

The Church of the Epiphany

Proper 10, Year A

The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 16, 2023

10:30 a.m.

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

Welcome to Epiphany. All the words of our worship service appear in this service leaflet. The Episcopal tradition values common prayer; we invite you to pray with us today. We believe the act of praying together in community shapes our faith and help us grow closer to God. Parts of the service which the people pray aloud appear in bold. Page numbers referenced in this leaflet correspond to page numbers in our Book of Common Prayer, the red book in the pew rack in front of you.

Hymns with an S in front of them are service music. These hymns are in the blue Hymnal 1982 in the frontmost section. Other hymns, noted simply by their number, are from the rear portion of the hymnal. Please join in the singing; you don't need to be a stellar vocalist – simply sing joyfully!

Please silence your cell phones and electronic devices

Prelude: Lord, Thy Word Abideth – C. S. Lang

Welcome and Announcements

THE WORD OF GOD

The people stand

Hymn 534 God is working his purpose out

The people standing, the Priest-Celebrant joins the people in facing the Altar and says

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. BCP 355

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

The Priest-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 Priest-Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

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

BCP 230

Celebrant Let us pray.

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who
call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand
what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and
power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ

our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

THE LESSONS

BCP 357

The people sit

Reader A Reading from Isaiah [55:10-13]

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the
earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence follows

Reader The Psalm for today is
Psalm 65 [*Te decet hymnus*]
We will read responsively by whole verse.

BCP 672

- 1 You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; *
to you shall vows be performed in Jerusalem.
- 2 To you that hear prayer shall all flesh come, *
because of their transgressions.**
- 3 Our sins are stronger than we are, *
but you will blot them out.
- 4 Happy are they whom you choose
and draw to your courts to dwell there! *
they will be satisfied by the beauty of your
house,
by the holiness of your temple.**
- 5 Awesome things will you show us in your
righteousness,
O God of our salvation, *
O Hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the seas that are far away.
- 6 You make fast the mountains by your power; *
they are girded about with might.**
- 7 You still the roaring of the seas, *
the roaring of their waves,
and the clamor of the peoples.
- 8 Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will
tremble at your marvelous signs; *
you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for
joy.**
- 9 You visit the earth and water it abundantly;
you make it very plenteous; *
the river of God is full of water.
- 10 You prepare the grain, *
for so you provide for the earth.**
- 11 You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; *
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its
increase.
- 12 You crown the year with your goodness, *
and your paths overflow with plenty.**

13 May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, *
and the hills be clothed with joy.

**14 May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,
and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; *
let them shout for joy and sing.**

Reader A Reading from Romans [8:1-11]

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law--indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence follows

The people stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Laudate Dominum

Songs from Taizé

*The people and choir sing,
Sung through three, six, or nine times*

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

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
According to Matthew [11:16-19, 25-30].

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

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word

and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

After the Gospel, the Priest-Celebrant says

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

THE SERMON

The Rev'd Kristin Wickersham

Silence follows

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,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessions for Year A

The Intercessor and people pray responsively

Intercessor Mercifully receive our prayers, O God, that we may know your ways and follow where you lead, responding, “Hear us, good Lord.”

Silence follows

For those who are seeking a spiritual home, that they may be inspired to visit our churches and to receive a deep sense of God’s presence through our worship together and the hospitality we share; let us pray.

People **Hear us, good Lord.**

Intercessor That we may be set free from the need to claim our worthiness through possessions and position, so that we may discover our true identity in the life and hope of the Holy Spirit; let us pray.

People **Hear us, good Lord.**

Intercessor That the light of Christ will reveal the path to those for whom the shadows are long, the poor and desperate, the lonely and unemployed, the hungry and fearful, the

refugee and homeless, the prisoner and those who live as if in prison, that we may not forget them; let us pray.

People **Hear us, good Lord.**

Intercessor For our Commander-in-Chief and all who serve in the armed forces, that we may be thankful for their many sacrifices, and honor the service they render to our country; let us pray.

People **Hear us, good Lord.**

Intercessor For those who have died, that they may reside in that place where there is no sorrow or pain, but life everlasting; let us pray.

People **Hear us, good Lord.**

Intercessor For safety for children who are on vacation, that they may have the chance to learn new skills, build healthy bodies, and develop new and lasting friendships; let us pray.

