

Your holy people standing washed in your
blood, spirit-filled yet hungry we await your
food.

From our communion hymn

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Eucharist
September 13, 2020, 9:30 am

We worship today according to the Holy Eucharist: Rite Two, beginning on
page 355 of the Book of Common Prayer. Congregational responses are in **boldface type**.

The Word of God

*We will observe silence together to prepare for worship, which begins
with the ringing of the bell. We stand.*

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our
hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may
perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name;
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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 Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

O God, because without you we are not able to please you,
mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct
and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons (*we sit*)

The First Lesson – Exodus 14:19-31

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army
moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud
moved from in front of them and took its place behind
them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of
Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it
lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord
drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and
turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided.
The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters
forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The
Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of
Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the
morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud
looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the
Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels
so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let
us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them
against Egypt."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over
the sea, so that the water may come back upon the
Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So
Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the
sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled
before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The
waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot
drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them
into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites
walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming
a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians;
and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel
saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians.
So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and
in his servant Moses.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Psalm 114

Hallelujah!

When Israel came out of Egypt,
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,
**Judah became God's sanctuary
and Israel his dominion.**

The sea beheld it and fled;
Jordan turned and went back.

**The mountains skipped like rams,
and the little hills like young sheep.**

What ailed you, O sea, that you fled?
O Jordan, that you turned back?

**You mountains, that you skipped like rams?
you little hills like young sheep?**

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,
at the presence of the God of Jacob,
**Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.**

The Epistle Lesson – Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Hymn: *Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive*

"Forgive our sins as we forgive," you taught us, Lord, to pray; but you alone can grant us grace to live the words we say. Lord cleanse the depths within our souls, and bid resentment cease; then, reconciled to God and man, our lives will spread your peace.

The Gospel – Matthew 18:21-35 (*we stand*)

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to You, Lord Christ.

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, Lord Christ.

We sit.

Sermon

The Rev. Lee Lowery

The Nicene Creed (*we stand*)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People (Form VI, page 392 BCP)
(*We stand or kneel*)

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; for Kee and Glenda, our bishops; for Lee, our priest, and for all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.

We pray for **Dennis Harper, Larry Sharpton, Dezel Oliver, Tom Haynie, Beth Hall, Mike Dickey, Ellen Solomon, Joan Ashurst Miller, Caleb Hart, Bobby Perkins, Jere Van Etten**, and the others we now name. (*We add our own petitions*).

Silence

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence. The People may add their own thanksgivings.

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence. The People may add their own petitions.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence may be kept.

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Celebrant concludes with an absolution or a suitable Collect.

The Offertory

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.

Hymn: *Take Our Bread (we sit)*

Take our bread, we ask you; take our hearts, we love you; take our lives, oh Father, we are yours, we are yours. Yours as we stand at the table you set; yours as we eat the bread our hearts can't forget. We are the sign of your life with us yet, we are yours, we are yours.

Take our bread, we ask you; take our hearts, we love you; take our lives, oh Father, we are yours, we are yours. Your holy people standing washed in your blood, spirit filled yet hungry we await your food. We are poor, but we've brought ourselves the best that we could; we are yours, we are yours.

Take our bread, we ask you; take our hearts, we love you; take our lives, oh Father, we are yours, we are yours.

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

(Eucharistic Prayer A, BCP p 361) (we stand)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

(The priest says a Proper Preface)

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

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

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We stand or kneel

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior

Christ has taught us,

we are bold to say,

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.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. We keep a period of silence.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Being careful to maintain social distance and keeping our faces covered, we approach the table. Each of us takes a plate and returns to his or her seat. We consume the wafer when we are back in our seats.

After Communion, we stand or kneel.

Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

(Following the service, please place your plate in the receptacle provided.)

Serving at Epiphany this week:

Ushers: Lee and Amanda Borden
Altar Guild: Lee Borden
Lay Reader: Suzy Wilson

And next:

Ushers: Lee and Amanda Borden
Altar Guild: Lee Borden
Lay Reader: Kathy Haynie