

Be patient, therefore, beloved,  
until the coming of the Lord.

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany  
Third Sunday of Advent  
Holy Eucharist  
December 15, 2019, 10:30 am

James 5:7a

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

We 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: *Watchman, Tell Us Of the Night (we stand)*.....640

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.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come  
among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins,  
let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and  
deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with  
you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for  
ever. **Amen.**

### The Lessons (*we sit*)

The First Lesson – Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.  
He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;

the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;

the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even  
fools, shall go astray.

No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

Canticle 15 – The Song of Mary – *Magnificat*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*  
**for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.**

From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
**the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.**

He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
**in every generation.**

He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
**he has scattered the proud in their conceit.**

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
**and has lifted up the lowly.**

He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
**and the rich he has sent away empty.**

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
**for he has remembered his promise of mercy,**

The promise he made to our fathers, \*  
**to Abraham and his children 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.**

The Epistle Lesson – James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

Hymn: *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry (we stand).....76*

The Gospel – Matthew 11:2-11

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

**Glory to You, Lord Christ.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did

you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

The Rev. Tiffany Chaney

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 Tiffany, 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 and Nancy Bush, Dezel 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*

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: *Thy Kingdom Come*.....615

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: *Tell Out My Soul*.....437

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

### Serving at Epiphany this week:

Ushers: John and Kathy Haynie  
Altar Guild: Elizabeth Harber  
Lay Reader: Kathy Haynie  
Lay Eucharistic Minister: Maurice McCord  
Refreshments: Suzy and Darrell Wilson

### And next:

Ushers: Darrell and Suzy Wilson  
Altar Guild: Lavonne Hart  
Lay Reader: Betty Weldon  
Lay Eucharistic Minister: Laura Williams  
Refreshments: Lee and Amanda Borden