

For who hopes for what is seen? But if we  
hope for what we do not see, we wait for it  
with patience.

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany  
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost  
Morning Prayer  
July 19, 2020, 9:30 am

Romans 8:24b-25

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.*

Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me, and  
bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling.

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.**

*Venite* Psalm 95:1-7

**Come, let us sing to the Lord;**

**let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.**

**Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.**

**For the Lord is a great God,**

**and a great King above all gods.**

**In his hand are the caverns of the earth,**

**and the heights of the hills are his also.**

**The sea is his, for he made it,  
and his hands have molded the dry land.**

**Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,  
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.**

**For he is our God,**

**and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of  
his hand.**

**Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!**

Psalm 139:1-11, 22-23 (*we remain standing*)

**LORD, you have searched me out and known me; \*  
you know my sitting down and my rising up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.**

**You trace my journeys and my resting-places \*  
and are acquainted with all my ways.**

**Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, \*  
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.**

**You press upon me behind and before \*  
and lay your hand upon me.**

**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; \*  
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.**

**Where can I go then from your Spirit? \*  
where can I flee from your presence?**

**If I climb up to heaven, you are there; \*  
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.**

**If I take the wings of the morning \*  
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,**

**Even there your hand will lead me \*  
and your right hand hold me fast.**

**If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, \*  
and the light around me turn to night,"**

**Darkness is not dark to you;  
the night is as bright as the day; \*  
darkness and light to you are both alike.**

**Search me out, O God, and know my heart; \*  
try me and know my restless thoughts.**

**Look well whether there be any wickedness in me \*  
and lead me in the way that is everlasting.**

## The Lessons

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

### The Old Testament Lesson – Genesis 28:109-19a

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the LORD stood beside him and said, “I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!” And he was afraid, and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”

So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.

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.**

## The Epistle Lesson – Romans 8:12-25

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh -- for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ -- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Hymn – *We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder (we sit)*

We are climbing Jacob's ladder (3X). Soldiers of the cross.  
Every round goes higher, higher (3X). Soldiers of the cross.  
The Gospel Lesson – Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are

the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

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

Show us your mercy, O Lord;  
**And grant us your salvation.**  
Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
**Let your people sing with joy.**  
Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
**For only in you can we live in safety.**  
Lord, keep this nation under your care;  
**And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**  
Let your way be known upon earth;  
**Your saving health among all nations.**  
Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
**Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**  
Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
**And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Collect for Peace

O God, who art the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom: Defend us, thy humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in thy defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Collect for Grace

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day: Defend us in the same with thy mighty power; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that we, being ordered by thy governance, may do always what is righteous in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Mission

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. **Amen.**

**Hymn: *Lord of All Hopefulness (we sit)***

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy, whose trust ever child-like, no cares can destroy, be there at our waking and give us we pray, your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith, whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe, be there at our labors, and give us, we pray, your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace, your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace, be there at our homing, and give us, we pray, your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm, whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm, be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray, your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

**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, **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 the Alabama Episcopal Foundation Board of Directors; the Diocesan Department of Architecture; St. James, Alex City; and St. James, Livingston.

**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.**

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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

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On Wednesday we mark the feast of Mary Magdalene. Because she is recognized in all four gospels to have been – either alone or with other women – the first to witness to Christ’s empty tomb, she is sometimes called “the apostle to the apostles.” The myth that she was a prostitute, almost certainly false, originated with Pope Gregory in the year 591 when he conflated her with the “sinful woman” who anointed Jesus’s feet.

On Saturday we mark the feast of St James, the first of the Twelve to be martyred.

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<b>Serving at Epiphany this week:</b>	<b>And next:</b>
Lay reader: Lee Borden	Lay reader: Lavonne Hart
Grounds: Lee Borden and Maurice McCord	Grounds: Jimmy and Betty Weldon