

Church of the Epiphany

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
Sexagesima Sunday
February 4, 2024, 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). Hymn numbers refer to The Hymnal, 1982 (the blue book). Hymns noted with an S are Service Music and are located in the frontmost section of The Hymnal.

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

Please silence or turn off your electronic devices.

Prelude: Meditation – Harvey Grace

Welcome and Announcements

THE WORD OF GOD

THE ENTRANCE RITE

BCP 355

The people stand.

Hymn 381 Thy strong word did cleave the darkness

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 216

Celebrant Let us pray.

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us
the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known
to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns

with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

LITURGY OF THE WORD

BCP 357

All sit for the Readings.

Reader A Reading from Isaiah [40:21-31]

Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of
the earth?
It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to live in;
who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.
Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.
To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.
Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?
He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.
Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
"My way is hidden from the Lord,
and my right is disregarded by my God"?
Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;
 his understanding is unsearchable.
 He gives power to the faint,
 and strengthens the powerless.
 Even youths will faint and be weary,
 and the young will fall exhausted;
 but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their
 strength,
 they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
 they shall run and not be weary,
 they shall walk and not faint.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence.

Directions for Reciting the Psalter

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

BCP 583

Reader The Psalm for today is a portion of
 Psalm 147, *Laudate Dominum*

We will read responsively
 by whole verse, pausing at the asterisks.

BCP 804

- 1 Hallelujah!
 How good it is to sing praises to our God! *
 how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!
- 2 The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem; *
 he gathers the exiles of Israel.
- 3 He heals the brokenhearted *
 and binds up their wounds.
- 4 He counts the number of the stars *
 and calls them all by their names.

5 Great is our Lord and mighty in power; *
 there is no limit to his wisdom.
6 The Lord lifts up the lowly, *
 but casts the wicked to the ground.
7 Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; *
 make music to our God upon the harp.
8 He covers the heavens with clouds *
 and prepares rain for the earth;
9 He makes grass to grow upon the mountains *
 and green plants to serve mankind.
10 He provides food for flocks and herds *
 and for the young ravens when they cry.
11 He is not impressed by the might of a horse; *
 he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;
12 But the Lord has pleasure in those who fear him, *
 in those who await his gracious favor.
21 Hallelujah!

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 Corinthians [9:16-23]

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free

from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence.

The people stand for the Gospel procession

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Song of Gladness

Tune: Hymn 559.

Words: Hymn 122 v. 1 as follows:

**Alleluia, song of gladness,
voice of joy that cannot die;
alleluia is the anthem
ever raised by choirs on high;
in the house of God abiding
thus they sing eternally.** *Repeat.*

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
According to Mark [1:29-39].

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

After Jesus and his disciples left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered

around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

After the Gospel, the Reader says

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

THE SERMON

Mthr. 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
Planning for Rites and Rituals, Year B

Prayer is offered with intercession for The Universal Church, its members, and its mission; The Nation and all in authority; The welfare of the world; The concerns of the local community; Those who suffer and those in any trouble; The departed (with commemoration of a saint when appropriate).

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

The Intercessor and people pray responsively

Celebrant Eternal and loving God, through the glorification of your Son Jesus you have taught us to follow him through death into eternal life: Glorify your name in us, as we bring before you the concerns of the world, saying, “Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.”

Intercessor Blessed Father, your Son Jesus has taught your Church that when a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it bears much fruit: Empower your people in our journey of sacrifice and compassion to follow Christ in such faithfulness that we may be glorified with him.

Create in us clean hearts, O God.

People **And renew a right spirit within us.**

Intercessor Almighty One, you have driven out the ruler of this world through the glorification of Jesus: Put your law of love within the hearts of all who hold authority among the nations, that they may hear of joy and gladness, so that the broken body of the world may rejoice.

Create in us clean hearts, O God.

People **And renew a right spirit within us.**

Intercessor Bring the joy of your saving help to all who suffer throughout the world, that they may hear of joy and gladness and be healed.

Create in us clean hearts, O God.

People **And renew a right spirit within us.**

Intercessor Gracious God, you have promised that all who serve your beloved will be honored in your sight: Have mercy upon this community, that all may know you, from the least to the greatest, and follow in the way that Christ has shown us.

Create in us clean hearts, O God.

People **And renew a right spirit within us.**

Intercessor Let our prayers ascend to Jesus, our eternal high priest, as we offer up our intercessions and supplications, especially for ...

We thank you for the incarnation of your Son Jesus, who shares our sorrows and our joys. Hear our praise and

thankfulness for all the blessings we enjoy, especially for
...

We entrust into your life all of those who have
surrendered their lives into your eternal keeping,
especially ...

Create in us clean hearts, O God.

People **And renew a right spirit within us.**

The Priest-Celebrant concludes with a suitable Collect.

Give us the joy of your saving help again, and sustain us with
your bountiful Spirit, O God, as we follow Jesus in service to
your world, that the salvation and glorification you have
accomplished through his cross and resurrection may extend
your eternal life throughout creation, now and for ever. *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 Deacon or Celebrant says

BCP 360

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All kneel.

Silence is kept.

The Priest-Celebrant and people say

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Priest-Celebrant stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

THE PEACE

All stand.

The Priest-Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

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

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Celebrant may begin the Offertory with some sentence of Scripture.

During the Offertory, a hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung.

BCP 361

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

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

Voluntary: All Things Bright and Beautiful – Dale Wood

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 538 God of mercy, God of grace

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

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.

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son 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-124

Priest-Celebrant and People

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people kneel.

Then the Priest-Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

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

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Priest-Celebrant and People

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

The Priest-Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new

and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

People **AMEN.**

The Priest-Celebrant continues

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 364

People and Priest-Celebrant

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Then may be sung or said

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

In place of, or in addition to, the preceding, some other suitable anthem may be used.

