

Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore,  
love is the fulfilling of the law.

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany  
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Morning Prayer  
September 6, 2020, 9:30 am

Romans 13:10

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.*

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."

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 your 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 149 (we remain standing)*

**Hallelujah!**

**Sing to the Lord a new song;  
sing his praise in the congregation of the faithful.**

**Let Israel rejoice in his Maker;  
let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.**

**Let them praise his Name in the dance;  
let them sing praise to him with timbrel and harp.**

**For the Lord takes pleasure in his people  
and adorns the poor with victory.**

**Let the faithful rejoice in triumph;  
let them be joyful on their beds.**

**Let the praises of God be in their throat  
and a two-edged sword in their hand;**

**To wreak vengeance on the nations  
and punishment on the peoples;**

**To bind their kings in chains  
and their nobles with links of iron;**

**To inflict on them the judgment decreed;  
this is glory for all his faithful people.**

**Hallelujah!**

## The Lessons

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

### The Old Testament Lesson – Exodus 12:1-14

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Canticle A – A Song of Wisdom

Wisdom freed from a nation of oppressors  
a holy people and a blameless race.

**She entered the soul of a servant of the Lord,  
withstood dread rulers with wonders and signs.**

To the saints she gave the reward of their labors,  
and led them by a marvelous way;

**She was their shelter by day  
and a blaze of stars by night.**

She brought them across the Red Sea,  
she led them through mighty waters;  
**But their enemies she swallowed in the waves  
and spewed them out from the depths of the abyss.**

And then, Lord, the righteous sang hymns to your Name,  
and praised with one voice your protecting hand;  
**For Wisdom opened the mouths of the mute,  
and gave speech to the tongues of a new-born people.**

### The Epistle Lesson – Romans 13:8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Hymn – *Bind Us Together (we sit)*

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken. Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, bind us together with love. There is only one God; there is only one King. There is only one body; that is why we sing: Bind us together . . .

### The Gospel Lesson – Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus said, “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

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 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

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; 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 (*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 Labor Day (*BCP 261*)

Almighty God, you have so linked our lives one with another that all we do affects, for good or ill, all other lives: So guide us in the work we do, that we may do it not for self alone, but for the common good; and, as we seek a proper return for our own labor, make us mindful of the rightful aspirations of other workers, and arouse our concern for those who are out of work; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **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: *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* (*we sit*)

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heav'n to earth come down: fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown. Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be; let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee. Changed from glory into glory, 'til in heav'n we take our place; 'til we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

## 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, Dezel 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 Clergy and people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church; the Commission on Spirituality; Daughters of the King; and Pilgrims and Staff of Cursillo #224.

## 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.**

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*)

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<b>Serving at Epiphany this week:</b>	<b>And next:</b>
Lay reader: Lee Borden	Lay reader: Suzy Wilson
Grounds: Jimmy and Betty Weldon	