

Church of the Epiphany
Second Sunday in Lent, Year A
March 5, 2023
10:30 a.m.

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

This service leaflet is excerpted from the Book of Common Prayer (BCP), the red book located in the pew rack in front of you. If you prefer to use the BCP itself to aid your worship, all BCP page numbers are noted. Hymns and service music are from The Hymnal 1982, the blue book, and Wonder, Love, and Praise, the green book. Both are located in the pew rack in front of you. Service music is noted by an S in front of the number and can be found in the front of The Hymnal 1982, before the hymns.

(The worship service is live-streamed. Streaming and recording conclude at The Great Thanksgiving. Holy Communion is not recorded.)

Prelude: Leoni - F. Lubrich

Welcome and Announcements

THE WORD OF GOD
Book of Common Prayer, p. 355

Hymn: 401 The God of Abraham praise

The people standing, the Celebrant says

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

The people kneel.

THE DECALOGUE

Enriching Our Worship 1

Celebrant 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.

People **Lord, have mercy upon us,
And incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Celebrant You shall not make for yourself any idol.

People **Lord, have mercy upon us,
And incline our hearts to keep this law.**

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

People **Lord, have mercy upon us,
And incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Celebrant Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

People **Lord, have mercy upon us,
And incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Celebrant Honor your father and your mother.

People **Lord, have mercy upon us,
And incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Celebrant You shall not commit murder.

People **Lord, have mercy upon us,
And incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Celebrant You shall not commit adultery.

People **Lord, have mercy upon us,
And incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Celebrant You shall not steal.

People **Lord, have mercy upon us,
And incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Celebrant You shall not be a false witness.

People **Lord, have mercy upon us,
And incline our hearts to keep this law.**

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

People **Lord, have mercy upon us,
And write all these thy laws in our hearts,
we beseech you.**

The Kyrie is sung, all standing.

Kyrie: Lord, Have Mercy

Hymnal S 86

Setting: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd

Kyrie eleison (repeat 3 times)

Christe eleison (repeat 3 times)

Kyrie eleison (repeat 3 times)

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Priest-Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Priest-Celebrant faces the Holy Altar and says the Collect of the Day.

BCP 218

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.*

People **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

BCP 218

The people sit.

The Lessons, as appointed, are read. A Psalm, hymn, or anthem may follow each Reading.

Reader A Reading from Genesis [12:1-4(a)]

The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a

blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

Silence

Reader The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God.**

Reader The Psalm for today is Psalm 121 [*Levavi oculos*]
We will read responsively by whole verse.

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; *
from where is my help to come?
- 2 **My help comes from the LORD, ***
the maker of heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot be moved *
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
- 4 **Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel ***
shall neither slumber nor sleep;
- 5 The LORD himself watches over you; *
the LORD is your shade at your right hand,
- 6 **So that the sun shall not strike you by day, ***
nor the moon by night.
- 7 The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; *
it is he who shall keep you safe.
- 8 **The LORD shall watch over your going out and**
your coming in, *
from this time forth for evermore.

Reader A Reading from Romans [4:1-5, 13-17]

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say?

“Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as

righteousness.” Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

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.

Silence

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The people stand and sing the Cantic

Cantic 14

WLP 888

A Song of Penitence (*Kyrie Pantocrator*)

Prayer of Manasseh, 1-2, 4, 6-7, 11-15

Metrical rephrase

Then, all standing, the Priest-Celebrant reads the Gospel, first saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
According to John [3:1-17].

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

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

Silence

After the Gospel, the Priest-Celebrant says

The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE HOMILY

The Rev'd Kristin Wickersham

Silence

The people stand. The Priest-Celebrant and people say

THE NICENE CREED

BCP 358

**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,**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
Intercessions for Year A

Church Publishing

The Intercessor and people pray responsively

Intercessor Let us pray to the one who renews our life and restores our fortunes, as we respond, “Kyrie eleison.”

That we may be willing to make extraordinary journeys in response to the gospel, leaving behind old patterns of living, and embracing the new path that God is setting before us, knowing that he will watch over us and preserve us from the Evil One; let us pray.

