

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers.

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany  
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost  
Morning Prayer  
September 1, 2019, 10:30 am

Hebrews 13:2a

We worship today according to the appointed order for Morning Prayer, Rite Two, beginning on page 75 of the Book of Common Prayer and occasionally from *Enriching Our Worship*. Congregational responses are in **boldface type**. The initials "SH" refer to page numbers in the small Supplemental Hymnal in the pew racks.

Hymn: *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing* .....686

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*We 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 (*we 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.

*Venite – Psalm 95* .....S 35

Psalm 112 (*we continue standing*)

Hallelujah!

Happy are they who fear the Lord \*  
and have great delight in his commandments!  
**Their descendants will be mighty in the land; \***  
**the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

Wealth and riches will be in their house, \*  
and their righteousness will last for ever.  
**Light shines in the darkness for the upright; \***  
**the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

It is good for them to be generous in lending \*  
and to manage their affairs with justice.  
**For they will never be shaken; \***  
**the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; \*  
their heart is right;  
they put their trust in the Lord.  
**Their heart is established and will not shrink, \***  
**until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

They have given freely to the poor, \*  
and their righteousness stands fast for ever;  
they will hold up their head with honor.  
**The wicked will see it and be angry;**  
**they will gnash their teeth and pine away; \***  
**the desires of the wicked will perish.**

The Lessons

(*We sit for each lesson and stand for each canticle or hymn.*)

The First Lesson – Proverbs 26:6-7

Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence  
or stand in the place of the great;

for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"  
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 9 – The First Song of Isaiah .....SH 18

## Epistle Lesson - Hebrews 13:1-8,15-16

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;  
I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Canticle S -- A Song of Our True Nature

Christ revealed our frailty and our falling, \*  
**our trespasses and our humiliations.**

Christ also revealed his blessed power, \*  
**his blessed wisdom and love.**

He protects us as tenderly and as sweetly when we are in greatest need; \*

**he raises us in spirit  
and turns everything to glory and joy without ending.**

God is the ground and the substance, the very essence of nature; \*

**God is the true father and mother of natures.**

We are all bound to God by nature, \*  
**and we are all bound to God by grace.**

And this grace is for all the world, \*  
**because it is our precious mother, Christ.**

For this fair nature was prepared by Christ  
for the honor and nobility of all, \*  
**and for the joy and bliss of salvation.**

## The Gospel Lesson – Luke 14:1,7-14

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Hymn – *Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord*

**Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord;  
Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord;  
And He will lift you up, higher and higher,  
And He will lift you up.**

## The Apostles' Creed (*we 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 Peace

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

### Joys and Concerns of the Congregation (*we sit*)

### The Offering

I beseech you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Hymn – *The Servant Song (we remain seated)*.....SH 59

Presentation – Doxology (*we stand*).....380:3

### The Prayers (*we 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

Help us, O God our Savior;

**Deliver us and forgive us our sins.**

Look upon your congregation;

**Give to your people the blessing of peace.**

Declare your glory among the nations;

**And your wonders among all peoples.**

Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;

**Never forget the lives of your poor.**

Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;

**And your favor to those who are true of heart.**

Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;

**So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.**

### The Collect of the Day

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; 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.**

### A Prayer for Mission

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Hymn: *Sanctuary (we stand)*

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,**

**Pure and holy, tried and true.**

**With thanksgiving, I'll be a living**

**Sanctuary for you.**

*(Sing three times)*

Intercessions and Thanksgivings *(we stand or kneel)*

We pray for the souls of all those who have departed this life, including those we now name silently or aloud.

*Silence*

In our parish we pray for those who are sick or recovering from illness, including **Mike** Oniffrey, **Micah** Hart, **Dennis** Harper, **Charlie** Hayes, **Larry** and **Pat** Sharpton, and the others we now name.

*Silence*

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for our Companion Diocese of the Virgin Islands and its bishop, Ambrose. For Interfaith Mission Services, Huntsville; Christian Center of Concern, Fayette; Grace Harbor, Pell City; and Greater Birmingham Ministries.

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.**

Hymn: *Here I Am, Lord (we stand)*.....SH 61

Alleluia, Alleluia. Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**Serving at Epiphany this week:**

Ushers: Laura Williams and Barbara Trogdon  
Altar Guild: Cathy Jones  
Lay Reader: Maurice McCord  
Officiant: Kay Dickey  
Refreshments: Cathy Jones  
Grounds: Jimmy and Betty Weldon

**And next:**

Ushers: Lavonne Hart and Jimmy Weldon  
Altar Guild: Elizabeth Harber  
Lay Reader: Laura Williams  
Lay Eucharistic Minister: Mike Rallo  
Refreshments: Pam/Jere Van Etten  
Grounds: John Haynie and Mike Rallo