain who build it.

Psalm 127:1a

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany 25th Sunday after Pentecost Proper 27 November 11, 2018, 10:30 am

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, Thou Fount of Every	Blessing

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...... S 280

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons (the people sit)

The First Lesson - Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17

Naomi her mother-in-law said to Ruth, "My daughter, I need to seek some security for you, so that it may be well with you. Now here is our kinsman Boaz, with whose young women you have been working. See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. Now wash and anoint yourself, and put on your best clothes and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. When he lies down, observe the place where he lies; then, go and uncover his feet and lie down; and he will tell you what to do." She said to her, "All that you tell me I will do."

So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When they came together, the Lord made her conceive, and she bore a son. Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without next-of-kin; and may his name be renowned in Israel! He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has borne him." Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her bosom, and became his nurse. The women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, "A

son has been born to Naomi." They named him Obed; he became the father of Jesse, the father of David.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 127 (we will recite the psalm in unison)
Unless the LORD builds the house, *
their labor is in vain who build it.

Unless the LORD watches over the city, * in vain the watchman keeps his vigil.

It is in vain that you rise so early and go to bed so late; *

vain, too, to eat the bread of toil, for he gives to his beloved sleep.

Children are a heritage from the LORD, * and the fruit of the womb is a gift.

Like arrows in the hand of a warrior * are the children of one's youth.

Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them! *
he shall not be put to shame
when he contends with his enemies in the gate.

The Epistle – Hebrews 9:24-28

Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own; for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Sequence – Mark 12:38-44 (the people stand)

Hymn: Not Here for High and Holy Things......9

Verses 1-3

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Glory to You, Lord Christ.

As Jesus taught, he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with

respect in the marketplaces, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, Lord Christ.

Hymn: Not Here for High and Holy Things......9

Verses 4-6

Sermon

Rev. Stephen McWhorter

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 VI, page 392 of the Book of Common Prayer)

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence.

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world; For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation; For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble; For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God; For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; for Kee, our bishop; for Stephen, our supply priest, and for all bishops and other ministers; For all who serve God in his Church.

We pray for **Brian** Hudson, **Jere** Van Etten, **Jean** Kerr, **Greg** Dubay, **Barbara** Trogdon, **Nichole** Peacock, **and the others we now name...** (the people here add their own petitions).

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. *Silence.*

Hear us, Lord:

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence. The People may add their own thanksgivings.

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence. The People may add their own petitions.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins. Silence may be kept.

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.**

Gathering Hymn: God Is So Good (When the music begins, the people begin singing and find their seats)

God is so good, God is so good, God is so good, He's so good to me. He took my sin . . .

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

The Offertory

Now I am free . . .

Offertory Hymn: God of the Women (to the tune of "Be Thou My Vision." Esther will play the tune once, and then we will sing)

God of the women who answered your call, Trusting your promises, giving their all, Women like Sarah and Hannah and Ruth — Give us their courage to live in your truth.

O God of Phoebe and ministers all. May we be joyful in answering your call. Give us the strength of your Spirit so near That we may share in your ministry here.

The Presentation: *The Doxology*......380:3

The Holy Eucharist

The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer A)

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.

(The priest 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.....S 129

The people stand or kneel

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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

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.

The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion Hymn: Lord, Be Glorified......SH 34

After Communion, the people stand or kneel.

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: God of Our Fathers......718

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

Thanks be to God. Alleidia.

Question of the day (from Amanda Borden): "Whoa, now. How was Naomi able to produce milk without having a baby?"

We are delighted to welcome Rev. Stephen McWhorter as our supply priest today. Father Stephen was the founding rector of St. David's Episcopal Church in Ashburn, Virginia and served that parish for 16 years. Now retired, he lives in Sylacauga. He works as a supply priest in the Alabama Diocese and teaches ethics at the University of Alabama Medical School in Birmingham.

We began confirmation classes today during the Sunday School hour in the Little House. It's not too late for you to join in. Over seven sessions, we will explore the history, teachings, ministry, and mission of the Episcopal Church and how they guide us here at Epiphany. Everyone is invited. We are using this text: Webber, Christopher L., Welcome to the Episcopal Church: An Introduction To Its History, Faith, and Worship. Morehouse, 1999. http://a.co/d/1LNI17W

Today's offertory hymn, *God of the Women*, was written by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, a Presbyterian minister and hymn writer in Philadelphia. We are singing two of the hymn's five verses.

On Wednesday the Episcopal Church commemorates the consecration of Samuel Seabury in 1874 as the first American bishop and the first bishop of the Episcopal Church. A gathering of 10 Episcopal clergymen named Seabury to be the first bishop in America in 1783. The Church of England refused to consecrate him, however, because he could not swear allegiance to King George III. Seabury then sought and won consecration from the Scottish Episcopal Church, on the condition that he study and advocate for the Scottish rite for the Holy Eucharist. To this day, many parts of our Rite I Eucharistic Prayer bear similarities to the Scottish rite.

Serving at Epiphany this week . . .

Ushers: John and Kathy Altar Guild: Lee Borden

Lay Reader: Laura Williams

Piano: Esther Hart

Lay Eucharistic Minister: Mike Harber

Refreshments: Pam Harper

and next . . .

Ushers: A.B. and Lulu Campbell Altar Guild: Dana Barlow Lay Reader: Amanda Borden Piano: Esther Hart Lay Eucharistic Minister: Lavonne Hart Refreshments: Cathy Jones