

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you."

John 14:18

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany  
Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Rogation Sunday  
Morning Prayer  
May 17, 2020, 10:30 am

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**.

*We will observe silence together to prepare for worship, which begins with the ringing of the bell. We leave our microphones and webcams on until after the opening sentence.*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Lord, open our lips.

**And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

*We now turn off our webcams and microphones until just before the concluding sentence at the end of the service.*

*Gloria Patri and Alleluia*

Christ Our Passover

Alleluia.

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; \*

**therefore let us keep the feast,**

Not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, \*

**but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.**

**Alleluia.**

Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; \*

**death no longer has dominion over him.**

The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all; \*

**but the life he lives, he lives to God.**

So also consider yourselves dead to sin, \*

**and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.**

Christ has been raised from the dead, \*

**the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.**

For since by a man came death, \*

**by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.**

For as in Adam all die, \*

**so also in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.**

Psalms 66:7-18

7 Bless our God, you peoples; \*

make the voice of his praise to be heard;

**8 Who holds our souls in life, \***

**and will not allow our feet to slip.**

9 For you, O God, have proved us; \*

you have tried us just as silver is tried.

**10 You brought us into the snare; \***  
**you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

11 You let enemies ride over our heads;  
we went through fire and water; \*  
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

**12 I will enter your house with burnt-offerings**  
**and will pay you my vows, \***  
**which I promised with my lips**  
**and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.**

13 I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts  
with the smoke of rams; \*  
I will give you oxen and goats.

**14 Come and listen, all you who fear God, \***  
**and I will tell you what he has done for me.**

15 I called out to him with my mouth, \*  
and his praise was on my tongue.

**16 If I had found evil in my heart, \***  
**the Lord would not have heard me;**

17 But in truth God has heard me; \*  
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.

**18 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, \***  
**nor withheld his love from me.**

*Gloria Patri*

The Lessons

The First Lesson – Acts 7:55-60

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where

they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we too are his offspring.’

Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Canticle 8 – The Song of Moses

I will sing to the Lord, for he is lofty and uplifted; \*  
the horse and its rider has he hurled into the sea.

**The Lord is my strength and my refuge; \*  
the Lord has become my Savior.**

This is my God and I will praise him, \*  
the God of my people and I will exalt him.

**The Lord is a mighty warrior; \*  
Yahweh is his Name.**

The chariots of Pharaoh and his army has he hurled into the sea; \*

the finest of those who bear armor have been  
drowned in the Red Sea.

**The fathomless deep has overwhelmed them; \*  
they sank into the depths like a stone.**

Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in might; \*  
your right hand, O Lord, has overthrown the enemy.

**Who can be compared with you, O Lord, among the  
gods? \***

**who is like you, glorious in holiness,  
awesome in renown, and worker of wonders?**

You stretched forth your right hand; \*  
the earth swallowed them up.

**With your constant love you led the people you  
redeemed; \***

**with your might you brought them in safety to  
your holy dwelling.**

You will bring them in and plant them \*  
on the mount of your possession,

**The resting-place you have made for yourself, O Lord, \*  
the sanctuary, O Lord, that your hand has established.**

**The Lord shall reign \*  
for ever and for ever.**

### The Epistle Lesson - 1 Peter 3:13-22

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God’s will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you-- not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

### Canticle 16 – The Song of Zechariah

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; \*

**he has come to his people and set them free.**

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, \*

**born of the house of his servant David.**

Through his holy prophets he promised of old,

that he would save us from our enemies, \*

**from the hands of all who hate us.**

He promised to show mercy to our fathers \*

**and to remember his holy covenant.**

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \*

**to set us free from the hands of our enemies,**

Free to worship him without fear, \*

**holy and righteous in his sight**

**all the days of our life.**

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most  
High, \*

**for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,**

To give his people knowledge of salvation \*

**by the forgiveness of their sins.**

In the tender compassion of our God \*

**the dawn from on high shall break upon us,**

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,\*

**and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

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 Gospel Lesson – John 14:15-21

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

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

Hymn: *All Things Bright and Beautiful*

**Chorus:**

**All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful,  
The Lord God made them all.**

**1. Each little flower that opens,  
Each little bird that sings,  
He made their glowing colors,  
He made their tiny wings.**

**[Chorus]**

**2. He gave us eyes to see them,  
And lips that we might tell  
How great is God almighty,  
Who has made all things well.**

**[Chorus]**

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 Prayers

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Let us 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.**

Suffrages

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 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

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; 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 Peace

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of 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: *Come Down, O Love Divine*

**Come down, O love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,  
And visit us with thine own ardor glowing;  
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,  
And kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.**

**O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn  
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;  
And let thy glorious light shine ever on my sight,  
And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.**

## Intercessions and Thanksgiving

We pray for the souls of all those who have died from Covid-19, and all who have departed this life, including those we now name silently, aloud, or by chat.

### *Silence*

We ask your blessing on all who came to our church yesterday for Beans & Rice. In our parish we pray for those who are sick or recovering from illness, including **Micah** Hart, **Dennis** Harper, **Larry** and **Pat** Sharpton, **Troy** Warlick, **Dezsel**

**Oliver**, **Tom** Haynie, **Beth** Hall, **Maurice** McCord, **Sharon** Browning, **Julie** Williams, **Mike** Dickey, 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 Bridge Ministries, Birmingham; St. Anne's Home, Birmingham; and Graduating Seminarians.

## 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.**

*We all now turn on our webcams and microphones for the concluding sentence and leave them on for the Joys and Concerns of the Congregation.*

Alleluia, Alleluia. Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

## Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

### **Serving at Epiphany this week:**

Officiant: Mike Harber

Lay Reader: Amanda Borden

Voice of Congregation: Pam Van Etten

### **And next:**

Officiant: Suzy Wilson

Lay Reader: Lavonne Hart

Voice of Congregation: Betty Weldon