

The Church of the Epiphany

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 21
October 1, 2023
10:30 a.m.

The Holy Eucharist

according to

THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER 1979

Rite II

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).

Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 1 Colossians 3:16.

*The half-hour before mass is a time of quiet prayer and preparation.
Please observe silence and turn off your electronic devices.*

Prelude: Wondrous Love – C. Callahan

Welcome and Announcements

PREPARATION RITES

BCP 355

All stand for the entrance procession

Hymn 522 Glorious things of thee are spoken

The people standing, the Celebrant joins the people in facing the altar and says

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.
Amen.**

The Celebrant says the Collect for Purity.

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.*

The Gloria in Excelsis is sung by all, standing

Hymnal S-280

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Celebrant faces the altar and says the Collect of the Day

BCP 234

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

LITURGY OF THE WORD

BCP 357

The people sit

Reader A Reading from Ezekiel [18:1-4, 25-32]

The word of the Lord came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no

pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence is observed

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 25, *Ad te, Domine, levavi*
We will read responsively by whole verse,
pausing at the asterisks.

BCP 614

- 1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; * *(pause)*
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 **Let none who look to you be put to shame; * *(pause)***
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O Lord, * *(pause)*
and teach me your paths.
- 4 **Lead me in your truth and teach me, * *(pause)***
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, *
(pause)
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 **Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; * *(pause)***

remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; * *(pause)*
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

8 He guides the humble in doing right * *(pause)*
and teaches his way to the lowly.

Reader A Reading from Philippians [2:1-13]

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death--
even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence is observed

The people stand for the Gospel procession

Laudate Dominum

Songs from Taizé

The people and choir sing.

**Laudate Dominum,
Laudate Dominum
Omnes gentes, alleluia!
Laudate Dominum,
Laudate Dominum
Omnes gentes, alleluia!**

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
According to Matthew [21:23-32].

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

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” So they

answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

After the Gospel, the Celebrant says

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

The Rev'd Kristin Wickersham

Silence is observed

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 Intercessor and people pray responsively

Intercessor In turning to the ways of God our lives are saved from the grip of the Evil One, and the humility of love lightens our path. We offer our prayers, responding “Lord, hear our prayer.”

Silence is observed

For the grace to move from grumbling to shared responsibility, from accusation to a search for truth, from humiliation and shame to God’s compassion and mercy; let us pray.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor That we may bear witness to the wonderful works of God, so that our children and the generations to come may walk in the path of faith and announce the mystery of faith through their lives; let us pray.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor That we may bend the knee of our hearts to those who live in despair and great need, knowing that show Christ to us, a gift of the Holy Spirit who fills us with compassion, and transforms the way we live; let us pray.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor For those who work at night, staying awake while others sleep, guarding our streets, and healing the sick, that they may labor in safety and receive the rest that prepares them for another day; let us pray.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor For our President, his advisors, the members of Congress, and the Supreme Court, that they may be honest and vigilant in their duties, knowing that their decisions affect the peoples of our land, and of the nations of the world; let us pray.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor For those who have died and now reside in the nearer presence of God, that their faith may inspire our own, and their generosity encourage the way in which we use our gifts; let us pray.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor With the steadfast love of God to guide us, we continue our prayers

Silence is observed

The people may add their own intercessions and thanksgivings, either silently or aloud.

The Celebrant concludes with a Collect.

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

The Celebrant reads one of the sentences from the Penitential Order

BCP 352

Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. *Hebrews 4:14,16*

The people kneel and the Deacon or Celebrant then says

BCP 359

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence is observed

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 pronounces absolution.

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.*

All stand for The Peace

The Celebrant says to the people

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

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

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Celebrant says to the people

BCP 376

But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand. *1 Chronicles 29:14*

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: Gracious Spirit Dwell with Me – K. Lee Scott

The people stand

Hymn 424 For the fruit of all creation, v. 3

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

The Celebrant faces the people 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 altar, 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. For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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:

Celebrant and People

Hymnal S-125

**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.

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. **AMEN.**

The Celebrant continues

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

People and Celebrant

BCP 364

**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 Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread

Silence is observed

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

Celebrant and People

Hymnal S-161

**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

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

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

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.

We do not permit the practice of 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.

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.

