

Church of the Epiphany

The Fourth Sunday in Lent, Year B
Laetare Sunday
March 10, 2024, 10:30 a.m.

The Holy Eucharist Rite II

according to

THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER 1979

Enriching Our Worship 1
and The Hymnal, 1982

Welcome to the Church of the Epiphany. The Anglican tradition values common prayer. Praying together shapes our faith, binds us together, and helps us grow closer to God. We invite you to pray with us today. Page numbers refer to the Book of Common Prayer, 1979 (the red book). Hymns noted with an S are in the frontmost section of The Hymnal, 1982 (the blue book).

*The half-hour before the Mass is a time of quiet prayer and preparation.
Please wait quietly for the service to begin.*

Please silence or turn off your electronic devices.

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” ~1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Prelude: Wondrous Love – C. Callahan

Welcome and Announcements

Hymn 473 Lift high the Cross

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 Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

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

BCP 219

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

The people sit.

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

Reader A Reading from Numbers [21:4-9]

From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the

wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence.

Directions for Reciting the Psalter

The Psalm is read Responsively, the minister alternating with the congregation, verse by verse. An asterisk divides each verse into two parts. In reading, a distinct pause should be made at the asterisk. The pause is long enough to take a breath as one silently says the Name of Jesus. Commas in Psalms are not observed with a pause; a pause is observed at semi-colons. The Psalms are best able to be said when the readers both lower the pitch and volume of their voice.

BCP 583

Reader The Psalm for today is a portion of
Psalm 107, *Confitemini Domino*
We will read responsively
by whole verse, pausing at the asterisks.

BCP 746

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, * *(pause)*
and his mercy endures for ever.

**2 Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed
proclaim * *(pause)*
that he redeemed them from the hand of the
foe.**

3 He gathered them out of the lands; * *(pause)*
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

17 Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; *

(pause)

they were afflicted because of their sins.

18 They abhorred all manner of food * *(pause)*

and drew near to death's door.

19 Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, *

(pause)

and he delivered them from their distress.

20 He sent forth his word and healed them * *(pause)*

and saved them from the grave.

21 Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy *

(pause)

and the wonders he does for his children.

22 Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving * *(pause)*

and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.

At the end of the Psalms is sung or said by All

THE GLORIA PATRI

BCP 406

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Reader A Reading from Ephesians [2:1-10]

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ-- by grace you have been saved-- and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God-- not the result of works, so that

no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The people stand for the Gospel procession

Hymn 533 How wondrous and great

Then, all standing, the Deacon or Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
According to John [3:14-21].

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

Jesus said, “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. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

The Rev'd Kristin Wickersham

Silence.

The people stand. The 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,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessions for the Christian People

The Celebrant may introduce the Prayers with a sentence of invitation related to the occasion, or the season, or the Proper of the Day.

The Intercessor and people pray responsively

Celebrant Embraced by God's word, let us intercede for all those in need, saying, Have mercy, O Lord.

Intercessor For the church, that our Lenten hunger may be for justice, and our thirst for deeds of justice, we pray:

People ***Have mercy, O Lord.***

Intercessor For the church, that Debrah and all those to be baptized at Easter may see through the dazzling attractions of sin and rejoice only in God's marvelous gift, we pray:

People ***Have mercy, O Lord.***

Intercessor For the community of nations, that the worth of every life may compel us on the way to solidarity and peace, we pray:

People ***Have mercy, O Lord.***

Intercessor For exiles and refugees, that all who are homeless because of war or hunger, because of the greed or hatred of others, because of disabilities, may find places of rest and kindness, we pray:

People ***Have mercy, O Lord.***

Intercessor For those who struggle with addictions, that they may find strength and love for the simple gifts of God, we pray:

People ***Have mercy, O Lord.***

Intercessor For this assembly, God's handiwork, that our steps be directed in ways of peace that lead us to the side of those the world despises, and that we name these rejected ones our brothers and sisters, we pray:

People **Have mercy, O Lord.**

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

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

BCP 359

A Confession of Sin is said here if it has not been said earlier. On occasion, the Confession may be omitted.

