

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome
evil with good.

Romans 12:21

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Morning Prayer
August 30, 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 (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.*

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. (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.

Jubilate— Psalm 100 (BCP 82)

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 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c (*we remain standing*)

Give thanks to the LORD and call upon his Name;
make known his deeds among the peoples.
**Sing to him, sing praises to him,
and speak of all his marvelous works.**

Glory in his holy Name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
**Search for the LORD and his strength;
continually seek his face.**

Remember the marvels he has done,
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,
**O offspring of Abraham his servant,
O children of Jacob his chosen.**

Israel came into Egypt,
and Jacob became a sojourner in the land of Ham.
**The LORD made his people exceedingly fruitful;
he made them stronger than their enemies;**

Whose heart he turned, so that they hated his people,
and dealt unjustly with his servants.
**He sent Moses his servant,
and Aaron whom he had chosen.
Hallelujah!**

The Lessons

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

The Old Testament Lesson – Exodus 3:1-15

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain." But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"
God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

This is my name forever,
and this my title for all generations.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Canticle 21 – You Are God (BCP 95)

You are God: we praise you;

You are the Lord: we acclaim you;

You are the eternal Father:

All creation worships you.

To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,

Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

The glorious company of apostles praise you.

The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.

The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.

Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you;

Father, of majesty unbounded,

your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,

and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.

You, Christ, are the king of glory,

the eternal Son of the Father.

When you became man to set us free

you did not shun the Virgin's womb.

You overcame the sting of death

and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

You are seated at God's right hand in glory.

We believe that you will come and be our judge.

Come then, Lord, and help your people,

bought with the price of your own blood,

and bring us with your saints

to glory everlasting.

The Epistle Lesson – Romans 12:9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn – *Take Up Your Cross (we sit)*

Take up your cross, the Savior said, if you would my
disciple be; take up your cross with willing heart, and
humbly follow after me.

Take up your cross, and follow Christ, nor think 'til death
to lay it down; for only those who bear the cross may hope
to wear the glorious crown.

The Gospel Lesson – Matthew 16:21-28

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

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 (*BCP 97*)

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

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; 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 (*BCP 99*)

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 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 101)*

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: *At the Name of Jesus (we sit)*

At the Name of Jesus every knee shall bow, every tongue confess him King of Glory now; 'tis the Father's pleasure we should call him Lord, who from the beginning was the mighty Word.

Christians, this Lord Jesus shall return again, with his Father's glory o'er the earth to reign; for all wreaths of empire meet upon his brow, and our hearts confess him King of glory now.

Intercessions and Thanksgiving *(we stand)*

We pray for the souls of **Mary Burt**, 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, **Bobby** Perkins, 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 the Diocesan Department of Recovery Ministries; all who suffer from addiction or effects of addiction; Holy Cross-St. Christopher's, Huntsville; Holy Cross, Trussville; and Holy Cross, Uniontown.

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.

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)*

We had our last worship service in the nave on March 8. We had no service on March 15, and we worshiped online together for the first time (remember Big Blue Button?) on March 22. We had a total of 11 online Sunday worship services, the last of which fell on the Day of Pentecost. We began worshiping outside on the First Sunday after Pentecost, and now we are roughly at the midpoint of this, our longest season. Worshiping week after week outside on the freshly cut grass, with the trees of our beautiful campus surrounding us and shading us, certainly brings new meaning to the term "long green season"!

Serving at Epiphany this week:	And next:
Lay reader: Kathy Haynie	Lay reader: Lee Borden
	Grounds: Jimmy and Betty Weldon