

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved
you; abide in my love.

John 15:9

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany
Sixth Sunday of Easter
Holy Eucharist
May 9, 2021, 10:30 am

We worship today according to the appointed order for the Holy Eucharist, beginning on
page 355 of the Book of Common Prayer. Congregational responses are in **boldface type**.

Our worship begins with the ringing of the bell.

Liturgy of the Word

Alleluia, Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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.**

Hymn – *Lord Be Glorified*

In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.

In my life, Lord, be glorified today.

In my song, Lord . . .

In your church, Lord . . .

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good
things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts
such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and
above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all
that we can desire; 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 – Acts 10:44-48

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all
who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had
come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy
Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they
heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then
Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing
these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we
have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of
Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 98

Sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.

**With his right hand and his holy arm
has he won for himself the victory.**

The LORD has made known his victory;
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the
nations.

**He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house
of Israel,
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of
our God.**

Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

**Sing to the Lord with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.**

With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the King, the LORD.

**Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it,
the lands and those who dwell therein.**

Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,
when he comes to judge the earth.

**In righteousness shall he judge the world
and the peoples with equity.**

The Epistle - 1 John 5:1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born
of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child.
By this we know that we love the children of God, when we
love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God
is this, that we obey his commandments. And his
commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of
God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers
the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the
one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ,
not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And
the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn – *New Songs of Celebration Render (we sit)*

New songs of celebration render to him who has great wonders done; awed by his love his foes surrender and fall before the Mighty One. He has made known his great salvation which all his friends with joy confess; he has revealed to every nation his everlasting righteousness.

Rivers and seas and torrents roaring, honor the Lord with wild acclaim; mountains and stones look up adoring and find a voice to praise his Name. Righteous, commanding, ever-glorious, praises be his that never cease; just is our God, whose truth victorious establishes the world in peace.

The Gospel – John 15:9-17 (*we stand*)

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

Glory to You, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to his disciples, “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

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 IV, page 388, BCP) (*we stand or kneel*)

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, especially **Andrus Love, Bubba Pasley, Colin Strevy, Tom Haynie, Debra Davis**, and the others we now name. (*Silence for us to add our own petitions*). 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, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whom all our intercessions are acceptable through the Spirit, and who lives and reigns for ever and 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 Divine, All Loves Excelling* (we sit)

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come
down, fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies
crown. Jesus, thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love
thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling
heart.

Finish then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be; let
us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee; changed
from glory into glory, 'til in heaven we take our place; 'til we
cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

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. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious
resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the
true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken
away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death,
and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting
life.

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:

Sanctus.....S 125

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. A period of silence is kept.

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

The gifts of God for the people of God.

After Communion, the people 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

Alleluia, Alleluia. Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

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 in the narthex.

Serving at Epiphany this week:

Altar Guild: Elizabeth Harber
Lay reader: Pam Van Etten

And next:

Altar Guild: Lee Borden
Lay reader: Betty Weldon