



## *St. Thomas' Episcopal Church*

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# The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 7, 2021

## Morning Prayer: Rite Two

**Prelude**                    *Father, We Praise Thee, Now The Night Is Over*                    Christe sanctorum

**Opening sentence** p. 76

I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth. *Isaiah 49:6b*

### **Confession of Sin**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People:*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*The Bishop when present, or the Priest, stands and 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 Invitatory and Psalter

*Officiant* Lord, open our lips. p. 80

*People* **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

*Officiant and People*

**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.**

The Lord has shown forth his glory: **Come let us adore him.**

**Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; \*  
serve the Lord with gladness  
and come before his presence with a song.**

**Know this: The Lord himself is God; \*  
he himself has made us, and we are his;  
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving;  
go into his courts with praise; \*  
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.**

**For the Lord is good;  
his mercy is everlasting; \*  
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.**

**Psalm 147:1-12, 21c** (*read responsively by whole verse*)

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah!  
How good it is to sing praises to our God! \*  
how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!

<sup>2</sup> **The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; \*  
he gathers the exiles of Israel.**

<sup>3</sup> He heals the brokenhearted \*  
and binds up their wounds.

<sup>4</sup> **He counts the number of the stars \*  
and calls them all by their names.**

<sup>5</sup> Great is our LORD and mighty in power; \*  
there is no limit to his wisdom.

<sup>6</sup> **The LORD lifts up the lowly, \*  
but casts the wicked to the ground.**

<sup>7</sup> Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; \*  
make music to our God upon the harp.

<sup>8</sup> **He covers the heavens with clouds \*  
and prepares rain for the earth;**

<sup>9</sup> He makes grass to grow upon the mountains \*  
and green plants to serve mankind.

**<sup>10</sup> He provides food for flocks and herds \*  
and for the young ravens when they cry.**

<sup>11</sup> He is not impressed by the might of a horse; \*  
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;

**<sup>12</sup> But the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him, \*  
in those who await his gracious favor.**

<sup>21</sup> Hallelujah!

**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.**

### **The First Lesson**

**Isaiah 40:21-31**

A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

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.

*Lector* The word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God**

**Vocal Solo**

Canticle 20: Glory To God

Hurd

**The Second Lesson**

**1 Corinthians 9:16-23**

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

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.

*Lector* The word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God**

**Canticle 11 The Third Song of Isaiah** *(all recite in unison)*

p. 87

*Isaiah 60:1-3, 11a, 14c, 18-19*

**Arise, shine, for your light has come, \***  
**and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.**  
**For behold, darkness covers the land; \***  
**deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.**  
**But over you the Lord will rise, \***  
**and his glory will appear upon you.**  
**Nations will stream to your light, \***  
**and kings to the brightness of your dawning.**  
**Your gates will always be open; \***  
**by day or night they will never be shut.**  
**They will call you, The City of the Lord, \***  
**The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.**  
**Violence will no more be heard in your land, \***  
**ruin or destruction within your borders.**  
**You will call your walls, Salvation, \***  
**and all your portals, Praise.**  
**The sun will no more be your light by day; \***  
**by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.**  
**The Lord will be your everlasting light, \***  
**and your God will be your glory.**

**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. A-men.**

**The Gospel**

**Mark 1:29-39**

A reading from the Gospel of Mark.

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.

Lector The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God**

## **Sermon**

### **The Apostles' Creed**

*Officiant and People together*

p. 96

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## The Prayers

p. 97

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

**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.**

*Then follows one of these sets of Suffrages*

**B**

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

R. **Govern and uphold them, now and always.**

V. Day by day we bless you;

R. **We praise your name for ever.**

V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;

R. **Have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy.**

V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;

R. **For we put our trust in you.**

V. In you, Lord, is our hope;

R. **And we shall never hope in vain.**

*The Collect of the Day*

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.**

*A Collect for Sundays*

p. 98

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



A Collect for Peace

p. 99

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer for Mission

p. 101

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. **Amen.**

**Anthem**

O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing

Azmon

For the Human Family

p. 815

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For the Sick

p. 459

Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve your sick servants *Ashley Burnett, Jeanine Wilson, Al Cowand, Randy Tyler, Ben Procter, Joan Leggett, Kay Barnacascel, Becky Godwin, John Tolbert, Coley McCally, Karen Gudiksen, Bobbie and Rendol Cobb, Libby Smith, Marian Watts, Lena Evans, Charles Taylor Spruill, Larry Watson, Julia Credle, Joey Ezelle, Racheal Coward, Peggy Parker, Sylvia Dawson, David Dunn, Elsie Benson, Riley Raines, Andy Walker, Will Copeland, Mary Gillam, Rita Hoggard, Thomas Roach, those with COVID-19, and others known to us*, and give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that they may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For those who have died

p. 505

Almighty God, Father of mercies and giver of comfort: Deal graciously, we pray, with all who mourn, especially the family of Elizabeth Gray Norfleet Stallings; that, casting all their care on you, they may know the consolation of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For our Country

p. 820

Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Authorized intercessions and thanksgivings may follow.*

**The General Thanksgiving**

p. 101

*Officiant and People*

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

***A Prayer of St. Chrysostom***

p. 102

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the

midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The Officiant may then conclude with the following*

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** *Romans 15:13*

**Postlude**

*Songs Of Thankfulness And Praise*

Salzburg

### **MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY**

**Officiant:** The Rev. Bonnie Smith

**Organist:** Tom Parker

**Altar:** Marti Tyler, Agnes Powell, Alice Pittman, Rosanna Rhea

**Lector:** Karen Ray

**Soloist:** Clara Blanchard

**Hostesses:** Pat Ivey, Emily Wilson, Grace DeMajewski

**Ushers:** Wood Farless, Fen Rascoe

Money Counters: Rosanna Rhea, Janet Capehart

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Weather permitting, we will continue with outdoor worship next Sunday at 11:00 a.m., with video on Facebook.

The vestry has elected John Tyler, Marti Tyler, and Jaquelin Perry as delegates to the virtual diocesan convention on February 13. Tra Perry is alternate delegate.

Anyone may watch the diocesan convention via the diocesan Facebook page [facebook.com/dioec](https://facebook.com/dioec) or the Diocese of East Carolina's YouTube page. Convention begins at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 13. The Bishop's Address is scheduled for 11:15 a.m. Closing prayers are scheduled for 11:50 a.m. If you are not available during those times, videos should be available later on the diocesan web page: <https://ecdio.org/Governance/138th-convention.html>

There will be a report next Sunday during worship.

An outdoor Ash Wednesday liturgy is planned for February 17 at 5:30 p.m., weather permitting. Unfortunately, there will not be a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper this year.