

The Church of the Epiphany

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 19
September 17, 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: Come down, O Love Divine – R. Arnatt

Welcome and Announcements

PREPARATION RITES

BCP 355

All stand for the entrance procession

Hymn 390 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

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 says the Collect

BCP 233

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

BCP 357

The people sit. The Lessons, as appointed, are read, the Reader first saying

A Reading from Genesis [50:15-21]

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence is kept

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 103, *Benedic, anima mea*
We will read responsively by whole verse.

BCP 733

- 1 Bless the Lord, O my soul, *
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.
- 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, ***
and forget not all his benefits.
- 3 He forgives all your sins *
and heals all your infirmities;
- 4 He redeems your life from the grave ***
and crowns you with mercy and loving-
kindness;
- 5 He satisfies you with good things, *
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- 6 The Lord executes righteousness ***
and judgment for all who are oppressed.
- 7 He made his ways known to Moses *
and his works to the children of Israel.
- 8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, ***
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 9 He will not always accuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
- 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, ***
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
- 12 As far as the east is from the west, ***
so far has he removed our sins from us.
- 13 As a father cares for his children, *
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.

Reader A Reading from Romans [14:1-12]

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who

abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to
me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence is kept

The people stand for the Gospel procession. The people and choir sing.

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 Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
According to Matthew [18:21-35].

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

Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.

Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

After the Gospel, the Celebrant says

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

The Rev'd Kristin Wickersham

Silence is kept

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 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Intercessor and people pray responsively

Subdeacon Rejoice in the waters of life, those who honor God in all things, and raise your voices in prayer, responding, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

Silence is observed

In thanksgiving for this holy day where we gather as a household of faith to hear the word of God with open minds and grateful hearts; let us pray.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor In thanksgiving for the arms of forgiveness that embrace us in the midst of our sin, leading us to repentance and filling us with the waters of mercy through which we will forgive others; let us pray.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor For honesty in government and integrity in our dealings with one another, that trust may be restored between people and throughout the institutions of our society; let us pray.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor That we may commit ourselves to a life of simplicity, so

that we may provide for the needs of the poor and hungry, as Jesus provided nourishment and hope to his followers; let us pray.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor That we may share our spiritual doubts with one another, convinced that in our mutual self-disclosure, we will be strengthened in faith and grow in the conviction that God's love can forgive all things and transforms all life; let us pray.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor In thanksgiving for those who are teachers and catechists in our Church; may they be given the blessing of knowledge and wisdom, as they bear the Christian message to those in their charge; let us pray.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor That the dead may be redeemed from the grave, and wear the crown of eternal life; let us pray.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Miriam sang to the Lord for all the glorious gifts her people had received, and so we join with her in continuing our prayers.

Silence is kept

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.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

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 kept

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 Bishop when present, or the Priest, 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

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

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

At the offertory, we gratefully offer back to God a portion of what God has given us, symbolically in the Bread and Wine and in the money we give. An offering is received to support Epiphany's ministry of sharing God's love. All are invited to make a thank offering as the plate is passed. The offerings are then brought to the altar to be blessed by the priest.

The people sit

Voluntary: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee – B. Ingram

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

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and says

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

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

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Then, facing the altar, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

Hymnal S-125

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

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

The people kneel

Then the Celebrant continues

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

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

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 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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread

A period of silence is kept.

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.**

THE INVITATION

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 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.

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.

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.

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.**

During the ministration of Communion, hymns, psalms, or anthems are sung.

Hymn 336 Come with us, O blessed Jesus

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.

The People may join in saying this prayer

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.

All stand for the dismissal.

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 334 Praise the Lord, rise up rejoicing

Postlude: In Thee Is Gladness – M. Burkhardt

The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the Glory of God.

An Outline of the Faith
commonly called the Catechism

Holy Baptism

Q. What is Holy Baptism?

A. Holy Baptism is the sacrament by which God adopts us as his children and makes us members of Christ's Body, the Church, and inheritors of the kingdom of God.

Q. What is the outward and visible sign in Baptism?

A. The outward and visible sign in Baptism is water, in which the person is baptized in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Q. What is the inward and spiritual grace in Baptism?

A. The inward and spiritual grace in Baptism is union with Christ in his death and resurrection, birth into God's family the Church, forgiveness of sins, and new life in the Holy Spirit.

Q. What is required of us at Baptism?

A. It is required that we renounce Satan, repent of our sins, and accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

Q. Why then are infants baptized?

- A. Infants are baptized so that they can share citizenship in the Covenant, membership in Christ, and redemption by God.
- Q. How are the promises for infants made and carried out?
- A. Promises are made for them by their parents and sponsors, who guarantee that the infants will be brought up within the Church, to know Christ and be able to follow him.