People ***Kyrie eleison.***

Intercessor For the grace to recognize the power of envy and jealousy that reside in our hearts, and to dispel the demons that masquerade as their glory, trusting that God’s transforming hand will conform us to the Body of Christ; let us pray.

People ***Kyrie eleison.***

Intercessor That we may honor the worker, paying a fair wage for honest labor; let us pray.

People ***Kyrie eleison.***

Intercessor That we may see our salvation through the lens of faith, focusing on the endless mercy of Jesus Christ, through whom we have been justified and given the gift of everlasting life; let us pray.

People ***Kyrie eleison.***

Intercessor For all who have died, and for all who are afraid to die to

the memories which enslave them to the past, that stones may be removed from every tomb which keeps us from sharing in Christ's promise of abundant life; let us pray.

People ***Kyrie eleison.***

Intercessor That this Eucharistic Meal may strengthen us in our Lenten resolve to live more deeply into the heart of God's word; let us pray.

People ***Kyrie eleison.***

Intercessor That candidates for baptism and confirmation and their families may marvel at the presence of God throughout history and in the midst of our current age; let us pray.

People ***Kyrie eleison.***

Intercessor As a people born of water and the Spirit, let us join in the continuation of our prayers.

The Priest-Celebrant says

A COLLECT FOR THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

The Rt. Rev'd and Rt. Hon. The Lord Rowan Williams,
revised by The Rev'd Titus Presler.

Gracious God, we give you thanks for the gift of the world-wide Anglican Communion of churches: for the experience of belonging to all the ages, for the gift of thoughtful prayer that you have taught us, and for the task of reverent study to which you call us. We thank you for the love of worship you have stirred up in our hearts, and for the love of justice you have implanted in our wills. Remind us that you are with us in times of trouble as in times of joy; nurture in us thankful hearts when we stand together, and send your holy wisdom into our disagreements. In dispute, may we be gentle and loving; in unity, may we be humble; in poverty, nourish us with hope; in wealth, help us become responsible and generous. In flame us with prophetic vision so that our fellowship may bear the likeness of the incoming kingdom proclaimed for all by Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

--The Rt. Rev'd and Rt. Hon. The Lord Rowan Williams of Oystermouth,

revised by The Rev'd Titus Presler.

The Priest-Celebrant concludes with a suitable Collect.

THE COLLECT AT THE PRAYERS

BCP 394

Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Priest-Celebrant reads one of the sentences from the Penitential Order

BCP 352

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. *1 John 1:8,9*

The Deacon or Priest-Celebrant says

BCP 359

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence

The Priest-Celebrant and People say

**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.**

The Priest, stands and says

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

All stand.

The Priest-Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Then the Priest-Celebrant and people may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Then Priest-Celebrant says to the people

BCP 376

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

The people sit.

The people place their offerings and commitment / pledge cards into offering plates, which are brought to the altar as an offering to God, and blessed by the Priest-Celebrant.

Offertory Anthem: John 3:16 - M. Patch

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

The people stand.

The Priest-Celebrant faces them and says

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Then, facing the Holy Altar, the Priest-Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

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:

THE SANCTUS

Hymnal S-130

Priest-Celebrant and People

**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.

The people kneel.

Then the Priest-Celebrant continues

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.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

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:

Priest-Celebrant and People

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

The Priest-Celebrant continues

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.

People **AMEN.**

The Priest-Celebrant continues

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 364

People and Priest-Celebrant

**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 Priest-Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Facing the people, the Priest-Celebrant says the following Invitation

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

THE AGNUS DEI

Hymnal S-161

Setting: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.**

The Priest-Celebrant and ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.

How to Receive Communion and An Invitation to Baptism

All baptized Christians are invited to receive communion. If you would like to be Baptized and thereby enter into membership in the mystical Body of Christ, the Church, please contact Mother Kristin. If you do not wish to receive, you may come forward for a blessing, indicating this by crossing your arms over your chest.

At the altar rail, to receive the bread, lay your right hand in your left hand, palm open. To receive the wine, as the priest brings the chalice to your lips, gently touch the base of the chalice and help guide it.

