

Church of the Epiphany

The Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 21, 2024 (Year B), 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).

The half-hour before the Mass is a time of quiet prayer and preparation.

Please silence or turn off your electronic devices.

Prelude: The King of Love my shepherd is – C.S. Lang

Welcome and Announcements

PREPARATION RITES

BCP 355

Hymn 184 Christ the Lord is risen again! *Christ ist erstanden*

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

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

BCP 355

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

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 Collects.

Celebrant Let us pray.

BCP 225

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people:
Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls
us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and
the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and
ever. *Amen.*

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

BCP 357

All sit for the Readings.

Reader A Reading from Acts [4:5-12]

The rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is
`the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.'
There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

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 Psalm 23, *Dominus regit me*
We will read responsively
by whole verse, pausing at the asterisks.

BCP 612

1 The Lord is my shepherd; **(pause)*
I shall not be in want.

2 **He makes me lie down in green pastures** **(pause)*
and leads me beside still waters.

- 3 He revives my soul **(pause)*
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's
sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of
death,
I shall fear no evil; **(pause)*
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those
who trouble me; **(pause)*
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all
the days of my life, **(pause)*
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

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 1 John [3:16-24]

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us-- and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has

commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence.

The people stand for the Gospel procession

Hymn 711 Seek ye first the kingdom of God *Seek Ye First*

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

According to John [10:11-18]

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

Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

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.

On Sundays and other Major Feasts there follows, all standing, said by all

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

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

Celebrant Consoled by the knowledge that the Good Shepherd gives his life for us, let us pray for the needs of our community, our church, and our world, saying: Lord, have mercy.

Silence.

Intercessor The earliest Christian community held all things in common, and no one was in need. May we recommit ourselves to hold the goods of this world in common and to work to eliminate hunger and homelessness. For this let us pray to the Lord.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor When we share with one another, we make a new world. May we build a new community on earth which knows God as home. For this let us pray to the Lord.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor Following the example of the shepherd who searched for the lost sheep, let us seek out the lost in our community and welcome them in our midst. For this let us pray to the Lord.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor Conscious of the Good Shepherd's voice, may we speak God's words of reconciliation and peace to all we meet, and may all in governmental authority receive the joyful message of peace. For this let us pray to the Lord.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor We are called to give up our lives for others. Let us praise God for all in serving professions who work at low pay for the welfare of others. May we give our lives to those in our care. For this let us pray to the Lord.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

God, in you we live and move and have our being. You seek us before we know your name, and you give us joy in your life. Accept our prayer of joy in being found and forgiven and loved by you, for we pray in the name of Christ your Son and in the joy of the Holy Spirit. **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.

The people kneel.

The Deacon or Celebrant says

BCP 360

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence.

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.*

THE PEACE

BCP 360

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

BCP 361

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

“To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power forever and ever!”

The Revelation to John 5:13

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: Good Christian Men, Rejoice and Sing – D. Johnson

*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 178 Give thanks to the Risen Lord *Alleluia No. 1*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP 367

The people remain standing.

The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or 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.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

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 remain standing throughout the Easter season.

Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you.

In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or 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 before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Blessed Mary, the Mother of God, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn

of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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

As our Savior Christ
has taught us,
we now sing,

People and Celebrant
Hymnal S-119

**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

BCP 364

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Then is sung

FRACTION ANTHEM
Hymnal S-154

Celebrant and People

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
therefore let us keep the feast.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

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 fermented grape wine.

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 Body of Christ is received in the hand, the right hand laid flat and placed on top of the left. To receive the Blood of Christ, grasp only the base of the chalice and guide the chalice 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 304 I come with joy

Land of Rest

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 Celebrant says

Let us pray.

The people stand for the post-Communion prayer, the blessing, and the dismissal.

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.**

The Celebrant blesses the people.

Book of Occasional Services

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing.

People **Amen.**

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever.

People **Amen.**

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance.

People **Amen.**

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

From the Easter Vigil through the Day of Pentecost "Alleluia, alleluia" may be added to any of the dismissals.

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

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Hymn 492 Sing ye faithful

Azmon

Postlude: "Dominus Regit Me" – C. Mawby

An Outline of the Faith
commonly called the Catechism

The Christian Hope

Q. What is the Christian hope?

A. The Christian hope is to live with confidence in newness and fullness of life, and to await the coming of Christ in glory, and the completion of God's purpose for the world.

Q. What do we mean by the coming of Christ in glory?

A. By the coming of Christ in glory, we mean that Christ will come, not in weakness but in power, and will make all things new.

