

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit,
but in humility regard others as better than
yourselves.

Philippians 2:3

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Eucharist
September 27, 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, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing
mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we,
running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your
heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and
ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons (*we sit*)

The First Lesson – Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the
Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They
camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to
drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us
water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with
me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there
for water; and the people complained against Moses and said,
"Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children
and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord,
"What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to
stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the
people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in
your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I
will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb.
Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people
may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.
He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites
quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us
or not?"

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

**Hear my teaching, O my people;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.
That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us,
we will not hide from their children.
We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord,
and the wonderful works he has done.
He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers,
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.
He split open the sea and let them pass through;
he made the waters stand up like walls.
He led them with a cloud by day,
and all the night through with a glow of fire.
He split the hard rocks in the wilderness
and gave them drink as from the great deep.
He brought streams out of the cliff,
and the waters gushed out like rivers.**

The Epistle Lesson – Philippians 2:1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,

but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death--
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,

so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Hymn: *All Praise To Thee*

All praise to thee, for thou, O King divine, didst yield the glory that of right was thine, that in our darkened hearts thy grace might shine, Alleluia!

Let every tongue confess with one accord in heaven and earth that Jesus Christ is Lord; and God the Father be by all adored. Alleluia!

The Gospel – Matthew 21:23-32 (*we stand*)

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

Glory to You, Lord Christ.

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one

question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

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.**

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 Offertory

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Hymn: *Lord, I Lift Your Name On High (we sit)*

Lord, I lift your name on high; Lord, I love to sing your praises. I'm so glad you're in my life; I'm so glad you came to save us. You came from heaven to earth to show the way, from the earth to the cross, my debt to pay; from the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky; Lord, I lift your name on high.

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. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

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.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

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

We are delighted to report that Epiphany will receive a grant of \$15,000 from the Alabama Coronavirus Relief Fund, to help us defray the expenses of responding to the pandemic. We all owe a huge debt of gratitude to Amanda Borden and Betty Weldon for their hard work in developing the grant request and answering the many questions it prompted.

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| Serving at Epiphany this week: | And next: |
| Altar Guild: Elizabeth Harber | Altar Guild: Lee Borden |
| Lay Reader: Betty Weldon | Lay Reader: Suzy Wilson |
| | Grounds: Jimmy and Betty Weldon |