We do not allow the practice of intinction, or dipping the bread into the consecrated wine. If you do not wish to receive the consecrated wine, please indicate this by crossing your arms over your chest. Although we encourage reception in both kinds, the grace of God present in the holy sacrament is fully available in the bread or the wine alone.

If you would like communion brought to you in your pew, please tell an usher and the priest will come to you.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

BCP 365

Celebrant The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven.

Communicant **Amen.**

Celebrant The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.

Communicant **Amen.**

The people join the choir in singing the hymns during Communion.

Hymn 337 And now, O Father, mindful of the love

Taizé Chant: Eat This Bread

**Eat this bread, drink this cup,
Come to him and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup,
Trust in him and you will not thirst.**

After Communion, the Priest-Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Priest-Celebrant and People

BCP 365

**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.**

SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE Book of Occasional Services p. 10

In Lent, in place of a seasonal blessing, a solemn Prayer over the People is used, as follows

Celebrant Bow down before the Lord.

The people kneel.

Celebrant Keep this your family, Lord, with your never-failing mercy, that relying solely on the help of your heavenly grace, they may be upheld by your divine protection; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn 473 Lift high the cross

THE DISMISSAL

The Priest-Celebrant dismisses the people.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

An Outline of the Faith
commonly called the Catechism

The Holy Scriptures

Q. What are the Holy Scriptures?

A. The Holy Scriptures, commonly called the Bible, are the books of the Old and New Testaments; other books, called the Apocrypha, are often included in the Bible.

Q. What is the Old Testament?

A. The Old Testament consists of books written by the people of the Old Covenant, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, to show God at work in nature and history.

Q. What is the New Testament?

A. The New Testament consists of books written by the people of the New Covenant, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, to set forth the life and teachings of Jesus and to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom for all people.

Q. What is the Apocrypha?

A. The Apocrypha is a collection of additional books written by people of the Old Covenant, and used in the Christian Church.

Q. Why do we call the Holy Scriptures the Word of God?

A. We call them the Word of God because God inspired their human authors and because God still speaks to us through the Bible.

Q. How do we understand the meaning of the Bible?

A. We understand the meaning of the Bible by the help of the Holy Spirit, who guides the Church in the true interpretation of the Scriptures.

The Church of the Epiphany

An Episcopal Church and member of the worldwide Anglican Communion

8000 Hermitage Road
Richmond, Virginia 23228
(804) 266-2503

Office Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday
9:00 a.m. – noon

The Rev'd Kristin P. R. Wickersham, Priest-in-Charge

Mrs. Anita Williams, Minister of Music

Mrs. Lucy Whitlock, Parish Administrator

Mr. Timon Kenyi, Sexton

Marty Shephard, Treasurer

The Vestry

Gray Corbett (Sr. Warden), Randy Holden (Jr. Warden),
Becky Card (Register), Scott Blackwell, Cory Isemann, Stacy Mitchell,
John Norris, John Sarvay, Jeri Townley

COMMUNICATION CARD
March 5, 2023

Welcome! You have blessed us with your presence. Please tell us how we can best serve you by completing the Communication Card.

Please place in the offering basket, hand it to an usher, or place on the table in the vestibule.

I'm looking for a church home
 I'd like to speak with a clergy member
 I'm ready to become a member
 I'm just visiting today

Name & Address Please update

Phone _____

Email _____

Children's names and ages


Please give me more information about:

Children's / Youth Programs
 Social events
 Outreach opportunities
 Classes and Small Group Studies
 Baptism or Confirmation
 How I can get involved

How did you hear about Epiphany?

