

Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany
Second Sunday of Advent
Holy Eucharist
December 8, 2019, 10:30 am

Matthew 3:3b

We worship today according to the Holy Eucharist: Rite Two, beginning on
page 355 of the Book of Common Prayer. Congregational responses are in **boldface type**.
The initials "SH" refer to page numbers in the small Supplemental Hymnal in the pew racks.

The Word of God

We begin the service in silence

Lighting the Advent Wreath

I light these candles to remind us that we must prepare our
hearts for the coming of the Christ Child.

We stand for the hymn.

Hymn: *People, Look East (we stand)*.....Page 6

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
His mercy endures for ever.

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.**

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us.....S 91

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to
preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation:
Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins,
that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our
Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons (*we sit*)

The First Lesson – Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall
eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's
den.

They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the
peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his
dwelling shall be glorious.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

1 Give the King your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the King's Son;

2 That he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;

3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the little hills bring righteousness.

4 He shall defend the needy among the people;
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.

5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.

7 In his time shall the righteous flourish;
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous deeds!

19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever!
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.
Amen. Amen.

The Epistle Lesson – Romans 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name";

and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";

and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him";

and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Hymn:

There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying (we stand).....75.

The Gospel – Matthew 3:1-12

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

Glory to You, Lord Christ.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Stephen McWhorter

The Nicene Creed (*we stand*)

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.

Prayers of the People (Form II, page 385 BCP)
(*We stand or kneel.*)

In the course of the silence after each bidding we offer our own prayers, either silently or aloud.

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for Kee, our Bishop; for Stephen, our supply priest, for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

I ask your prayers for our Diocese and its prayerful search for a new Bishop: "God of wisdom and peace, you have gathered your faithful people, men and women of every nation, age, and color, in this diocese to humbly serve you: Look graciously on your Church and so guide the holy imagination of those who shall choose a bishop for this diocese, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries by igniting in us creative compassion and inspiring us to a relentless proclamation of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Pray for discernment.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. We pray also for **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. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all the departed, including those we name. Pray for those who have died.

Silence

During this silence, members of the congregation may ask the prayers or the thanksgivings of those present.

I ask your prayers for _____.

I ask your thanksgiving for _____.

Silence

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Confession of Sin (*we stand or kneel*)

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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 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.

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

The Offertory

Hymn: *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*.....324

Hymn *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (*we stand*).....56:1

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

(Eucharistic Prayer B, BCP p 367)

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 Lord*.....S 130

The people stand or kneel

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.

As our Savior Christ
has taught us,
we now pray,

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast.

Fraction Anthem: *Christ Our Passover*.....S 156

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.

The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people

After Communion, the people stand or kneel and the Celebrant says

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

Hymn: *O Day of Peace That Dimly Shines*.597

Alleluia, Alleluia. Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

The Standing Committee of the Alabama Diocese has announced a slate of four candidates to become the 12th Bishop for the Diocese. All three have roots in Alabama. The candidates, in alphabetical order:

The Rev. Dr. Glenda S. Curry. Prior to her ordination she served as president of Troy University. She and her husband, a professor at the UAB School of Medicine, are the parents of two adult children. She is the rector of All Saints Episcopal Church, Birmingham.

The Rev. Evan D. Garner. Describing the “evangelical strand of the Anglican tradition” as “the foundation of my identity as a Christian,” he serves as the rector of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Fayetteville, AR. He and his wife have four children.

The Rev. Allison Sandlin Liles. She serves as the editor of *Grow Christians*, a ministry of the Forward Movement and previously served as the executive director of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship. She and her husband, also a priest, have two elementary age children. She is the Priest-in-Charge at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church in suburban Dallas.

The Rev. Aaron D. Raulerson. He is the Rector of the Church of the Epiphany in Guntersville, AL, having previously served parishes in Trussville, Demopolis, and Mobile. He and his wife (who is in IT) have three teenage children. He received his M Div from Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest in Austin.

There is a walk-about for certified delegates and clergy scheduled at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church on January 4, 2020, with election of our new Bishop to follow on January 18. There’s lots more information at <https://bishopsearch.dioala.org/>

Serving at Epiphany this week:	And next:
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Ushers: Lavonne Hart and Jimmy Weldon Altar Guild: Cathy Jones Lay Reader: Kathy Haynie Lay Eucharistic Minister: Suzy Wilson Refreshments: Lavonne Hart	Ushers: John and Kathy Haynie Altar Guild: Elizabeth Harber Lay Reader: Kathy Haynie Lay Eucharistic Minister: Maurice McCord Refreshments: Suzy and Darrell Wilson
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People, look East



1. Peo - ple, look East. The time is near of the crown - ing of the
 2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is plant - ed
 3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be
 4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall
 5. An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to



1. year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim the hearth and set the
 2. there: give up your strength the seed to nour - ish, that in course the flow'r may
 3. filled. E - ven the hour when wings are fro - zen God for fledg - ing time has
 4. brian, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y win - ter, bright as sun and moon to -
 5. earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley hum ming with the word, the Lord is



1. a - ble. Peo - ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the guest is on the way.
 2. flour - ish. Peo - ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the rose is on the way.
 3. cho - sen. Peo - ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the bird is on the way.
 4. geth - er. Peo - ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the star is on the way.
 5. com - ing. Peo - ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the Lord is on the way.

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