

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany  
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost  
Morning Prayer  
July 5, 2020, 9:30 am

Matthew 11:28

We worship today according to the appointed order for Morning Prayer, Rite Two,  
beginning on page 75 of the Book of Common Prayer.  
Congregational responses are in **boldface type**.

*We will observe silence together to prepare for worship, which begins with the ringing of the bell. We stand.*

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 you, forgive you all our 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 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 forever.  
Amen. Alleluia.**

Jubilate – Psalm 100

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; \*  
**serve the Lord with gladness  
and come before his presence with a song.**

Know this: The Lord himself is God; \*  
**he himself has made us, and we are his;  
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;  
go into his courts with praise; \*  
**give thanks to him and call upon his Name.**

For the Lord is good;  
his mercy is everlasting; \*  
**and his faithfulness endures from age to age.**

Psalm 45:11-18 (*we remain standing*)

11 "Hear, O daughter; consider and listen closely; \*  
**forget your people and your father's house.**

12 The king will have pleasure in your beauty; \*  
**he is your master; therefore do him honor.**

13 The people of Tyre are here with a gift; \*  
**the rich among the people seek your favor."**

14 All glorious is the princess as she enters; \*  
**her gown is cloth-of-gold.**

15 In embroidered apparel she is brought to the king; \*  
**after her the bridesmaids follow in procession.**

16 With joy and gladness they are brought, \*  
**and enter into the palace of the king.**

17 "In place of fathers, O king, you shall have sons; \*  
**you shall make them princes over all the earth.**

18 I will make your name to be remembered  
from one generation to another; \*  
**therefore nations will praise you for ever and ever."**

The Lessons

*Unless noted otherwise, we sit for each lesson and stand for each canticle*

The Old Testament Lesson – Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

The servant said to Laban, "I am Abraham's servant. The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also" — let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

And they called Rebekah, and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will." So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, "May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes." Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way. Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, and said to the servant, "Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

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.**

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.**

### The Epistle Lesson – Romans 7:15-25a

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

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

### Hymn – *Come Down O Love Divine (we sit)*

Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine, and visit it 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.

### The Gospel Lesson – Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Jesus said to the crowd, "To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;  
we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

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

Sermon

The Rev. Lee Lowery

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 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.**

Suffrages

Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;  
**Govern and uphold them, now and always.**

Day by day we bless you;  
**We praise your Name for ever.**

Lord, keep us from all sin today;  
**Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, show us your love and mercy;  
**For we put our trust in you.**

In you, Lord, is our hope;  
**And we shall never hope in vain.**

The Collect of the Day

O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; 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 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: *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* (*we sit*)

The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never; I nothing lack if I am his, and he is mine forever.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me, and on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear Lord, beside me; thy rod and staff my comfort still, thy cross before to guide me.

## Intercessions and Thanksgiving (*we stand*)

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 or aloud.

### *Silence*

In our parish we pray for those who are sick or recovering from illness, including **Micah Hart, Dennis Harper, Larry and Pat Sharpton, Dezel Oliver, Tom Haynie, Beth Hall, Maurice McCord, Sharon Browning, Julie Williams, Mike Dickey, Harrison Smith**, 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 Ministry of the University of the South, College and Seminary; Good Shepherd, Decatur; and Good Shepherd, Montgomery.

## 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.**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

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

It is with deep and profound joy that we welcome The Rev. Lee Lowery to Epiphany on this, his first Sunday with us. Lee and his wife Linda live in Auburn; he has just retired as the priest at St Dunstan's. Married for 34 years, Lee and Linda have two adult daughters, Sara and Kate.

<b>Serving at Epiphany this week:</b>	<b>And next:</b>
Lay reader: Suzy Wilson	Lay reader: Betty Weldon
Grounds: Jimmy and Betty Weldon	Grounds: Mike Rallo and Jimmy Weldon