

If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

Mark 8:34b

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany  
Second Sunday in Lent  
Holy Eucharist  
February 28, 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

*Our worship begins with the ringing of the bell. We stand.*

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.  
**His mercy endures for ever.**

### The Decalogue

Hear the commandments of God to his people:  
I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage.  
You shall have no other gods but me.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not make for yourself any idol.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Honor your father and your mother.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not commit murder.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not commit adultery.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not steal.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not be a false witness.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

### The Collect of the Day

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## The Lessons (*we sit*):

### The First Lesson – Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 22:22-30

**Praise the LORD, you that fear him;  
stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel;  
all you of Jacob's line, give glory.**

For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;  
neither does he hide his face from them;  
but when they cry to him he hears them.

**My praise is of him in the great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who  
worship him.**

The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
and those who seek the LORD shall praise him:  
"May your heart live for ever!"

**All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to  
the LORD,  
and all the families of the nations shall bow before  
him.**

For kingship belongs to the LORD;  
he rules over the nations.

**To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in  
worship;  
all who go down to the dust fall before him.**

My soul shall live for him;  
my descendants shall serve him;  
they shall be known as the LORD'S for ever.

**They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn  
the saving deeds that he has done.**

#### The Epistle Lesson – Romans 4:13-25

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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

#### *Hymn – Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Come, thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace! Streams of mercy never-ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above. Praise the mount! Oh, fix me on it, mount of God's unchanging love.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be! Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee: prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my heart, oh, take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

#### The Gospel – Mark 8:31-38 (*we stand*)

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

**Glory to You, Lord Christ.**

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

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.**

The Prayers of the People (Form I, page 383, BCP)

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For our Bishops, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For Tallassee, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For seasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who travel on land, on water, or in the air, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For Joe Herring, Andrus Love, Rice Jacobs, Jayne Oniffrey, and the others we now name. (*Silence for us to add our own petitions*). Let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Defend us, deliver us, and in thy compassion protect us, O Lord, by thy grace.

**Lord, have mercy.**

In the communion of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

**To thee, O Lord our God. (Silence)**

Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask: Help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn: *The Old Rugged Cross*

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame; and I love that old cross where the dearest and best, for a world of lost sinners was slain. So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down. I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it someday for a crown.

Oh, that old rugged cross so despised by the world has a wondrous attraction for me; for the dear lamb of God left his glory above to bear it to dark Calvary. (Chorus.)

The Offertory

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts.

## The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

(*Eucharistic Prayer C, BCP p 369*) (*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.**

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

**Glory to you for ever and ever.**

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

**By your will they were created and have their being.**

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

**Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to

fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.  
**By his blood, he reconciled us.**  
**By his wounds, we are healed.**

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus,  
with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in  
every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim  
with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

**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.**

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and  
made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before  
you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the  
Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing,  
broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to  
you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

**We celebrate his death and resurrection,  
as we await the day of his coming.**

Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers; God of Abraham and  
Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, and Jacob and Rachel; God and  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your  
hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the  
presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not  
for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the  
grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit  
in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

**Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ  
our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation  
to generation. **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*

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
**Therefore let us keep the feast.**

The gifts of God for the people of God.

*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 bless the Lord.  
**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: Elizabeth Harber  
Lay Reader: Laura Williams

**And next:**

Altar Guild: Lee Borden  
Lay Reader: Amanda Borden