One of the sentences from the Penitential Order may be said.

BCP 359

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 Celebrant says

BCP 360

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All kneel. Silence is kept.

Minister and People

**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 Bishop when present, or 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 Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord

THE HOLY COMMUNION

*The Celebrant may begin the Offertory with some sentence of Scripture.
During the Offertory, a hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung.*

BCP 361

“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.” *John 3:16*

At the offertory, we gratefully offer back to God a portion of what God has given us, symbolically in the Bread and Wine and in the money we give. An offering is received to support Epiphany’s ministry of sharing God’s love. All are invited to make a thank offering as the plate is passed. The offerings are then brought to the altar to be blessed by the priest.

The people sit

Anthem: O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High – T.
Keesecker

*Representatives of the congregation bring the people’s offerings to the deacon or celebrant.
The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.*

BCP 361

Hymn 686 Come, thou fount of every blessing

Nettleton

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

*The people remain standing.
The 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 Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

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

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 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:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The 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 Celebrant continues

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 364

People and 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 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.**

**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.**

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

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

THE ADMINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All baptized Christians who come seeking the Body and Blood of Christ, who earnestly repent of their sins, are in love and charity with their neighbors, and intend to lead a new life following the commandments of God are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

All are welcome to come to the altar rail and receive a blessing from the priest. Indicate this at the rail by crossing both arms over your chest.

The Sacrament is celebrated using wheat bread and fortified fermented grape wine.

We do not permit intincting the Holy Sacrament, or dipping the bread into the consecrated wine. If, for any reason, you do not wish to receive the bread or the wine, please cross your arms as the minister approaches. Although we encourage reception in both kinds, the grace of God present in the Holy Sacrament is fully available in the Body or Blood alone.

You may stand or kneel to receive Communion. The consecrated Bread is received in the hand, the right hand laid flat and placed on top of the left. To receive the consecrated Wine, grasp only the base of the chalice and guide it to your lips.

If you would like Communion brought to you in your pew, please inform an usher.

If you have not been baptized and find yourself drawn to Jesus Christ and life in him, please let our clergy know. We would be honored to have a conversation with you about baptism or answer any other questions. Baptism and life in the Body of Christ is open to all.

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 685 Rock of ages

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 Celebrant says

Let us pray.

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 Look down in mercy, Lord, on your people who kneel

before you; and grant that those whom you have nourished by your Word and Sacraments may bring forth fruit worthy of repentance; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The people stand for the dismissal.

The Deacon, or the Celebrant, dismisses the people with these words

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 530 Spread, O spread, thou mighty word

An Outline of the Faith
commonly called the Catechism

The Ministry

Q. Who are the ministers of the Church?

A. The ministers of the Church are lay persons, bishops, priests, and deacons.

Q. What is the ministry of the laity?

A. The ministry of lay persons is to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be; and, according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church.

Q. What is the ministry of a bishop?

A. The ministry of a bishop is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as apostle, chief priest, and pastor of a diocese; to guard the faith, unity, and discipline of the whole Church; to proclaim the Word of God; to act in Christ's name for the reconciliation of the world and the building up of the Church; and to ordain others to continue Christ's ministry.

Q. What is the ministry of a priest or presbyter?

- A. The ministry of a priest is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as pastor to the people; to share with the bishop in the overseeing of the Church; to proclaim the Gospel; to administer the sacraments; and to bless and declare pardon in the name of God.
- Q. What is the ministry of a deacon?
- A. The ministry of a deacon is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as a servant of those in need; and to assist bishops and priests in the proclamation of the Gospel and the administration of the sacraments.
- Q. What is the duty of all Christians?
- A. The duty of all Christians is to follow Christ; to come together week by week for corporate worship; and to work, pray, and give for the spread of the kingdom of God.

