

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

Psalms 127:1a

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany  
25<sup>th</sup> 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*.....686

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.**

*Psalms 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



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 . . .  
Now I am free . . .

## Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

### The Offertory

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  
gifts.

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  
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. 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.**

---

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