People **Hear us, good Lord.**

Intercessor With heart and mind turned toward God, we continue our prayers.

Silence follows

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

The Priest-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.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Priest-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*

All who truly and earnestly repent of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking in God's holy ways: Draw near with faith, and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

The Priest Celebrant then says

BCP 359

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence

The Priest 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 ABSOLUTION

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.*

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

THE OFFERTORY

At the offertory, we gratefully offer back to God some 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 gift as the plate is passed. The offerings are then brought to the altar to be blessed by the priest.

The 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. *Ephesians 5:2*

The people sit

Anthem: Beautiful Savior – C. Alves

Hymn 424 For the fruit of all creation
Traditional Welsh melody – tune name: AR HYD Y NOS

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. 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:

THE SANCTUS

Hymnal S-125

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.

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.**

THE AGNUS DEI

Hymnal S-161

Priest-Celebrant and People

**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 Priest-Celebrant says the following Invitation

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

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

An Invitation to Baptism

The table is open. All baptized Christians, regardless of their denomination, are invited to receive communion at Epiphany. If you would like to be Baptized, thereby becoming a member of the mystical Body of Christ, the Church, please contact the Priest-in-Charge.

For Those Who Wish a Blessing

All are welcome to come to the altar and receive a blessing from the priest. If you would like a blessing, please indicate this by crossing your arms over your chest.

How to Receive Communion

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 mouth, gently touch the base of the chalice and help guide it to your lips. The response after receiving is to say, "Amen."

A Note About Intinction

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 cross your arms over your chest as the chalice bearer approaches. 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 505 O Spirit of Life, O Spirit of God

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!

After Communion, the Priest-Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Priest-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 Priest-Celebrant blesses the people.

The blessing of God Almighty, The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. ***Amen.***

Hymn 530 Spread, O spread, thou mighty word

THE DISMISSAL

The Priest-Celebrant dismisses the people.

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude. Almighty God, your word is cast – C.S. Lang

An Outline of the Faith commonly called the Catechism

The New Covenant

Q. What is the New Covenant?

A. The New Covenant is the new relationship with God given by Jesus Christ, the Messiah, to the apostles; and, through them, to all who believe in him.

Q. What did the Messiah promise in the New Covenant?

A. Christ promised to bring us into the kingdom of God and give life in all its fullness.

Q. What response did Christ require?

A. Christ commanded us to believe in him and to keep his commandments.

Q. What are the commandments taught by Christ?

A. Christ taught us the Summary of the Law and gave us the New Commandment.

Q. What is the Summary of the Law?

A. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Q. What is the New Commandment?

A. The New Commandment is that we love one another as Christ loved us.

Q. Where may we find what Christians believe about Christ?

A. What Christians believe about Christ is found in the Scriptures and summed up in the creeds.

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

Scott Blackwell, Gray Corbett, Randy Holden (Jr. Warden),
John Norris, John Sarvay (Sr. Warden), Mirendy Smith,
Jeri Townley (Register), Billy Tucker,

COMMUNICATION CARD
July 16, 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: Tom Devol—friend of Cheryl Lineberry, Steve—friend of Gray & Frosine Corbett, Clay—friend of Gray & Frosine, Kim McMullin & Keri Roberts—friends of Becky Card, Chris Tignor 

Parishioners: Mike Young, Bob Jimerson, Milton Jenkins, Herb Williams, Martha Jenkins, Buddy Dunn, Timon Kenyi, Shirley Hughson

Homebound: Ray Hampton, Dot Hudson, Fran LaVigne, Marion Magruder, Joyce Melton, Ina Stickel, and Irene Morris

Family & Friends: John Henry Rice—son of Fr. John & Mackie Rice, Johnny Jorstad—Martha Jenkins son & Marty Shephard & Sandy Tignor's brother, Jennie Gundersen—friend of Irene Temple, Judy Watson—Martha Jenkins niece & Mary Shephard & Sandy Tignor's cousin, William Higgins—Harrison Higgins' grandson, Helen Adams — friend of Gina Richardson, Virginia Barrett—Conny Barrett's daughter-in-law, Jean Stone— John Stone's mother, Donna Nuttal & family—niece of Gina Richardson, the family of Renee Stone—friends of Jennifer & Billy Tucker, Sebastian Strong—Jennifer Whitlock's grandson