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

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 339 Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness

Taizé Chant. Come and fill

**Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
You alone, O Lord, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace, alleluia!**

CONCLUDING RITES

After Communion, the people kneel and Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

BCP 366

**Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.***

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, may bless the people.

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 450 All hail the power of Jesus' Name!

Postlude: All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name - C. Callahan

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An Outline of the Faith
commonly called the Catechism

Other Sacramental Rites

Q. What other sacramental rites evolved in the Church under the guidance of the Holy Spirit?

A. Other sacramental rites which evolved in the Church include confirmation, ordination, holy matrimony, reconciliation of a penitent, and unction.

Q. How do they differ from the two sacraments of the Gospel?

A. Although they are means of grace, they are not necessary for all persons in the same way that Baptism and the Eucharist are.

Q. What is Confirmation?

A. Confirmation is the rite in which we express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop.

Q. What is required of those to be confirmed?

A. It is required of those to be confirmed that they have been baptized, are sufficiently instructed in the Christian Faith, are penitent for their sins, and are ready to affirm their confession of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

Q. What is Ordination?

A. Ordination is the rite in which God gives authority and the grace of the Holy Spirit to those being made bishops,

priests, and deacons, through prayer and the laying on of hands by bishops.

Q. What is Holy Matrimony?

A. Holy Matrimony is Christian marriage, in which the woman and man enter into a life-long union, make their vows before God and the Church, and receive the grace and blessing of God to help them fulfill their vows.

Q. What is Reconciliation of a Penitent?

A. Reconciliation of a Penitent, or Penance, is the rite in which those who repent of their sins may confess them to God in the presence of a priest, and receive the assurance of pardon and the grace of absolution.

Q. What is Unction of the Sick?

A. Unction is the rite of anointing the sick with oil, or the laying on of hands, by which God's grace is given for the healing of spirit, mind, and body.

Q. Is God's activity limited to these rites?

A. God does not limit himself to these rites; they are patterns of countless ways by which God uses material things to reach out to us.

Q. How are the sacraments related to our Christian hope?

A. Sacraments sustain our present hope and anticipate its future fulfillment.



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. – 1:00 p.m.

Clergy and Staff

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

The Vestry

The Rev'd Kristin 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
October 1, 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:

Parishioners: Ray Hampton, Dot Hudson, Martha & Milton Jenkins, Fran LaVigne, Marion Magruder, Joyce Melton, Ina Stickel, Irene Morris, Mike Young, Bob Jimerson, Timon Kenyi, Shirley Hughson, Chris Tignor, Jeannie Riddick, Chuck Strabley

Family & Friends: Ed Morrow—friend of Bob & Kathy Jimerson, Dave & Melanie Erwin—friends of Dwight & Kim 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, Judy Watson—Martha Jenkins niece & Marty Shephard & Sandy Tignor's cousin, Karen Tatti—friend of Jennifer Tucker, Pamela Carr—Nancy Sonne's niece, Marie Patterson—Crystal Sarvay's mother, Jean Stone—John Stone's mother, Sebastian Strong—Jennifer Whitlock's grandson, Emma Greenman—friend of Kim & Dwight Ludwig, Keri Roberts—friend of Becky Card, Caitlin & Dcn. Kyle Bomare & their family

Prayers for the departed: Buddy Dunn

CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

Today's Ministers

Ushers: Lee Poates, Frosine Corbett
Acolytes: Kim Ludwig, Ezra Axselle
Lessons: Jeri Townley
Prayers of the People: Jeri Townley
Chalice: Stacy Mitchell
Sun. School Helper: Rejoice Pita
Altar Guild: Kathy Jimerson, Carol McElhinney
Coffee Hour: No one signed up
Counters: Kim Ludwig, Becky Card

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

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The Church of the Epiphany
ANNOUNCEMENTS
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 1, 2023



Epiphany's community.

Introducing the Lesson

1st Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

In the Hebrew scripture lesson the Lord insists that individuals are responsible for their own sins and that the people must now repent, no longer blaming their troubles on the sins of their parents. So much for the proverb that the fathers have eaten sour grapes and the children's teeth are set on edge! So much for those who say the Lord's ways are not just! These words are intended to bring about a sense of individual responsibility and hope at a time when the nation was gripped by despair because of tribulation and exile. The Lord wants the people to turn away from iniquity and live.

