

The Lord lifts up the lowly
but casts the wicked to the ground.

Psalm 147:6

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany
Last Sunday after the Epiphany
Holy Eucharist
February 14, 2021, 10:30 a.m.

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 before the passion of your only-begotten Son
revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we,
beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be
strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness
from glory to glory; 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 – 2 Kings 2:1-12

When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a
whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal.
Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as
far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you
yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to
Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came
out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today
the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said,
"Yes, I know; keep silent."

Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent
me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you
yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho.
The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to
Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today
the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he
answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me
to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you
yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went
on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood
at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the
Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck
the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other,
until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I
may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said,
"Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He
responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as
I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will
not." As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire
and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah
ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and
crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its
horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped
his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 50:1-6

The LORD, the God of gods, has spoken;
he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its
setting.

**Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty,
God reveals himself in glory.**

Our God will come and will not keep silence;
before him there is a consuming flame,
and round about him a raging storm.

**He calls the heavens and the earth from above
to witness the judgment of his people.**

"Gather before me my loyal followers,
those who have made a covenant with me
and sealed it with sacrifice."

**Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause;
for God himself is judge.**

The Epistle Lesson – 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn – Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ the true, the only Light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise! Triumph over the shades of night:
Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.

Visit then this soul of mine! Pierce the gloom of sin and grief!
Fill me, radiance divine; scatter all my unbelief; more and more
thyself display, shining to the perfect day.

The Gospel – Mark 9:2-9 (*we stand*)

**The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
Glory to You, Lord Christ.**

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to You, Lord Christ.

Wesit.

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.**

The Prayers of the People (Form II, page 385, BCP)

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for
Michael, our presiding bishop, Glenda, our Bishop, Lee, our
priest, this gathering; and all ministers and people.

Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and
for the well-being of all people.

Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.

Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him.

Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all the departed.

Pray for those who have died.

Silence

I ask your prayers for **Bobby Perkins, Jere Van Etten, Joe Herring, Andrus Love, Lacey Brewer, Rice Jacobs, Mike and Jayne Oniffrey**, and the others we now name.

Silence. We raise here requests for specific prayers and thanksgivings.

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence

Almighty God, we humbly ask that we all may by the intercession of your martyr the blessed St Valentine be delivered from all evils that beset us. Hear the prayers of your people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Offertory

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

Hymn: *Christ Upon the Mountain Peak*

Christ upon the mountain peak stands alone in glory blazing; let us, if we dare to speak, with the saints and angels praise him. Alleluia!

This is God's beloved Son! Law and prophets fade before him; first and last and only One, let creation now adore him! Alleluia!

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 in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

Our Ash Wednesday worship service will be **at noon** on Wednesday, February 17. As is our usual approach for worship services, Lee will let us know by 8:00 pm the night before whether the service will be outside (and also on Facebook Live) or exclusively on Zoom.

Serving at this week: Altar Guild: Betty Weldon Lay Reader: Kathy Haynie	On Ash Wednesday: Altar Guild: Pam Van Etten Lay Reader: Pam Van Etten	And Sunday, Feb 21: Altar Guild: Cathy Jones Lay Reader: Betty Weldon
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