

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah,  
the Son of the living God."

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany  
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost  
Morning Prayer  
August 23, 2020, 9:30 am

Matthew 16:16

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.*

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."

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*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 124** *(we remain standing)*

If the LORD had not been on our side,  
let Israel now say;  
**If the LORD had not been on our side,  
when enemies rose up against us;**  
Then would they have swallowed us up alive  
in their fierce anger toward us;  
**Then would the waters have overwhelmed us  
and the torrent gone over us;**  
Then would the raging waters  
have gone right over us.  
**Blessed be the LORD!  
he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.**  
We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler;  
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.  
**Our help is in the Name of the LORD,  
the maker of heaven and earth.**

**The Lessons**

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

**The Old Testament Lesson – Exodus 1:8-2:10**

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know  
Joseph. He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are  
more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us  
deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the  
event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape  
from the land." Therefore they set taskmasters over them to  
oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities,  
Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were  
oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the  
Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians  
became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made  
their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in

every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live." But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?" The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live."

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

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

#### Canticle 20 – Glory to God (*BCP 94*)

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.

**Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,

**you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father;  
receive our prayer.**

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,

**you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

#### The Epistle Lesson – Romans 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-- what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

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

#### Hymn – *O God Our Help in Ages Past (we sit)*

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home;  
under the shadow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt  
secure; sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame,  
from everlasting thou art God, to endless years the same.

#### The Gospel Lesson – Matthew 16:13-20

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on

this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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 (*EOW 42*)

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

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; 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 Grace (*BCP 100*)

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 Collect for Guidance (*BCP 100*)

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 (*BCP 100*)

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: *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less (we sit)*

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name. On Christ, the solid rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.

When He shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in Him be found; dressed in His righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne. On Christ, the solid rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.

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 **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*

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 Interfaith Mission Services, Huntsville; Christian Center of Concern, Fayette; Grace Harbor, Pell City; Greater Birmingham Ministries; and St. Bartholomew's, Florence.

The General Thanksgiving (*BCP 101*)

**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.**

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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Here's how to reach The Rev. Lee Lowery: his email is [hleelowery@gmail.com](mailto:hleelowery@gmail.com), and his phone number is 229-395-4507. Wednesday is a great day to connect with Lee, and "Lunch with Lee" (Wednesdays at noon on Zoom) is a good time for visiting with Lee and others. Because Friday is Lee's sabbath, we try to avoid reaching out to him on that day except in an emergency.

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Tomorrow we mark the feast of St Bartholomew. Sometimes called Nathaniel, Bartholomew is seldom mentioned in the Scriptures. By tradition, he evangelized after the ascension in India and Armenia, leaving a copy of the Gospel of Matthew in India. Because tradition holds that Bartholomew was martyred by being skinned alive, artists often depicted him holding a knife and/or his own skin. He is the patron saint of tanners, plasterers, tailors, leatherworkers, bookbinders, farmers, housepainters, butchers, and glove makers.

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