(over)

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

New to the Prayer List: Jean Stone— John Stone's mother, Larry Hanko—Lucy Whitlock's brother, Dave Nichols — friend of Karen Holden 

Parishioners: Mike Young, Bob Jimerson, Fran LaVigne, Buddy Dunn, Milton Jenkins, Chip Dunn, Herb Williams, Marion Magruder, Martha Jenkins, John Sarvay

Homebound: Ray Hampton, Dot Hudson, Joyce Melton, Ina Stickel, and Irene Morris

Family & Friends: Lynn Selfe—friend of Gray & Frosine Corbett, David Thabet, Elizabeth Mickel,—relatives of Denise Russell and Sandy Ruder, Kelly & Steve Schaaf, Emily, Karen Rood—Jeri Anne Townley's sister, Melissa Matthews — friend of Kim Ludwig, Jack Nance, friend of Cheryl Lineberry, Judy Watson—Martha Jenkins niece & Marty Shephard & Sandy Tignor's cousin, Janie Dunnlevy—friend of Lucy & Wayne, Billy Callahan—friend of Karen Holden, Joanita Senoga—friend of Jeri Townley, Joan Church—Gail Wood's stepmother, Jean McDonough—Kim Ludwig & Karen Tucker's aunt, John, Marchelle Clarke —April Craver's mother, Donna Ludwig—Dwight Ludwig's mom, David Muse, Johnny Jorstad—Martha Jenkins son & Marty Shephard & Sandy Tignor's brother, Phyllis Lowell—Nancy Sonne sister, Tom Devol—friend of Cheryl Lineberry

Prayers for the departed:

CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

Today's Ministers
10:30 PM—Worship Service

Ushers: Becky Card, Frosine Corbett

Acolytes: Ginny Tucker, Kiden Kenji, Eric Ludwig

Lessons: Stacy Mitchell

Prayers of the People: Stacy Mitchell

Chalice: Stacy Mitchell

Sun. School Helper: Jennifer Jefcoats

Altar Guild: Kathy Jimerson, Fran LaVigne, Carol McElhinney

Coffee Hour: Gray & Frosine Corbett

Counters: Becky Card, Diana Stone

Weekly Worship
Sundays at 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.

Contact info:
The Rev. Kristin P. R. Wickersham, SOSc
Priest in Charge
Cell Phone: 804-502-1891

8000 Hermitage Road
804-266-2503

Office hours:
Tuesday—Thursday 9am-12noon
www.epiphanyepiscopal.com

The Church of the Epiphany
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Second Sunday in Lent
March 5, 2023



Welcome—we are glad you are here! Know that whoever you are, and where ever you are in your spiritual journey, you have a place here. If you are new, or haven't yet given us your contact information, please complete the attached communication card and place it in the plate so that you can learn more about Epiphany's community.

Introducing the Lessons

1st Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

This opening lesson is the story of God's call of Abraham (who was then known as Abram) to leave his own country and become the father of a great nation. Trusting in the Lord, Abram and his family forsake all that is familiar to them to set out for an unknown land. This story is a primary illustration of the way God acts in history by calling individuals to venture forth in faith.

2nd Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

In this lesson Paul describes Abraham as an individual who through faith found a right relationship with God. He is the father of all who trust in the Lord. Paul uses the example of Abraham as a centerpiece for his argument that righteousness with God comes through faith and not by words of the law. The promise given to Abraham and his descendants was not made because of good works or legal obedience. It rests on grace alone.

The Gospel: John 3:1-17

In our gospel story Nicodemus, one of the Pharisees, comes during the night to talk with Jesus. Nicodemus is a figure used by the evangelist to represent a type of person who wants to believe but has difficulty understanding spiritual realities. Jesus tells him that individuals cannot enter the kingdom of God unless they are born anew through water and the Spirit. The inner meaning of the passage partly turns on the fact that "born anew" can also be understood as "born from on high" and the same Greek word means both wind and spirit. Jesus then tells Nicodemus of the Son of Man come down from heaven who will be lifted up, both on the cross to die for the world and to return to heaven in glory.

On the Calendar and Coming up

Sun. March 5th
8:15 am Holy Eucharist
9:00 am Christian Formation, Walk in Love
10:30am— Holy Eucharist

7:30 pm—AA Meeting in parish hall

Tue. March 7th
7:00 pm—JRRingers

Wed. March 8th
12:00 noon —Holy Eucharist
6:00 pm—Bible Study

Thur. March 9th
6:15 pm—Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7:30 pm— Handbell Rehearsal

Fri. March 10th
7:30 pm —AA meeting in the parish hall

Sat. March 11th
Day Light Saving Begins: Be sure to set your clock ahead 1 hour before going to bed!