The Church of the Epiphany

An Episcopal Church and member of the worldwide Anglican Communion

8000 Hermitage Road
Richmond, Virginia 23228
(804) 266-2503

Office Hours:
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Clergy and Staff

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

The Vestry

The Rev'd Kristin Wickersham (Presider), John Sarvay (Sr. Warden),
Randy Holden (Jr. Warden), Jeri Townley (Register),

Scott Blackwell, Gray Corbett, John Norris,
Mirendy Smith, Billy Tucker

COMMUNICATION CARD
September 17, 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: Emma Greenman—friend of Kim & Dwight Ludwig

Parishioners: Mike Young, Bob Jimerson, Buddy Dunn, Timon Kenyi, Shirley Hughson, Chris Tignor, Jeannie Riddick, Chuck Strabley

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

Family & Friends: Kim McMullin & Keri Roberts—friends of Becky Card, Caitlin & Dcn. Kyle Bomare & their family, 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

Prayers for the departed:

CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

Today's Ministers

Ushers: Becky Card, Kim Ruder

Acolytes: Avery Craver, Ezra Axelle

Lessons: Cheri Blackwell

Prayers of the People: Cheri Blackwell

Subdeacon: Florian Jones-Stamm

Sun. School Helper: Jennifer Jefcoats

Altar Guild: Crystal & John Sarvay, Conny Barrett

Coffee Hour: Kathy & Carol

Counters: Becky Card

Weekly Worship

Sundays at 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.

Contact info:
The Rev. Kristin P. R. Wickersham, SOSc
Priest in Charge
Cell Phone: 804-502-1891

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The Church of the Epiphany
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 17, 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: Genesis 50:15-21

In our sequential Hebrew scripture lesson Joseph's brothers fear his wrath upon learning of the death of their father Jacob. It could be that Joseph will seek vengeance for the wrong done to him now that Jacob is no longer able to intercede on their behalf. The brothers manufacture a story and plead for mercy. Joseph tearfully and warmly reassures them that he intends only their good and the well-being of their families.

2nd Reading: Romans 14:1-12

In this reading Paul calls upon the Roman disciples to live with tolerance for one another's scruples, recognizing that everything can be done to honor the Lord with whom each Christian has a relationship. Especially should those who are strong and untroubled in their consciences respect the attitudes of the weak in matters such as observing certain days and eating meat. It is possible that there was tension in the Roman church between liberal Gentile Christians and more scrupulous Jewish Christians. God, Paul reminds them, is the one to whom final answer must be given, and the risen Christ is Lord of all.

The Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

In the gospel lesson Jesus bids his disciples to offer a forgiveness which is, for all practical purposes, unlimited, and he tells a parable about a man who, although forgiven much, still himself had no mercy. Jesus has extended to all manner of people God's amazingly generous offer of acceptance into the kingdom. Those who have been so forgiven must show mercy to others. Their own forgiveness may otherwise be revoked.



On the Calendar and Coming up

Sun. Sept. 17th

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

7:30 pm — AA Meeting in parish hall

Tue. Sept. 18th

6:00 pm— Vestry Meeting

Wed. Sept. 20th

6:00 pm — Bible Study

Thur. Sept. 21st

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

Fri. Sept. 22nd

7:30 pm — AA meeting in the parish hall

Sun. Sept. 24th

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

7:30pm —AA meeting in the parish hall

The flowers on the altar this morning are given to the Glory of God by Randy & Karen Holden in loving memory of her sister, Kathy Strabley.

Stewardship: I never would have been able to tithe the first million dollars I ever made if I had not tithed my first salary, which was \$1.50 a week. (John D. Rockefeller)

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

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

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

Attendance: September 10, 2023
8:15 am 6
10:30 am 59

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, August 19th. The next diaper distribution day is on September 16th. A sign-up sheet is on the outreach board in the parish hallway for anyone interested in volunteering. Donations of diapers (sizes 4, 5 and 6) and wipes are also appreciated. Thank you again to everyone for your continued support of this ministry!



A copy of the **2023 homeless lunch schedule** is available on the bulletin board in the parish hallway if anyone would like a copy. If anyone is interested in taking part in this ministry, ALL are welcome! Contact Mary Sam Abernathy (msabernathy88@gmail.com) or the team lead, for the team you are interested in helping. **The next lunches are scheduled to be prepared and delivered by the Green Team on October 7th.** Thank you to the Vestry who prepared and delivered lunches on September 2nd. This ministry is currently in its 24th year! **Donations of paper lunch bags, sandwich bags and napkins** are always welcome as well and can be dropped at the church office. Additionally, if you have further questions or concerns, I am always available to answer any questions. Crystal Sarvay, Outreach Coordinator (crystalsarvay@gmail.com).



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

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

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

COMMUNICATION CARD

September 17, 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
