

The Church of the Epiphany

The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 22
October 8, 2023
10:30 a.m.

The Holy Eucharist

according to

THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER 1979

Rite II

and The Hymnal, 1982

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

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

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

Prelude: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross – C.S. Lang

Welcome and Announcements

PREPARATION RITES

BCP 355

All stand for the entrance procession

Hymn 372 Praise to the living God

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

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.
Amen.**

The Celebrant says the Collect for Purity.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from you, no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our
hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may
perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name;
through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Gloria in Excelsis is sung by all, standing

Hymnal S-280

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

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

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

BCP 234

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to
hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire

or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

LITURGY OF THE WORD

BCP 357

The people sit

Reader A Reading from Isaiah [5:1-7]

Let me sing for my beloved
my love-song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.
He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.
And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.
What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild grapes?
And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.

I will make it a waste;
 it shall not be pruned or hoed,
 and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;
 I will also command the clouds
 that they rain no rain upon it.
 For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts
 is the house of Israel,
 and the people of Judah
 are his pleasant planting;
 he expected justice,
 but saw bloodshed;
 righteousness,
 but heard a cry!

Reader The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence is observed

Directions for Reciting the Psalter

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

BCP 583

Reader The Psalm for today is a portion of
 Psalm 80, *Qui regis Israel*
 We will read responsively by whole verse,
 pausing at the asterisks.

BCP 702

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; * *(pause)*
 show the light of your countenance, and we shall be
 saved.

8 You have brought a vine out of Egypt; * *(pause)*
 you cast out the nations and planted it.

9 You prepared the ground for it; * *(pause)*
 it took root and filled the land.

**10 The mountains were covered by its shadow * (pause)
and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.**

11 You stretched out its tendrils to the Sea * (pause)
and its branches to the River.

**12 Why have you broken down its wall, * (pause)
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?**

13 The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, * (pause)
and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

**14 Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from
heaven; behold and tend this vine; * (pause)
preserve what your right hand has planted.**

Reader A Reading from Philippians [3:4b-14]

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence is observed

The people stand for the Gospel procession

Laudate Dominum

Songs from Taizé

The people and choir sing.

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 Celebrant reads the Gospel, first saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
According to Matthew [21:33-46].

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

Jesus said, "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.'" So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes?”

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away
from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the
kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to
pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they
realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest
him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a
prophet.

After the Gospel, the Celebrant says

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

THE SERMON

The Rev’d Canon Dr. Lynn A. Collins

Silence is observed

The people stand. The Celebrant and people say

THE NICENE CREED

BCP 358

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
 he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
 he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
 and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
 in accordance with the Scriptures;
 he ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Intercessor and people pray responsively

Intercessor The ways of God revive the soul, give wisdom to the innocent, and enlighten those of little faith. In thanksgiving we offer our prayers, responding, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

Silence is observed

In thanksgiving that the forgiving arms of Jesus have embraced us while we were yet sinners, and carried us into the path that leads to eternal hope and heavenly grace; let us pray.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor For a heart of abundant generosity, that we may give

thanks for all that God has given to us, and share these gifts with all who stand in need, especially the poor and those who live with anxiety and despair; let us pray.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor That we may reassess our lifestyles, simplifying the ways in which we live, reducing our consumption, so that we may have more time and treasure to share with others; let us pray.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor In thanksgiving for the gifts of liberty and a democratic form of government; may we take our part in its future, and continue to offer prayers for those who exercise leadership in our nation and local cities and towns; let us pray.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor For peace throughout the world, beginning within our hearts and families, revealed through our reliance on God's word to lead us into a stable global community; let us pray.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor That the faithful departed may rest in peace, and those whose faith remains unknown may receive God's mercy; let us pray.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor In the knowledge of the surpassing worth of knowing Jesus Christ, we continue our prayers.

Silence is observed

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

The Celebrant concludes with a Collect.

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

The Celebrant reads one of the sentences from the Penitential Order

BCP 352

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

The people kneel and the Priest then says

BCP 359

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence is observed

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 Priest alone stands and pronounces absolution.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness,

and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

All stand for The Peace

The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

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

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Celebrant says to the people

BCP 376

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

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: Who At My Door is Standing – K. Lee Scott

Hymn 424 For the fruit of all creation (v. 3)

Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

The Celebrant faces the people and says

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Then, facing the altar, the Celebrant proceeds

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

earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of 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 kneel

Then the Celebrant continues

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

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

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

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

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

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

The Celebrant continues

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

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

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

The Celebrant continues

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

People and Celebrant

BCP 364

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us
And lead us not into temptation,**

but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread

Silence is observed

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

Celebrant and People

Hymnal S-161

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.**

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BCP 365

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

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

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

Hymn 458 My song is love unknown (v. 1-2, 7)

Taizé Chant. Come and fill

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

CONCLUDING RITES

After Communion, the people kneel and Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

BCP 366

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

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

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

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 495 Hail, thou once despised Jesus

Postlude: Lead On, O King Eternal – R. Arnatt

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.

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. – 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
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

The Vestry

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

COMMUNICATION CARD
October 8, 2023

Welcome! You have blessed us with your presence. Please tell us how we can best serve you by completing the Communication Card.

Please place in the offering basket, hand it to an usher, or place on the table in the vestibule.

I'm looking for a church home
 I'd like to speak with a clergy member
 I'm ready to become a member
 I'm just visiting today

Name & Address Please update

Phone _____

Email _____

Children's names and ages

Please give me more information about:

Children's / Youth Programs
 Social events
 Outreach opportunities
 Classes and Small Group Studies
 Baptism or Confirmation
 How I can get involved

How did you hear about Epiphany?