Sun. March 12th
8:15 am Holy Eucharist
9:00 am Christian Formation, Walk in Love
10:30 am—Holy Eucharist

7:30pm —AA meeting in the parish hall

News from the kitchen:

We will not have a Second Sunday lunch during the Lenten Season. Our next Second Sunday lunch will be the third Sunday of April, the week after Easter. We will be having a Brunch Lunch this day. We look forward to having you join us. We always have plenty of food, so invite your friends and family to join us that day.

The Woman's Breakfast will be on Sunday, May 7th. Mother's Day is the 14th and will have our Congregational meeting on the 21st.

June 11th will be our church picnic. Weather permitting, we will have tables and chairs set up outside. We will have hamburgers and hotdogs with sides.

Our Second Sunday lunches will then resume on Sept. 10th.

Please take a moment and sign up for a coffee hour.

April 16 -- Brunch lunch
May 7 -- Women's breakfast
May 14 -- Mother's Day, no coffee hour
May 21 -- Congregational meeting—followed by Sloppy Joes & fries
June 11 -- Church picnic

Lamb's Basket is in need of Jelly, Jams & Peanut Butter!

Attendance: February 26, 2023
8:15 am 3
10:30 am 75

Outreach Opportunities



The diaper ministry continues to hold diaper distribution on the third Saturday of each month from 10 am to 12:00 noon. This inspirational ministry has been touching families lives in our community since 2018 and continues to welcome new families each month. This ministry offers the parish an outreach opportunity to share God's love and develop relationships within our community. The most recent diaper distribution was held on February 18th. The next diaper distribution day is on March 18th. A sign-up sheet is on the outreach board in the parish hallway for anyone interested in volunteering. Donations of diapers (sizes 5 & 6) and wipes are also appreciated. Thank you again to everyone for your continued support of this ministry!



A copy of the **2023 homeless lunch schedule** is available on the bulletin board in the parish hallway if anyone would like a copy and a BIG thank you to the Green team for volunteering to take on the last month of 2023 for the homeless lunches. If anyone is interested in taking part in this ministry, ALL are welcome! Contact Mary Sam Abernathy (msabernathy88@gmail.com) or the team lead, for the team you are interested in helping. **The next lunches are scheduled to be prepared and delivered by the Vestry Team on April 1st.** Thanks and gratitude goes out to the Red team for preparing and delivering lunches on March 4th. A huge THANK YOU to everyone who continues to support this ministry that is currently in the 24th year! Donations of paper lunch bags, sandwich bags and napkins are always welcome as well and can be dropped at the church office. Additionally, if you have further questions or concerns, I am always available to answer any questions. Crystal Sarvay, Outreach Coordinator (crystalsarvay@gmail.com).



There are currently some needs within our elementary schools. They are requesting these items for their clinics for those students who may come in and find a special need during the day, which oftentimes does occur. These items include **boys and girl's pants with elastic waists, sizes 5 through 14 (sweat pant type) and children underwear sizes 5 through 14.** If anyone would like to donate any of these items, I will have a box in the parish hallway for them. These can be donated up through February 28th. Thank you so much!



Additionally, if anyone has found more coats since our coat drive that they would like to give away, please bring them in to church to donate. There are many children in need of warm coats within our county schools who would greatly appreciate them. Thank you so much!

*The love and kindness that our parish share is beyond amazing!
Love live here!*



COMMUNICATION CARD

March 5, 2023

Our Communication Card is for **all people at The Church of the Epiphany** so that you can share your thoughts and prayers, and request information.

If you are new, please complete the opposite side so we also have your contact information.

I'd like more information about an upcoming event or program

I am RSVPing or signing up for:

I am interested in learning more about how to be part of the following ministries or programs:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Greeters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Altar Guild | <input type="checkbox"/> Pastoral Care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Office help | <input type="checkbox"/> Readers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christian Ed | <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Team |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach | <input type="checkbox"/> Ushers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chalice Bearer | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Prayer Requests / Comments