

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say,  
Rejoice.

Philippians 4:4

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany  
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Holy Eucharist  
October 11, 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

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow  
us, that we may continually be given to good works; 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 32:1-14

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from  
the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to  
him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for

this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of  
Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." Aaron said  
to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your  
wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me."  
So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and  
brought them to Aaron. He took the gold from them, formed  
it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, "These  
are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land  
of Egypt!" When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it;  
and Aaron made proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be  
a festival to the Lord." They rose early the next day, and  
offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being;  
and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

The Lord said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people,  
whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted  
perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way  
that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an  
image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and  
said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out  
of the land of Egypt!'" The Lord said to Moses, "I have seen  
this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so  
that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume  
them; and of you I will make a great nation."

But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, "O Lord, why  
does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you  
brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a  
mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil  
intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains,  
and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from  
your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster  
on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your  
servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to  
them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven,  
and all this land that I have promised I will give to your  
descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" And the Lord  
changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring  
on his people.

The word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23

Hallelujah!

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, \*  
for his mercy endures for ever.

**Who can declare the mighty acts of the Lord \*  
or show forth all his praise?**

Happy are those who act with justice \*  
and always do what is right!

**Remember me, O Lord, with the favor you have for your people, \*  
and visit me with your saving help;**

That I may see the prosperity of your elect  
and be glad with the gladness of your people, \*  
that I may glory with your inheritance.

**We have sinned as our forebears did; \*  
we have done wrong and dealt wickedly.**

Israel made a bull-calf at Horeb \*  
and worshiped a molten image;  
And so they exchanged their Glory \*  
for the image of an ox that feeds on grass.

**They forgot God their Savior, \*  
who had done great things in Egypt,**

Wonderful deeds in the land of Ham, \*  
and fearful things at the Red Sea.

**So he would have destroyed them,  
had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, \***

**to turn away his wrath from consuming them.**

The Epistle Lesson – Philippians 4:1-9

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

The word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

Hymn: *Rejoice, the Lord is King*

Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore! Mortals, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore. Lift up your heart! Lift up your voice! Rejoice again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope! Our Lord the Judge shall come, and take his servants up to their eternal home. Lift up your heart! Lift up your voice! Rejoice again I say, rejoice!

The Gospel – Matthew 22:1-14 (*we stand*)

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

**Glory to You, Lord Christ.**

Once more Jesus spoke to the people in parables, saying: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

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

I appeal to you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Hymn: *My God, Thy Table Now Is Spread (we sit)*

My God, thy table now is spread, thy cup with love doth overflow; be all thy children thither led, and let them thy sweet mercies know.

Nor let thy spreading Gospel rest till through the world thy truth has run, till with this Bread shall all be blessed who see the light or feel the sun.

## 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. For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world.

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.*

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#### **Serving at Epiphany this week:**

Altar Guild: Suzy Wilson  
Lay Reader: Amanda Borden

#### **And next:**

Altar Guild: Betty Weldon  
Lay Reader: Lee Borden  
Grounds: Lee Borden and Darrell Wilson