Church of the Epiphany

An Episcopal Parish in the Diocese of Virginia
and part of the worldwide Anglican Communion

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

Office Hours:
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 12:00

Clergy and Staff

The Rt. Rev'd E. Mark Stevenson, D. Min. *h.c.*, Bishop Diocesan
The Rev'd Kristin P. R. Wickersham, SCP, Priest-in-Charge
The Rev'd Canon John F. Rice, D. Min., Retired Priest in Residence
Mr. Florian Jones-Stamm, Deacon Intern
Mrs. Anita Williams, Director of Music Ministries
Mrs. Lucy Whitlock, Parish Administrator
Mrs. Crystal Sarvay, R.N., Parish Nurse
Mr. Timon Kenyi, Sexton
Marty Shephard, Treasurer

Vestry

The Rev'd Kristin P. R. Wickersham, Presider
John Sarvay, Sr. Warden
Randy Holden, Jr. Warden
Jeri Townley, Register
Scott Blackwell, Gray Corbett, John Norris,
Mirendy Smith, Billy Tucker

Ministers

The ministers of the Church are all lay people, bishops, priests, and
deacons.

COMMUNICATION CARD
March 10, 2024

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: Dan & Donna Ludwig—Dwight Ludwig's parents 

Parishioners: Ray Hampton, Dot Hudson, Martha & Milton Jenkins, Fran LaVigne, Marion Magruder, Joyce Melton, Irene Morris, Mike Young, Shirley Hughson, Dottie Strabley, Chris Tignor, Jeannie Riddick, Oscar Aderholt, John Sarvay

Family & Friends: Marie Patterson—Crystal Sarvay's mother, Jean Stone—John Stone's mother, Melanie Goodpasture—Carol McElhinney's daughter, Ed Morrow—friend of Kathy Jimerson, Rush Middleton—friend of Kim & Dwight Ludwig, Karen Rood—sister of Jeri Townley, John Henry Rice—son of Fr. John & Mackie Rice, Johnny Jorstad—Martha Jenkins son & Marty Shephard & Sandy Tignor's brother, Linda Whitlock—sister-in-law of Wayne & Lucy Whitlock, Caitlin & Fr. Kyle Bomare & their family, Judy Watson—cousin of Marty Shephard & Sandy Tignor, John Burkhardt—Brother-in-law of Chris & Sandy Tignor, Jeri Ligon—David Skinner's sister

Prayers for the departed:

CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY **Today's Ministers**

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

Ushers: Scott Blackwell, Conny Barrett

Acolytes: Maura & Cora Whitlock

Lesson: Stephanie Norris

Prayers of the People: Florian Jones-Stamm


Chalice: Florian Jones-Stamm

Sun. School Helper:

Altar Guild: Carol McElhinney, Kathy Jimerson, Rosemary Arneson

Coffee Hour: Ellie & David Tuck

Counters: Becky Card, John Sarvay



The Church of the Epiphany

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 10, 2024

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 Lesson

1st Reading: Numbers 21:4-9

In our Hebrew Bible lesson the impatient Israelites set out from Mount Hor, where Aaron was buried, to detour around the hostile country of Edom. The people complain against God and Moses about challenging conditions, as they have so often since their departure from Egypt. God sends poisonous serpents among the people, and the people respond by repenting of their disobedience. The Lord instructs Moses to make a bronze serpent and set it on a pole so that any who are bitten may look upon this sign of God's faithfulness and live.

2nd Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10

This New Testament passage emphasizes the manner in which Christians have been saved by God's free gift. When we were dead in our sins, God raised us up with Christ that we might know the immeasurable riches of God's graciousness. Although we are saved by faith and not by our good deeds, we are now able to do the good works for which God has made us capable.

The Gospel: John 3:14 -21

In our gospel, the image of Moses lifting up the bronze serpent in the wilderness is metaphorically related to Jesus' lifting up on the cross. Just as the repentant Israelites could look upon Moses' raised standard and be saved from the poisonous bite of a serpent, so all who look upon the crucified Christ in faith will be saved from their sins. Jesus did not come to condemn, but to be the saving light who draws many to himself.

