



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE

EPIPHANY

February 21, 2021

**The First Sunday
in Lent**

Ante-Communion Rite II

The People's responses are in bold.

Priest / Preacher: The Rev. Lynn Perkins

Deacon: The Rev. Janetta Beaumont

Deacon-Intern: Dale Gallup

Music: Charly Spining and Mary Anne Bruner

Reader: Betsy Ann Suter

Welcome Prayer

Holy Spirit, living within us, guide our hearts and minds as we welcome today all those who worship with us at Epiphany. Give us discerning hearts so that everyone feels welcomed in the spirit of your love. Help us to recognize each person as an individual sent by you who will enrich our lives. And most of all, O God, let our hearts be a place of love and acceptance of all your children; in the name of your child our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Decalogue: Contemporary

Deacon 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.

All **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Deacon You shall not make for yourself any idol.

All **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

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

All **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Deacon Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.

All **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Deacon Honor your father and your mother.

All **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Deacon You shall not commit murder.

All **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Deacon You shall not commit adultery.

All **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Deacon You shall not steal.

All **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Deacon You shall not be a false witness.

All **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Deacon You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

All **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Celebrant Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these."

The Word of God

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People **His mercy endures for ever.**

Priest 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.

People **Amen.**

Kyrie

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

The Collect of the Day

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest Let us pray.

All **Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

The Lessons

Genesis 9:8-17

Reader A reading from the book of Genesis.

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 25:1-9

Reader Please join with me in reading the appointed Psalm for today.

**To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
Show me your ways, O Lord, *
and teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.**

Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.
Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.
Gracious and upright is the Lord; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.
All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

The Holy Gospel

Mark 1:9-15

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

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

The Rev. Lynn Perkins

I have decided to follow Jesus

Lift Every Voice and Sing 136

1 I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus; I have de -
 2 Though none go with me, still I will fol - low; though none go
 3 The world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me, the world be -

cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus; I have de - cid - ed to fol - low
 with me, still I will fol - low; though none go with me, still I will
 hind me, the cross be - fore me, the world be - hind me, the cross be -

Je - sus;
 fol - low;
 fore me;

no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.

Nicene Creed

Deacon Let us affirm our faith by saying together the words of the Nicene Creed.

All 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

Prayers of the People

Reader O God, our Rock and our Salvation, You call us through Prophets, Gospels, and Teachers, and the Voice of the Holy Spirit within, to come as we are to follow the path of Christ's Good News. Let us, in the fleeting breath of our human existence: hear again, trust, repent, and leave our nets to Your care, turning our hearts toward Yours to accept and thrive in Your steadfast love.

Reader Gracious, Merciful Lord,
People **We put our trust in You.**

Reader O God, our Rock and our Salvation, grant us continuing courage to walk the path of discipleship and call to account the leaders of this World, this Country, and this Community. As we strive to establish more justice, mercy, and peace, and other ways of enhancing the lives of all Your People, let us strive equally to eliminate all actions that diminish them. We pray especially for...

Please add your own petitions.

We pause before saying,

Reader Gracious, Merciful Lord,
People **We put our trust in You.**

Reader O God, our Rock and our Salvation, sustain the hope for all laid low by chronic or terminal illness, homelessness, or despair; and encourage the hearts of all those who provide support. We now join our hearts together to pray for those in need... *Please add your own petitions.*

We pause before saying,

Reader Gracious, Merciful Lord,
People **We put our trust in You.**

Reader O God, our Rock and our Salvation, soothe the hearts of all who grieve as You receive our faithful departed with open arms, into Your everlasting love and light. We pray especially for... *Please add your own petitions.*

We pause before saying,

Reader Gracious, Merciful Lord,
People **We put our trust in You.**

Reader O God, our Rock and our Salvation, we pause in this moment to offer You our other heartfelt thanksgivings, intercessions, petitions, and memorials... *Please add your own petitions.*

We pause before saying,

Reader Gracious, Merciful Lord,
People **We put our trust in You.**

Reader O God, our Rock and our Salvation, we ask Your special favor upon all You have chosen to lead us in Your Church. Fill them with the words and actions that will cause us to re-think, re-work, and re-direct our lives toward You. We pray especially for... *Please add your own petitions.*

We pause before saying,

Reader Gracious, Merciful Lord,
People **We put our trust in You.**

Priest Most Holy and Loving God, You call us to go where we do not want to go, to do what we do not want to do, to be who we do not want to be. Grant us willingness to accept the hook of Your salvation and to become a humble, faith-filled lure as the fishers of people that Jesus asks us to be. We ask through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, who together with You, live and reign in the bliss of eternal life, One God, now and forever. **Amen.**

(<https://prayersofthepeople.blogspot.com>)

Confession of Sin

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All **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.**

Priest 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 Peace

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Lord's Prayer

Priest And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Deacon Let us join together in the Prayer for Spiritual Communion.

All In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I implore you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

(The Prayer Book for the Armed Services)

Blessing

Priest Artist of souls, you sculpted a people for yourself out of the rocks of wilderness and fasting. Help us as we take up your invitation to prayer and simplicity, that the discipline of these forty days may sharpen our hunger for the feast of your holy friendship, and whet our thirst for the living water you offer through Jesus Christ. And the blessing of our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer be with you all forevermore. **Amen.**

(<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/prayers.php?id=73>)

Dismissal

Deacon *Dismissal of their choice.*

People **Thanks be to God.**

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

Lift Every Voice and Sing 18

Swing low, sweet char - i - ot, — Com - ing for to car - ry me home.

The first system of music features a treble clef with a key signature of one flat and a 2/4 time signature. The melody for 'Swing Low, Sweet Chariot' is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment for 'Lift Every Voice and Sing' is written in the bass clef. The lyrics are: 'Swing low, sweet char - i - ot, — Com - ing for to car - ry me home.'