Celebrant and People

Hymnal S-164

**Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world:
Give us your peace, give us your peace.**

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

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

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

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

BCP 365

Celebrant The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven.
Communicant **Amen.**

Celebrant The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.
Communicant **Amen.**

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

Hymn 411 O bless the Lord, my soul!

Taizé Chant. The Lord is my light.

**The Lord is my light, my light and salvation:
in God I trust, in God I trust.**

**The Lord is my light, my light and salvation:
in God I trust, in God I trust.**

After Communion, the Priest-Celebrant says

Let us pray.

The people stand or kneel.

Priest-Celebrant and People

BCP 365

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The people stand for the blessing.

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

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be upon you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

The people remain standing for the dismissal.

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

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 567 Thine arm, O Lord, in days of old

Postlude: All My Hope on God is Founded – Robert Below

An Outline of the Faith commonly called the Catechism

The Sacraments

Q. What are the sacraments?

A. The sacraments are outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual grace, given by Christ as sure and certain means by which we receive that grace.

Q. What is grace?

A. Grace is God's favor towards us, unearned and undeserved; by grace God forgives our sins, enlightens our minds, stirs our hearts, and strengthens our wills.

Q. What are the two great sacraments of the Gospel?

A. The two great sacraments given by Christ to his Church are Holy Baptism and the Holy Eucharist.

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, 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
February 4, 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, Ina Stickel, Irene Morris, Mike Young, Shirley Hughson, Dottie Strabley, Chris Tignor, Jeannie Riddick, Oscar Aderholt, John Sarvay

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

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

8000 Hermitage Road
804-266-2503

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

Ushers: Lee Poates, Frosine Corbett

Acolytes: Ginny Tucker, Ezra Axelle

Lessons: Randy Holden

Prayers of the People: Florian Jones-Stamm

Chalice: Florian Jones-Stamm

Sun. School Helper: Stephanie Norris

Altar Guild: Carol McElhinney, Kathy Jimerson, Rosemary Arneson

Coffee Hour: Conny Barrett, Becky Card

Counters: Kim Ludwig, Denise Russell



The Church of the Epiphany

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
February 4, 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: Isaiah 40:21-31

In our Hebrew Bible lesson the prophet Isaiah summons the people to renew their trust and confidence in God. God alone is sovereign, the Lord of all that exists, the creator of the earth and its creatures and the fount of understanding. Those who turn to the Lord will find their strength replenished; they will not be disappointed.

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

In this reading we learn how Paul seeks to become all things to all people in order that he may freely and without hindrance share the gospel with them. He takes no special pride in his preaching of the gospel because that is his commission from the Lord. In order not to create unnecessary difficulties, he is willing to live under the law among Jews and outside the law among Gentiles. Some may misunderstand and think him unprincipled, but Paul's only concern is with the essentials of the gospel.

The Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

Our gospel tells of healing events which took place toward the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Peter's mother-in-law is cured of fever. Many flock to Jesus. He heals them and casts out the demons who recognize him for who he is. A brief retreat ends because of the pressing need to continue his mission. The power of the kingdom of God is made manifest through his words and deeds.

**On the Calendar
and Coming up**

Sun. Feb. 4th

8:15 am—Holy Eucharist, Rite 1
9:30 am Adult Forum & Sun. School
10:30 am—Holy Eucharist, Rite 2

7:30 pm — AA Meeting in parish hall

Wed. Feb. 7th

6:00 pm — Bible Study

Thur. Feb. 8th

No Chancel Choir or Handbell Rehearsals.

Fri. Feb. 9th

7:30 pm — AA meeting in the parish hall

Sun. Feb. 11th

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

7:30 pm — AA Meeting in parish hall

The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the Glory of God by Wayne & Lucy Whitlock in loving memory of her mother, Norma Hanko.

We welcome Sharon Freude to our organ bench again this morning while Anita is on a well needed vacation in Florida, getting warm! We appreciate her time with us today!

Stewardship: God’s work done in God’s way will never lack for funds. Generosity is contagious. God never promised to meet our budget, only our needs. (J. Hudson Taylor)

The Bible Study meets on Wednesdays from 6—7:30 PM. They are reading *Falling into Grace: Exploring Our Inner Life With God* by the Rev. John Newton. This week we begin Chapter 2: Relinquishment. All are invited to join.

Our 2nd Sunday Lunch will be on Tuesday, February 13 which is the Pancake Supper before Ash Wednesday. It is free to all who would like to join us. We welcome guests to any and all meals! Mark your calendars for 2024.

Feb. 13 — Pancake Supper (Tue. Night)
April 14 — Breakfast Bar
May 19 — Sloppy Joes
June 9 — Church Picnic
The menu is subject to change, and meals will have a vegetarian option.

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

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

Attendance: January 28, 2024
8:15 am 6
10:30 am 55

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 **February 17th**. 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 Green Team on March 2, 2024. Thanks to the Vestry Team who prepared and delivered the lunches yesterday, February 3, 2024.** *The 2024 homeless lunch schedule is now up on the outreach board.* We will be entering our 25th 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).

Coming soon is our long awaited “Blessing Box” and “Little Library.” Be on the lookout for upcoming information and ways that you can help contribute!

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! *

Care Notes Corner: *The parish nurse ministry continues to promote a healthier faith community through spiritual support and healthy life choices, while supporting ministries already in place within the church. If there are any special needs that can be accommodated through the parish nurse ministry, please contact Crystal Sarvay, MSN., RN at epiphanyrvaparishnurse@gmail.com*

COMMUNICATION CARD

February 4, 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

