

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, Ye Thankful People, Come*.....290

Give thanks to the Lord, and call upon his Name; make known his deeds among the peoples.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*We stand or kneel.*

God of all mercy,  
we confess that we have sinned against you,  
opposing your will in our lives.  
We have denied your goodness in each other,  
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.  
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,  
the evil we have done,  
and the evil done on our behalf.  
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us  
through our Savior Jesus Christ,  
that we may abide in your love  
and serve only your will. 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 46

God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.  
**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,  
and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea;**

Though its waters rage and foam,  
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.  
**The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.

**God is in the midst of her;  
she shall not be overthrown;  
God shall help her at the break of day.**

The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken;  
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.  
**The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

Come now and look upon the works of the Lord,  
what awesome things he has done on earth.  
**It is he who makes war to cease in all the world;  
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,  
and burns the shields with fire.**

"Be still, then, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations;  
I will be exalted in the earth."  
**The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

The Lessons

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

The First Lesson – Jeremiah 23:1-6

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Canticle 12 – A Song of Creation

Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord, \*  
**praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, \*  
**praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

Let the people of God glorify the Lord, \*  
**praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

Glorify the Lord, O priests and servants of the Lord, \*  
**praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

Glorify the Lord, O spirits and souls of the righteous, \*  
**praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

You that are holy and humble of heart, glorify the Lord, \*  
**praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

Let us glorify the Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; \*  
**praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, \*  
**praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

**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.**

## Epistle Lesson – Colossians 1:11-20

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers -- all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Canticle A.....Page 4

## The Gospel Lesson – Luke 23:33-43

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. The people stood by, watching Jesus on

the cross; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Hymn – *Hail To the Lord's Anointed (we stand)*.....616

## The Apostles' Creed

**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

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.

Hymn – *We Gather Together (we remain seated)*.....433

**The Prayers (*we stand or kneel*)**

Hear our cry, O God.  
**And listen to our prayer.**  
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**

Show us your mercy, O Lord;  
**And grant us your salvation.**  
Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
**Let your people sing with joy.**  
Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
**For only in you can we live in safety.**  
Lord, keep this nation under your care;  
**And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**  
Let your way be known upon earth;  
**Your saving health among all nations.**  
Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
**Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**  
Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
**And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

**The Collect of the Day**

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**A Collect for the Renewal of Life**

O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 Collect for Grace**

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**A Prayer for Mission**

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Hymn: *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*.....688

**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, Troy Warlick, Arnold Bush, Dezzel Oliver, Tom Haynie, Ruth Harper**, 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 the Alabama Faith Council and its work; for all who seek to be faithful to the call of Jesus Christ in their lives. For Christ Church, Fairfield; Christ Church, Tuscaloosa; and Christ Church, Albertville.

**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.

Hymn: *Crown Him with Many Crowns*.....494

Alleluia, Alleluia. Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

It's an annual tradition! Epiphany will host a community performance of selected choruses from Handel's *Messiah* on December 8. The musicians will gather at 1:00 pm to run through the music, and the concert will begin at 2:00 pm. This has become a cherished event for the musicians who join us each year and fill our gorgeous nave with beautiful music. This year, our focus is on increasing the attendance of those who gather to hear it. Please come and invite your friends and neighbors to come with you! For more information, contact Amanda Borden.

#### Serving at Epiphany this week:

Ushers: To be determined

Altar Guild: Betty Weldon

Lay Reader: Laura Williams

Officiant: Andy Stricker

Refreshments: Pam and Jere Van Etten

#### And next:

Ushers: Laura Williams and Barbara Trogdon

Altar Guild: Pam Van Etten

Lay Reader: Lee Borden

Officiant: Lavonne Hart

Refreshments: Betty Weldon

#### Canticle A

1. Wis dom freed a ho - ly peo - ple, blame-less from op - pres-sors' sword,  
2. Through the Red Sea safe - ly brought them, led a - long the wa - ters steep,

5  
and with-stood, with signs and won ders, rul - ers dread to serve the Lord.  
but their en - e - mies she swal lowed, o - ver-whelmed them in the deep.

9  
Giv - ing them re - ward of la - bors, let the saints a - long her way.  
For sal - va - tion Lord, the right - eous praised your name with one ac - cord:

13  
she was a blaze of stars in dark - ness and a shel - ter through the day,  
song - filled - tongues of new - born peo ple ut tered Wis-dom's might - ty word.