2nd Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

In this reading Paul bids the new disciples to be of one mind in love, knowing how Christ Jesus accepted the condition of a servant and was obedient to the point of death. We now confess him as Lord and are called to an obedient working out of our faith. Central to this passage is a poem which may have been adopted from the hopes for a savior of a people who did not yet know Jesus. He has fulfilled humanity's dream of one who will share fully in the mortal condition. Now the Lord is known personally—Jesus. His followers must work out their salvation while discovering that God is active in them for his loving purpose.

The Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

In a response to a question about authority, Jesus tells a parable of two sons who obeyed their father differently, and he indicates that it is the same with those who are apparently obedient and disobedient in this age. Both John the Baptist and Jesus offered their message of repentance and the hope of the kingdom to all. It was the seeming outcasts who most genuinely responded. Then and now it is not a popular idea to suggest that such persons have priority over those who are established in their religion. Action is the test of obedience.

On the Calendar and Coming up

Sun. Oct. 1st

8:15 am—Holy Eucharist, Rite One
10:30 am—Holy Eucharist, Rite Two

7:30 pm — AA Meeting in parish hall

Wed. Oct. 4th

6:00 pm — Bible Study

Thur. Oct. 5th

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

Fri. Oct. 6th

7:30 pm — AA meeting in the parish hall

Sat. Oct. 7th

8:30 am—Outreach Bag Lunches—the Green Team
2:00 pm—Memorial Service for Buddy Dunn

Sun. Oct. 8th

8:15 am—Holy Eucharist, Rite One
10:30 am—Holy Eucharist, Rite Two

2nd Sunday Luncheon—Baked Potato Bar

The Rev'd Canon Dr. Lynn Collins will be with us as Mtr. Kristin will be out of town.

7:30pm —AA meeting in the parish hall

The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the Glory of God in honor of Carol McElhinney's birthday on October 6th, given by Gracie for her "precious Nana".

The prayers & sympathy of the congregation are extended to Robin Gilbert & Chip Dunn and families on the death of their father, Buddy Dunn who passed away on Tuesday, September 26. A Memorial service will be held here at Epiphany on Saturday, October 7 at 2:00 pm with burial in the Memorial Garden and reception to follow in the parish hall. May his soul and the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

Stewardship: No one has ever become poor by giving. (Anne Frank)

Adult Christian Formation meets on Wednesdays. This small group meets after work, at 6:00 pm in the parlor. We will continue our focus on the Gospel According to John. Send an email to Mtr. Kristin if you would like to be included in this small group.

2nd Sunday Lunches are back! These lunches are free to all who would like to join us. We welcome guests to any and all lunches! Mark your calendars thru December:
Oct. 8 — Baked Potato Bar
Nov. 12 — Chicken & mashed potatoes
Dec. 17 — Soup & Bread Lunch

The menu is subject to change, and meals will have a vegetarian option.

Attendance: September 24, 2023
8:15 am 7
10:30 am 60

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 and this past month we have met several new families. The most recent diaper distribution was held Saturday, September 21st. The next diaper distribution will be on October 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!

A copy of the **2023 homeless lunch schedule** is available on the bulletin board in the parish hallway if anyone would like a copy. 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 Green Team on October 7th.** Thank you to the Vestry who prepared and delivered lunches on September 2nd. This ministry is currently in its 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).

Join us for our first annual Trunk or Treat and Fall Festival on Saturday, October 28th starting at 2 pm. Come out and join the fun by decorating your car and filling your trunk with candy and/or goodies to hand out to the community children. A sign-up sheet is on the outreach board. There will also be games, face painting, crafts, and prizes. Volunteer to run one of the games! If you cannot attend, you could donate some candy, prizes or treats. Don't miss this fun community event! It will be held on the front lawn and driveway in front of the church. If you need further information, please contact Crystal Sarvay.

As part of our outreach in the community, our church donated items to support Holladay Elem. Schools first Heritage Night. The Heritage festival at their school is being held on October 5th. During the time, they will have community partners donate food, have music and dancers come from various groups to celebrate all cultures to share with the students, community and families.

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.

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



COMMUNICATION CARD

October 1, 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