Swing — low, sweet char - i - ot, — Com - ing for to car - ry me home. **Fine**

The second system of music continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. It concludes with a double bar line and the word 'Fine' in the upper right corner. The lyrics are: 'Swing — low, sweet char - i - ot, — Com - ing for to car - ry me home.'



1. I looked o - ver Jor - dan, and what did I see
2. If you get there be fore I do,
3. The bright - est day that ev - er I saw
4. I'm some - times up and some - times down,



1. Com - ing for to car - ry me home. A band of an - gels
2. Com - ing for to car - ry me home. Tell all my friends I'm
3. Com - ing for to car - ry me home. When Je - sus wash'd my
4. Com - ing for to car - ry me home. But still my soul feels



1. com - ing af - ter me, Com - ing for to car - ry me home. O,
2. com - ing too, Com - ing for to car - ry me home. O,
3. sins a - way, Com - ing for to car - ry me home. O,
4. heaven - ly bound, Com - ing for to car - ry me home. O,



Closing Voluntary

O Sacred Head, Sore Wounded

David Hurd (b.1950)

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Virtual Coffee Hour: Coffee and Chat is an informal way to pop in and have a chat with your church community every Sunday at 10:30am! You can join the Zoom gathering by entering the Meeting ID: 989 0659 2488. The Password for the gathering is: 618030

Stations of the Cross: As part of our weekly prayers and devotions during Lent, we invite you to watch Virtual Stations of the Cross with us on Fridays, broadcast on both Facebook and Youtube beginning at 5:30 pm.

Love on the Fence: In these cold winter days, there are many who pass by our fence on Beaver Street who could use a pair of gloves, a scarf, or a hat. A simple outreach is to hang these items on the fence with a tag that reads, "Are you cold? Please wear these with our blessing." It is a small thing to let someone know that we care. If you want to participate in this please bring any or all of the items listed to the back porch outside the church office and place them in the bin marked, "On the Fence." They will be placed in a plastic bag, tagged, and hung on the fence; Bless someone's day!

The Mission and Outreach Committee would like to assist the Flagstaff Shelter Services for the next six weeks through the month of February. We found out that there several items that are regularly needed. You can drop them off on the back porch on the church in a container that says SHELTER SERVICE items. ITEMS: Gloves (any size), Soap(liquid or body wash), Hand soap, Over the counter pain meds (Tylenol, Advil, Ibuprofen), Cold flu and Allergy meds, Shampoo and Shampoo conditioner, Body lotion, Hand Lotion, Feminine Hygiene (panty liners, Pads, Tampons), Shaving cream, Razors, and Band-aids. The Mission and Outreach Committee will pick items up each week for six weeks.

How Will You Observe Lent this Year?

- When? February 17- April 4
- What? Exploring God, Creation, and the Cosmos through daily readings of Lent is Not Rocket Science
- How Much? \$5 for the booklet – available at the church office. There will be copies on the back porch, and you can leave your \$5 in the slot in the back

door. If you can't come pick up a copy, call the office (928-774-2911) and one of us will bring a copy to you.

- **What Else?** Join us by Zoom every Wednesday evening of Lent (beginning February 24) at 6:30 pm for a small group conversation about our reactions to the readings, what's going on in our lives this Lent, and whatever else comes up! Contact Priest Lynn to sign up: jonesmlynn@aol.com or 505-264-8241. You can join this gathering via Zoom using this Meeting ID: 870 1331 3082 and Passcode: 370617

Lenten Resource Materials: On the back porch of Epiphany are labeled containers containing Lenten resource materials. One container has free copies of the Forward Day by Day. The second contains other free Daily Lenten Devotions.

Would you like to be a part of history? A call for volunteers! We will improve fire protection and early detection under the nave of our beloved, historic church. For 108 years the floor joists under the nave have been exposed wood and are dry, presenting a fire risk. We will start a "do it ourselves" project at 8 AM on Monday March 8th, putting 5/8 inch fire rated sheetrock under the joists. The work will require crawling into the crawl space (which averages 4 feet clearance) and working overhead. We will work each day that week until the job is finished. The more hands we have, the quicker we will finish. Interested? If so, just show up in work clothes any day the week of Monday, March 8th. Tools and supplies will be provided. Questions can be directed to David Spence (928 380 5690) or to John Andrews (520 990 6484).

14th Annual Lay Leadership Weekend: The theme for the retreat this year is: "Finding Christ in Crisis" and we are looking forward to a wonderful time of fellowship and inspiration. New Bishop's Committee and Vestry members, including wardens, clerks and treasurers should make every effort to attend, and there is always the opportunity for those with experience to further hone their skills as well. Your Lay Leaders will have the opportunity to meet over Zoom with my Canon staff and attend workshops designed to help enhance the skills needed for various leadership roles. Our keynote presenter this year is Erin Weber-Johnson. Erin strives to root her work in practical theology while utilizing her experience in the nonprofit sector. Erin also currently serves as Primary Faculty of Project Resource, a national training program on stewardship for the Episcopal Church.

In 2017, she co-founded the Collective Foundation, which is currently working to address the gap in giving characteristics in faith communities of color. Her upcoming book, “Care and Crisis: Meditations on Faith and Philanthropy”, co-edited with Dr. Dustin Benac, will be available in spring of 2021. Erin holds a Master’s degree in Public Administration from New York University. She is a member of St. John the Evangelist Church in St. Paul, MN. This year’s conference is Friday, March 12– Saturday March 13, 2021. Because we are gathering via Zoom, the cost is only \$10. I strongly encourage you to send as many folks as possible! You can register for this gathering here: https://www.azdiocese.org/digital_faith/events/3184617