Q. What do we mean by heaven and hell?

A. By heaven, we mean eternal life in our enjoyment of God; by hell, we mean eternal death in our rejection of God.

Q. Why do we pray for the dead?

A. We pray for them, because we still hold them in our love, and because we trust that in God's presence those

who have chosen to serve him will grow in his love, until they see him as he is.

Q. What do we mean by the last judgment?

A. We believe that Christ will come in glory and judge the living and the dead.

Q. What do we mean by the resurrection of the body?

A. We mean that God will raise us from death in the fullness of our being, that we may live with Christ in the communion of the saints.

Q. What is the communion of saints?

A. The communion of saints is the whole family of God, the living and the dead, those whom we love and those whom we hurt, bound together in Christ by sacrament, prayer, and praise.

Q. What do we mean by everlasting life?

A. By everlasting life, we mean a new existence, in which we are united with all the people of God, in the joy of fully knowing and loving God and each other.

Q. What, then, is our assurance as Christians?

A. Our assurance as Christians is that nothing, not even death, shall separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

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
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, 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
April 21, 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:

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, Thelma Smith

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, Dan & Donna Ludwig—Dwight Ludwig's parents, Bill McCarty—brother of Ann Poates

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, SOSe
Priest in Charge
Cell Phone: 804-502-1891

8000 Hermitage Road
804-266-2503

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

Ushers: Bob Steele, Kim Ruder
Acolytes: Maura & Cora Whitlock
Lessons: Stephanie Norris
Prayers of the People: Stephanie Norris
Chalice: Randy Holden
Sun. School Helper: Stephanie Norris
Altar Guild: Cheri & Scott Blackwell
Coffee Hour: no one signed up



The Church of the Epiphany

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 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: Acts 4:5-12

In this story from the Acts of the Apostles Peter and John, having cured a crippled man, are called to account before the high Jewish council. Peter testifies that the source of their healing power is the same Jesus whom the leaders rejected. Referring to scripture, Peter speaks of the stone rejected by the builders, which is nevertheless meant to be the cornerstone of the new faith. Evidently there were a number of encounters like this in the life of the early church, but the disciples continued to heal and to preach in Jesus' name.

2nd Reading: 1 John 3:16-24

In our epistle lesson we learn that the followers of Jesus are to emulate his love by laying down their lives for one another. Such love is demanding and practical, requiring believers to share what they have with those who lack. By acting in ways consistent with the kindness of God, disciples will know that they do indeed believe in Jesus the Son of God. They will know that he abides within them and they in him, and that the Spirit has been given them.

The Gospel: John 10:11-18

In our gospel reading we are taught that Jesus is the good shepherd who is willing to die for his sheep. He is not like one who has been hired to tend the sheep, and who runs away in time of danger. Rather, he knows the sheep with the same intimacy that he has with the Father. Jesus has shared fully in their circumstances. Together with those who are yet to be called, there will be one flock under the one true shepherd.

On the Calendar and Coming up

Sun. Apr. 21st

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

7:30 pm — AA Meeting in parish hall

Wed. Apr. 24th

6:00 pm — Bible Study

Thur. Apr. 25th

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

Fri. Apr. 26th

7:30 pm—AA meeting in Parish Hall

Sun. Apr. 28th

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

7:30 pm — AA Meeting in parish hall

The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the Glory of God by Scott & Cheri Blackwell in thanksgiving for Wren.

Coffee Hour: There is a new schedule up in the hall by the kitchen door. Stop by and check it out to see when you would like to help us out by taking a Sunday. All is needed is make the coffee & lemonade and put out some cookies! We all enjoy this time of fellowship!

The 2nd Sunday Lunches will be back May 19 with Sloppy Joes and then again June 9th for the Church picnic! Meals will have a vegetarian option.

GOT SNEAKERS? Recycling Drive: Epiphany is holding A sneaker recycling drive to honor Creation on Earth Day. We are collecting used sneakers to send to a company that recycles them and keeps them out of landfills.

All reusable sneakers from our sneaker drive fundraiser will be recirculated to secondhand markets so people can access quality, pre-owned footwear at affordable prices. All heavily used and damaged footwear is recycled to reuse materials or to convert waste into new energy.

If they're in fair, good or excellent condition, Epiphany will receive up to \$7.00 per pair.

Please drop your old sneakers (or your friend's old sneakers!) at the parish office through April 26th.

PENTECOST Readers Needed: Do you speak a language other than English? Mthr. Kristin is looking for multilingual readers for our Pentecost worship service on Sunday, May 19 at 10:30 a.m. We have Bari, French, German & Spanish. Call us if you can offer your language skills as we worship the Lord.

Attendance: April 14, 2024
 9:15 am 5
 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 next diaper distribution will be on **May 18th**. 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 the Yellow Team on May 4th**. 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

April 21, 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
