

Your word is a lantern to my feet
and a light upon my path.

Psalm 119:105

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Morning Prayer
July 12, 2020, 9:30 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 stand.

Thus says the high and lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy, "I dwell in the high and holy place and also with the one who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble and to revive the heart of the contrite."

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth his praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

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 119:105-112 (*we remain standing*)

Your word is a lantern to my feet
and a light upon my path.
**I have sworn and am determined
to keep your righteous judgments.**

I am deeply troubled;
preserve my life, O Lord, according to your word.
**Accept, O Lord, the willing tribute of my lips,
and teach me your judgments.**

My life is always in my hand,
yet I do not forget your law.
**The wicked have set a trap for me,
but I have not strayed from your commandments.**

Your decrees are my inheritance for ever;
truly, they are the joy of my heart.
**I have applied my heart to fulfill your statutes
for ever and to the end.**

The Lessons

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

The Old Testament Lesson – Genesis 25:19-34

These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the Lord. And the Lord said to her,

"Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples born of you shall be divided;
the one shall be stronger than the other,
the elder shall serve the younger."

When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called Edom.) Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Canticle 13 – A Song of Praise

Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers; *

you are worthy of praise; glory to you.

Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name; *

we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Glory to you in the splendor of your temple; *

on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.

Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim; *

we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Glory to you, beholding the depths; *

in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.

Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; *

we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

The Epistle Lesson – Romans 8:1-11

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law-- indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn – *If Thou But Trust in God To Guide Thee (we sit)*

If thou but trust in God to guide thee, and hope in him through all thy ways, he'll give thee strength what e'er betide thee, and bear thee through the evil days. Who trusts in God's unchanging love builds on a rock that nought can move.

Sing, pray and keep his words unswerving, so do thine own part faithfully, and trust his word, though undeserving; thou yet shall find it true for thee; God never yet forsook in need the soul that trusted him indeed.

The Gospel Lesson – Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

“Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

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

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 wonders among 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 Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **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 Guidance

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through 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: *Take My Life and Let It Be* (we sit)

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord to thee; take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise. Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love; take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King; take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose. Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine. Take my self, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

Intercessions and Thanksgiving (we stand)

We pray for the souls of **Ed Passerini**, 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**, **Dezsel Oliver**, **Tom Haynie**, **Beth Hall**, **Maurice McCord**, **Sharon Browning**, **Julie Williams**, **Mike Dickey**, **Harrison Smith**, **Ellen Solomon**, the **Freeman family**, and the others we now name.

Silence

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for our bishops, Kee and Glenda. For our Companion Diocese of the Virgin Islands and its bishop, Ambrose. For ministries for displaced persons and refugees, and for the Global Episcopal Mission Network.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation (we sit)

If the forecast is iffy for rain on any Sunday morning, we'll send out an email message by 7:30 am stating either that (a) we're proceeding with worship on schedule (bring an umbrella or raincoat); or (b) we are postponing worship to avoid the rain.

Serving at Epiphany this week:	And next:
Lay reader: Betty Weldon	Lay reader: Lee Borden
Grounds: Mike Rallo and Jimmy Weldon	Grounds: Lee Borden and Maurice McCord