

Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

Psalm 51:8

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany
Fifth Sunday in Lent
Holy Eucharist
March 21, 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

Now that we are worshiping indoors, we must be careful to keep our responses at an extremely low volume and to avoid singing out loud. Let's all cooperate to keep everyone safe.

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.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. 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 Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; 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 – Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 51:1-13

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness;

in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

Wash me through and through from my wickedness
and cleanse me from my sin.

**For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.**

Against you only have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight.

**And so you are justified when you speak
and upright in your judgment.**

Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,
a sinner from my mother's womb.

**For behold, you look for truth deep within me,
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.**

Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

**Make me hear of joy and gladness,
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquities.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your holy Spirit from me.

**Give me the joy of your saving help again
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

The Epistle Lesson – Hebrews 5:5-10

Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

"You are my Son,
today I have begotten you";

as he says also in another place,

"You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek."

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Now that we are indoors, lyrics to the hymns are provided for silent meditation, not for singing out loud.

Hymn – *Ah, Holy Jesus*

Ah, Holy Jesus, how hast thou offended, that man to judge thee hath in hate pretended? By foes derided, by thine own rejected, O most afflicted.

Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay thee, I do adore thee, and will ever pray thee, think on thy pity and thy love unswerving, not my deserving.

The Gospel – John 12:20-33 (*we stand*)

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

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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 Rice Jacobs, Jayne Oniffrey, Tom and Laura Taylor, Andrus Love, Bubba Pasley, and the others we now name. (Silence for us to add our own petitions). Let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.**

For all those who came to Beans & Rice at Epiphany yesterday seeking food for their families, 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)

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you:" Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. Amen.

The Offertory

I beseech 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: *What Wondrous Love Is This*

What wondrous love is this, oh my soul, oh my soul! What wondrous love is this, oh my soul! What wondrous love is this that caused by the Lord of bliss to lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul, to lay aside his crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to God and to the Lamb, I will sing. To God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM, while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing, while millions join the theme I will sing.

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:	And next:
Altar Guild: Betty Weldon	Altar Guild: Pam Van Etten
Lay Reader: Kathy Haynie	Lay Reader: Suzy Wilson