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: Becky Card, Kim Ruder
Acolytes: Elli & Ceanna Cloyes
Lessons: Kathy Jimerson
Prayers of the People: Kathy Jimerson
Chalice: Crystal Sarvay
Sun. School Helper: Jennifer Jefcoats
Altar Guild: Karen & Randy Holden
Coffee Hour: David & Ellie Tuck
Counters: Kim Ludwig, Becky Card



The Church of the Epiphany
ANNOUNCEMENTS
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
July 16, 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 Lesson

1st Reading: Isaiah 55:10-13

In our Hebrew scripture lesson God's word proceeds purposefully in human affairs and achieves God's intentions as surely as seed and soil and water combine in the agricultural cycle to produce a good harvest. The people are to take joy in understanding that God's work, though inscrutable at times, is being accomplished in their midst as certainly as it may be seen in the natural world.

2nd Reading: Romans 8:1-11

In this lesson Paul draws a sharp contrast between the mind set on the flesh, and the mind set on the Spirit. The person oriented only toward this temporal world with its rewards and pleasures can neither keep the law nor please God. Only through the grace of God in Christ can a fundamental reorientation toward God's Spirit occur. When God's Spirit quickens faith there is no longer any condemnation, for the Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead now indwells those so animated.

The Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Our gospel is Jesus' parable of the sower, together with its interpretation. The story by itself may once have been used to stress how surprisingly fruitful God's power can be, quite apart from human expectations or control. With its explanation the parable was used as an allegory by early Christians to help them understand the missionary situation of the church. Because of the work of the devil and human weakness and sin, the word they preached did not always produce. But, in the right circumstances, its fruit could be anywhere from substantial to amazing.

On the Calendar and Coming up

Sun. July 16th
8:15 am — Holy Eucharist
10:30 am — Holy Eucharist

7:30 pm — AA Meeting in parish hall

Tue. July 18th
6:00 pm— Vestry Meeting

Wed. July 19th
Noon Eucharist Service

Fri. July 21st
7:30 pm — AA meeting in the parish hall

Sun. July 23rd
8:15 am—Holy Eucharist
9:15 am—Eucharistic Visitor Ministry meeting in the parlor
10:30 am—Holy Eucharist

7:30pm —AA meeting in the parish hall

The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the Glory of God by Paul & Mirendy Smith in loving memory of her parents, Charles & Connie Neal.

Please check out the sign up board, by the kitchen door, for a Sunday to do coffee hour! We have many open Sundays coming up!

Do you have a devotion to the Eucharist and a love of sharing that joy with others? Next Sunday, **July 23, at 9:15 am,** there will be a meeting in the parlor for anyone interested in becoming part of our Eucharistic Visitor ministry. This ministry is a way to keep our parish family connected to those unable to attend our services in person. If you can't come to the meeting but are interested in becoming a LEV, please get in touch with Crystal Sarvay or Mother Kristin.

I will be on vacation from July 14—Aug. 1 heading to Wisconsin. Karen Holden & her helpers will be in the office keeping things running smoothly. Please call before stopping by to make sure someone is in the office to let you in. Keep Wayne & I in your prayers for safe travels! See you when I get back! Lucy

Stewardship: Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce. (Proverbs 3:9)

Attendance: July 9, 2023
8:15 am 4
10:30 am 56

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 most recent diaper distribution was held Saturday, July 15th and **the next diaper distribution day is on August 19th.** A sign-up sheet is on the outreach board in the parish hallway for anyone interested in volunteering. Donations of diapers (sizes 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 Red Team on August 5th.** 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).



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.

If anyone has any outreach projects or needs, they are aware of in the community, please share them! See Crystal Sarvay, Outreach Coordinator, or email at epiphanyrvparishnurse@gmail.com.

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

COMMUNICATION CARD

July 16, 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:

- Music
- Altar Guild
- Office help
- Christian Ed
- Outreach
- Ushers
- Chalice Bearer
- Greeters
- Pastoral Care
- Readers
- Prayer Team
- _____

Prayer Requests / Comments