

Oh, how good and pleasant it is,  
when brethren live together in unity!

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany  
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost  
Morning Prayer  
August 16, 2020, 9:30 am

Psalm 133:1

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 (EOW)*.  
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.*

The hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks to worship him.

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 stand or 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. (BCP 79)*

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 (BCP 82)

**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 133 (*we remain standing*)

**Oh, how good and pleasant it is,  
when brethren live together in unity!  
It is like fine oil upon the head  
that runs down upon the beard,  
Upon the beard of Aaron,  
and runs down upon the collar of his robe.  
It is like the dew of Hermon  
that falls upon the hills of Zion.  
For there the LORD has ordained the blessing:  
life for evermore.**

The Lessons

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

The Old Testament Lesson – Genesis 45:1-15

Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

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

#### Canticle 19 – The Song of the Redeemed (*BCP 94*)

**O ruler of the universe, Lord God,  
great deeds are they that you have done,  
surpassing human understanding.  
Your ways are ways of righteousness and truth,  
O King of all the ages.**

**Who can fail to do you homage, Lord,  
and sing the praises of your Name?  
for you only are the Holy One.  
All nations will draw near and fall down before you,  
because your just and holy works have been revealed.**

**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 – Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too

may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

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

#### Hymn – *Christ for the World We Sing (we sit)*

Christ for the world we sing! The world to Christ we bring  
with loving zeal; the poor, and them that mourn, the faint  
and overborne, sin-sick and sorrow-worn, whom Christ  
doth heal.

Christ for the world we sing! The world to Christ we bring  
with joyful song; the newborn souls, whose days, reclaimed  
from error's ways, inspired with hope and praise, to Christ  
belong.

#### The Gospel Lesson – Matthew 15:10-28

Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

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,aa  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## Suffrages (*BCP 98*)

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

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## A Collect for Sundays (*BCP 98*)

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 the Renewal of Life (*BCP 99*)

O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## A Prayer for Mission (*BCP 100*)

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: *O Zion Haste* (*we sit*)

O Zion, haste, thy mission high fulfilling, to tell to all the world that God is Light; that he who made all nations is not willing one soul should fail to know his love and might. Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace, tidings of Jesus, redemption and release.

Proclaim to every people, tongue, and nation that God, in whom they live and move, is Love; tell how he stooped to save his lost creation, and died on earth that all might live above. Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace; tidings of Jesus, redemption and release.

## Intercessions and Thanksgiving (*we stand*)

We pray for the souls of **Winnie Rowell**, 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 **Dennis** Harper, **Larry** and **Pat** Sharpton, **Dezsel** Oliver, **Tom** Haynie, **Beth** Hall, **Maurice** McCord, **Sharon** Browning, **Julie** Williams, **Mike** Dickey, **Harrison** Smith, **Ellen** Solomon, **Joan** Ashurst Miller, **Caleb** Hart, and the others we now name.

*Silence*

We pray for all the hungry people who came to Beans & Rice at Epiphany yesterday to get food for their families.

*Silence*

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for our bishops, Kee and Glenda. We pray for our Companion Diocese of the Virgin Islands and its bishop, Ambrose. For Seminarians in the first year of study, and for Boards, Faculty, Staff and students of all Episcopal Seminaries.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom (*BCP 102*)

**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.**

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*)

<b>Serving at Epiphany this week:</b> Lay reader: Pam Van Etten	<b>And next:</b> Lay reader: Maurice McCord Grounds: Mike Rallo and Lee Borden
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