



## *St. Thomas' Episcopal Church*

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# The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

January 31, 2021

## Morning Prayer: Rite Two

**Prelude** *Come, Thou Almighty King* Page

**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.**

**The Jubilate** (all recite in unison)

p. 82

**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 111** (*read responsively by whole verse*)

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah!

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, \*  
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

<sup>2</sup> **Great are the deeds of the LORD! \***  
**they are studied by all who delight in them.**

<sup>3</sup> His work is full of majesty and splendor, \*  
and his righteousness endures for ever.

<sup>4</sup> **He makes his marvelous works to be remembered; \***  
**the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.**

<sup>5</sup> He gives food to those who fear him; \*  
he is ever mindful of his covenant.

<sup>6</sup> **He has shown his people the power of his works \***  
**in giving them the lands of the nations.**

<sup>7</sup> The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; \*  
all his commandments are sure.

<sup>8</sup> **They stand fast for ever and ever, \***  
**because they are done in truth and equity.**

<sup>9</sup> He sent redemption to his people;  
he commanded his covenant for ever; \*  
holy and awesome is his Name.

<sup>10</sup> **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; \*  
those who act accordingly have a good understanding;  
his praise endures for ever.**

**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**

**Deuteronomy 18:15-20**

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy.

Moses said: The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

*Lector* The word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God**

### **Vocal Solo**

Canticle 20: Glory To God

Hurd

### **The Second Lesson**

**1 Corinthians 8:1-13**

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

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him.

Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords— yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. “Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

*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 1:21-28**

A reading from the Gospel of Mark.

Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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

*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.**

p. 97

The Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and 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**

Tell Out, My Soul, The Greatness Of The Lord

Birmingham

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 Coward, 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 Brandon Marshall; 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**

*O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High*

Deus tuorum militum

**MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY**

**Officiant:** The Rev. Bonnie Smith

**Organist and Soloist:** Tom Parker

**Altar:** Shirley Cooper, Cham Trowell, Jane Hall

**Lector:** Jaquelin Perry

**Hostesses:** Kristin Warren, Mollie Perry, Anne Farless

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Weather permitting, we will resume 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.

During a special meeting on January 4, the vestry elected John Tyler as Sr. Warden, Steve Trowell as Jr. Warden, and Mike Spruill as Vestry Clerk.