On the Calendar and Coming up

Sun. Mar. 10th

8:15 am—Holy Eucharist—Rite 1
9:30—Children’s Sunday School & Adult Forum
10:30 am—Holy Eucharist, Rite 2

7:30 pm — AA Meeting in parish hall

Wed. Mar. 13th

6:00 pm—Bible Study

Thur. Mar. 14th

6:15 pm — Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7:30 pm — Handbell Rehearsals.

Fri. Mar. 15th

7:30 pm — AA meeting in the parish hall

Sat. Mar. 16th

10-noon—Diaper Ministry

Sun. Mar. 17th

8:15 am—Holy Eucharist—Rite 1
9:30—Children’s Sunday School & Adult Forum
10:30 am—Holy Eucharist, Rite 2

7:30 pm — AA Meeting in parish hall

The Bible Study meets on Wednesdays from 6–7:30 PM. They are reading *Falling into Grace: Exploring Our Inner Life With God* by the Rev. John Newton. All are invited to join.

2nd Sunday Lunch for April is cancelled due to Big Night Out.

May 19 — Sloppy Joes
June 9 — Church Picnic

It is free to all who would like to join us. We welcome guests to any and all meals! The menu is subject to change, and meals will have a vegetarian option.

Adult Forum Sundays at 9:30 am. They are discussing Sunday’s lessons, focusing on the readings from the Gospel of Mark. Please join us for coffee, cookies and some great conversation about how the Word of God speaks to us today.

Save the Date: Saturday, April 13 from 6–9pm. Chapter 11’s Big Night Out! Stay tuned for more information!

I have some open flower dates for the rest of the year:

April 21; July 7, 14; Sept. 29; Oct. 20; Nov. 24; Dec. 22, 29. If you are interested in any of these dates, please let me know.

Due to the different pricing for Easter flowers this year we are asking for donations to the flower fund. If you would like them in memory or thanksgiving for a loved one, please put a note on my desk. Thank you all for the great support to the flower fund!

Holy Week Schedule:

Mon.–Wed. 6:00 pm Holy Eucharist

Maundy Thursday—6:00 PM—Holy Eucharist
7:00 PM—Gethsemane Watch

Good Friday—12:00 PM—Liturgy of the Word
6:00 PM—Stations of the Cross

Saturday—9:00 AM—Liturgy of the Word
7:31 PM (Sunset) The Great Vigil

Attendance: March 3, 2024
8:15 am 6
10:30 am 57

Outreach Opportunities


The diaper ministry continues to hold diaper distribution on the third Saturday of every month from 10 am to 12 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 next diaper distribution will be on **March 16th**. A sign-up sheet is on the outreach board in the parish hallway for anyone interested in volunteering. Donations of diapers (sizes 4, 5 and 6) and wipes are also appreciated. Thank you again to everyone for your continued support of this ministry!

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 Chapter 4 & 5 on March 30th**. The 2024 homeless lunch schedule is now up on the outreach board and we will be entering our 25th year of participating in this ministry. **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).

Lambs Basket continues to need donations of food items, particularly cereals, peanut butter, jams, jellies, and canned foods. Please, bring in your donations and leave them in the parish hallway in the red wagon. Thank you for your continued support of this project.

A new opportunity to help our community: Lakeside Elementary School needs individually wrapped **healthy snacks and juices**. A box/basket will be in the parish hallway to collect these items. There are many students whose families cannot afford to send snacks to school with their children. Students during the day between breakfast and lunch need snacks and those who stay later in the afterschool program. Snacks are not provided by the school, although they do participate in the lunch program. If you have any questions, please contact Crystal.

Also, Please be on the look out for the “**Blessing Box**” and “**Little Library**.” They are in the works and will be here soon!

*The love and kindness that our parish shares is beyond amazing!
Love lives here!* 

COMMUNICATION CARD

March 10, 2024

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