

Love shall be our token; love be yours and  
love be mine . . .

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany  
Second Sunday after Christmas  
Holy Eucharist  
January 3, 2021, 10:30 a.m.

From our second hymn

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, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully  
restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share  
the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our  
humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and  
ever. **Amen.**

## The Lessons (*we sit*)

The First Lesson – Jeremiah 31:7-14

**T**hus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;  
proclaim, give praise, and say,  
"Save, O LORD, your people,  
the remnant of Israel."

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,  
Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  
among them the blind and the lame, those with child and  
those in labor, together;  
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,  
and with consolations I will lead them back,

I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;

for I have become a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,  
and declare it in the coastlands far away;

say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,  
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,  
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of  
the LORD,

over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and over the young of the flock and the herd;  
their life shall become like a watered garden,  
and they shall never languish again.

Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,  
and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy,  
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,  
says the LORD.

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

## Psalm 84

**H**ow dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts!  
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of  
the LORD;  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

**The sparrow has found her a house  
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young;  
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts,  
my King and my God.**

Happy are they who dwell in your house!  
they will always be praising you.

**Happy are the people whose strength is in you!  
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.**

Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place  
of springs,  
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

**They will climb from height to height,  
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.**

LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer;  
hearken, O God of Jacob.

**Behold our defender, O God;  
and look upon the face of your Anointed.**

For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my  
own room,  
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God  
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.

**For the LORD God is both sun and shield;  
he will give grace and glory;**

No good thing will the LORD withhold  
from those who walk with integrity.

**O LORD of hosts,  
happy are they who put their trust in you!**

The Epistle Lesson – Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

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

## Hymn: *Unto Us a Boy is Born (we sit)*

Unto us a boy is born! The King of all creation, came he to a world forlorn, the Lord of every nation.

Herod then with fear was filled; "A prince," he said, "in Jewry!" All the little boys he killed at Bethlehem in his fury.

Now may Mary's son, who came so long ago to love us, lead us all with hearts aflame unto the joys above us.

The Gospel – Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23 (*we stand*)

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

**Glory to You, Lord Christ.**

**A**fter the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

*We sit.*

Sermon

Mike Harber

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.**

The Prayers of the People (Form IV, page 388, BCP)

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, you have given your only begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born at Christmas of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Offertory

But do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

*Hymn – Love Came Down at Christmas (we sit)*

Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine; love was born at Christmas: star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead, love incarnate, love divine; worship we our Jesus, but wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine, love to God and neighbor, love for plea and gift and sign.

## The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

*(Eucharistic Prayer B, BCP p 367) (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. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

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 give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world.

In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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 in the name of Christ.  
**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*

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**Serving at this week:**

Altar Guild: Betty Weldon  
Lay Reader: Laura Williams

**And next:**

Altar Guild: Pam Van Etten  
Lay Reader: Betty Weldon