

But we were gentle among you, like a nurse  
tenderly caring for her own children.

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany  
Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost  
Holy Eucharist  
October 25, 2020, 9:30 am

1 Thessalonians 2:7b

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

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith,  
hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise,  
make us love what you command; 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 – Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to  
the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the Lord  
showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, all Naphtali,  
the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far  
as the Western Sea, the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the  
valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar. The  
Lord said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to  
Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your  
descendants’; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall  
not cross over there.” Then Moses, the servant of the Lord,  
died there in the land of Moab, at the Lord’s command. He  
was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor,  
but no one knows his burial place to this day. Moses was one  
hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was  
unimpaired and his vigor had not abated. The Israelites wept  
for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of  
mourning for Moses was ended.

Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because  
Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed  
him, doing as the Lord had commanded Moses.

Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses,  
whom the Lord knew face to face. He was unequaled for all  
the signs and wonders that the Lord sent him to perform in  
the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his  
entire land, and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying  
displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all  
Israel.

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

### Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17

Lord, you have been our refuge  
from one generation to another.

**Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or the land and the earth were born,  
from age to age you are God.**

You turn us back to the dust and say,  
“Go back, O child of earth.”

**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday  
when it is past  
and like a watch in the night.**

You sweep us away like a dream;  
we fade away suddenly like the grass.

**In the morning it is green and flourishes;  
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

Return, O Lord; how long will you tarry?  
be gracious to your servants.

**Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;  
so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.  
Make us glad by the measure of the days that you  
afflicted us  
and the years in which we suffered adversity.**

Show your servants your works  
and your splendor to their children.

**May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us;  
prosper the work of our hands;  
prosper our handiwork.**

### The Epistle Lesson – 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

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

### Hymn: *O God Our Help in Ages Past*

O God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast and our eternal home.

Time, like an ever rolling stream, bears all our years away; they fly, forgotten as a dream dies at the opening day.

### The Gospel – Matthew 22:34-46 (*we stand*)

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

**Glory to You, Lord Christ.**

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your

neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

"The Lord said to my Lord,  
"Sit at my right hand,  
until I put your enemies under your feet"?"

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

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, and for all those who came to Beans and Rice yesterday seeking food for their families.  
**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, Maurice McCord**, Walden, 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: *How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place (we sit)*

How lovely is thy dwelling place, O Lord of hosts, to me! My thirsty soul desires and longs within thy courts to be; my very heart and flesh cry out, O Living God, for thee.

One day within thy courts excels a thousand spent away; how happy they who keep thy laws nor from thy precepts stray, for thou shalt surely bless all those who live the words they pray.

## 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.**

### **Joys and Concerns of the Congregation**

### **The Peace**

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

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

---

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

Altar Guild: Lee Borden  
Lay Reader: Suzy Wilson

#### **And next:**

Altar Guild: Pam Van Etten  
Lay Reader: Pam Van Etten