(over)

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

New to the Prayer List:

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

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

Prayers for the departed: Buddy Dunn

CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

Today's Ministers

Ushers: Scott Blackwell, Conny Barrett
Acolytes: Ginny Tucker, Cora Whitlock
Lessons: Carol Cullinan
Prayers of the People: Carol Cullinan
Chalice: Cory Isemann
Sun. School Helper: Stephanie Norris
Altar Guild: Karen & Randy Holden
Coffee Hour: 2nd Sunday Luncheon—Baked Potato Bar
Counters: Gray Corbett

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

The Church of the Epiphany
ANNOUNCEMENTS
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 8, 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 5:1-7

In our opening lesson the prophet sings a sad parable about God's vineyard, Israel, and the destruction that must now comw upon it. Despite all God's loving care, this vineyard brought forth only sour grapes. The Lord looked for right judgment and found wrong. God hoped for justice and instead hear cries of distress.

2nd Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14

Paul reminds the new Christians at Philippi that if any have reason to brag because of heritage, lineage, or zeal, it is he. Yet all human achievements are to be counted as rubbish next to the joy and privilege of knowing God in Christ. Paul does not consider himself complete, but presses forward to learn yet more of the grace of Christ, the power of his resurrection and the sharing in his sufferings. His goal remains ahead: God's upward call in Christ Jesus.

The Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46

Our gospel is the story of the wicked and disloyal tenants who are cast out of the vineyard. The parable is presented to us as an allegory in which the vineyard is Israel and the wicked tenants are its people. The servants sent to them are the prophets and the son whom they kill is Jesus. To the hearing of the early church the destruction of the vineyard would parallel the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 CE, while the heritage of the vineyard is now given to others. There is added an ancient prophecy concerning the stone which was rejected, but which has now become the main cornerstone for the Lord's new work.

On the Calendar and Coming up

Sun. Oct. 8th

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

2nd Sunday Luncheon—Baked Potato Bar

7:30 pm — AA Meeting in parish hall

Office Closed Mon. Oct. 9th & Tue. Oct. 10th

Wed. Oct. 11th

6:00 pm — Bible Study

Thur. Oct. 12th

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

Fri. Oct. 13th

7:30 pm — AA meeting in the parish hall

Sun. Oct. 15th

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

Blessing of the Animals in the Outdoor Chapel.

7:30pm —AA meeting in the parish hall

The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the Glory of God by Wayne & Lucy Whitlock in loving memory of his parents, Pete & Joyce Whitlock.

We welcome the Rev'd Canon Dr. Lynn Collins who is with us today as our Celebrant and Preacher. We appreciate her time with us! Mtr. Kristin will be out of town through Tuesday.

Stewardship: Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. (1 Peter 4:10)

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

Blessing of the Animals, next Sunday, October 15. Bring your furry or feathered friends to our outdoor worship service at the 10:30 am service. In case of inclement weather, worship will be held in the parish hall.

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

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

Attendance: October 1, 2023
8:15 am 2
10:30 am 50

Outreach Opportunities

The diaper ministry continues to hold diaper distribution on the third Saturday of every month from 10 am to 12 noon. This inspirational ministry has been touching families lives in our community since 2018 and continues to welcome new families each month. This ministry offers the parish an outreach opportunity to share God's love and develop relationships within our community and this past month we have met several new families. The most recent diaper distribution was held Saturday, September 21st. The next diaper distribution will be on October 16th. A sign-up sheet is on the outreach board in the parish hallway for anyone interested in volunteering. Donations of diapers (sizes 4, 5 and 6) and wipes are also appreciated. Thank you again to everyone for your continued support of this ministry!

A copy of the **2023 homeless lunch schedule** is available on the bulletin board in the parish hallway if anyone would like a copy. If anyone is interested in taking part in this ministry, ALL are welcome! Contact Mary Sam Abernathy (msabernathy88@gmail.com) or the team lead, for the team you are interested in helping. **The next lunches are scheduled to be prepared and delivered by Chapter 11 on November 4th.** Thank you to the green team who prepared and delivered lunches on October 7th. This ministry is currently in its 24th year! **Donations of paper lunch bags, sandwich bags and napkins** are always welcome as well and can be dropped at the church office. Additionally, if you have further questions or concerns, I am always available to answer any questions. Crystal Sarvay, Outreach Coordinator (crystalsarvay@gmail.com).

Join us for our first annual Trunk or Treat and Fall Festival on Saturday, October 28th starting at 2 pm. Come out and join the fun by decorating your car and filling your trunk with candy and/or goodies to hand out to the community children. For those who don't know what a trunk or treat is...We will have individuals park their cars on the grass in front of the church and all children can go car to car or "trunk to trunk" for candy/treats, in a safe and fun community atmosphere, rather than going door to door. There is a sign up sheet on the outreach board. Sign up if you want to be one of the "cars" supplying treats or volunteer to run a game!. ALL are welcome! There will also be games, face painting, crafts, and prizes. Volunteer to run one of the games! If you cannot attend, you could donate some candy, prizes or treats. Don't miss this fun community event! It will be held on the front lawn & driveway in front of the church. If you need further information, please contact Crystal Sarvay.

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

The love and kindness that our parish shares is beyond amazing!

Love lives here! 

COMMUNICATION CARD

October 8, 2023

Our Communication Card is for **all people at The Church of the Epiphany** so that you can share your thoughts and prayers, and request information.

If you are new, please complete the opposite side so we also have your contact information.

I'd like more information about an upcoming event or program

I am RSVPing or signing up for:

I am interested in learning more about how to be part of the following ministries or programs:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Greeters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Altar Guild | <input type="checkbox"/> Pastoral Care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Office help | <input type="checkbox"/> Readers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christian Ed | <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Team |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach | <input type="checkbox"/> Ushers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chalice Bearer | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Prayer Requests / Comments