July 19, 2020

The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Ante-Communion Rite II

The People’s responses are in bold.

Officiant / Preacher: The Rev. Lynn Perkins
Deacon: The Rev. Scott Deasy
Music: Charly Spining and Mary Anne Bruner
Reader: Martha Taylor
This hymn comes from Lift Every Voice and Sing, a compilation of music from African-American traditions. We include this today in recognition of the contributions of Black worshipers around the globe to the glory of the Kingdom of God.
Welcome Prayer
Holy Spirit, living within us, guide our hearts and minds as we welcome today all those who worship with us at Epiphany. Give us discerning hearts so that everyone feels welcomed in the spirit of your love. Help us to recognize each person as an individual sent by you who will enrich our lives. And most of all, O God, let our hearts be a place of love and acceptance of all your children; in the name of your child our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Word of God
Priest    Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People    And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.
Priest    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.
People    Amen.

All    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 Collect of the Day
Priest    The Lord be with you.
People    And also with you.
Priest    Let us pray.
Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.
The Lessons

Genesis 28:10-19
Common English Bible

Reader A reading from the book of Genesis.

Jacob left Beer-sheba and set out for Haran. He reached a certain place and spent the night there. When the sun had set, he took one of the stones at that place and put it near his head. Then he lay down there. He dreamed and saw a raised staircase, its foundation on earth and its top touching the sky, and God’s messengers were ascending and descending on it. Suddenly the LORD was standing on it and saying, “I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will become like the dust of the earth; you will spread out to the west, east, north, and south. Every family of earth will be blessed because of you and your descendants. I am with you now, I will protect you everywhere you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done everything that I have promised you.” When Jacob woke from his sleep, he thought to himself, The LORD is definitely in this place, but I didn’t know it. He was terrified and thought, This sacred place is awesome. It’s none other than God’s house and the entrance to heaven. After Jacob got up early in the morning, he took the stone that he had put near his head, set it up as a sacred pillar, and poured oil on the top of it. He named that sacred place Bethel, though Luz was the city’s original name.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
Common English Bible

Reader Please join with me in reading the Psalm for today.

LORD, you have examined me.
You know me.
You know when I sit down and when I stand up.
Even from far away, you comprehend my plans.
You study my traveling and resting.
You are thoroughly familiar with all my ways.
There isn’t a word on my tongue, LORD,
that you don’t already know completely.
You surround me—front and back.
You put your hand on me.
That kind of knowledge is too much for me;
   it’s so high above me that I can’t reach it.
Where could I go to get away from your spirit?
   Where could I go to escape your presence?
If I went up to heaven, you would be there.
   If I went down to the grave, you would be there too!
If I could fly on the wings of dawn,
   stopping to rest only on the far side of the ocean—
even there your hand would guide me;
   even there your strong hand would hold me tight!
If I said, “The darkness will definitely hide me;
   the light will become night around me,”
even then the darkness isn’t too dark for you!
   Nighttime would shine bright as day,
because darkness is the same as light to you!
Examine me, God! Look at my heart!
   Put me to the test! Know my anxious thoughts!
Look to see if there is any idolatrous way in me,
   then lead me on the eternal path!

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 CEB

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like someone who planted good seed in his field. While people were sleeping, an enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat and went away. When the stalks sprouted and bore grain, then the weeds also appeared. “The servants of the landowner came and said to him, ‘Master, didn’t you plant good seed in your field? Then how is it that it has weeds?’ “An enemy has done this,’ he answered. “The servants said to him, ‘Do you want us to go and gather them?’ “But the landowner said, ‘No, because if you gather the weeds, you’ll pull up the wheat along with them. Let both grow side by side until the harvest. And at harvest time I’ll say to the harvesters, “First gather the weeds and tie them together in bundles to be burned. But bring the wheat into my barn.”’” Jesus left the crowds and went into the house. His dis-
disciples came to him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.” Jesus replied, “The one who plants the good seed is the Human One. The field is the world. And the good seeds are the followers of the kingdom. But the weeds are the followers of the evil one. The enemy who planted them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the present age. The harvesters are the angels. Just as people gather weeds and burn them in the fire, so it will be at the end of the present age. The Human One will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that cause people to fall away and all people who sin. He will throw them into a burning furnace. People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in their Father’s kingdom. Those who have ears should hear.”

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People 

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon  The Rev. Lynn Perkins

Nicene Creed
Deacon 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
Litany of Solidarity and Hope During a Pandemic

Reader For those who are sick.
For those with chronic illnesses and underlying health concerns.
For all those who are suffering.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader For those who are lonely.
For those who have no one to check on them.
For families that are separated.
For those who are unemployed.
For those suffering financial hardships.
For those who face an uncertain future.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader For those who are suffering from physical or emotional abuse.
For those who are disproportionately suffering because of societal structures and unjust policies.
For those who are struggling with physical or mental disabilities.
For those who are overwhelmed by anxiety and stress.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader For those who are dying.
For those who have died while saving the lives of others.
For all who have lost their lives.
For those who have survived.
For those who have lost their spouses.
For children who have been orphaned.
For all those who mourn and those who comfort them.

People Lord, hear our prayer.
Reader
For firefighters, police, and emergency medical workers.
For doctors, nurses, and all health care professionals.
For those who serve in the armed forces.
For public officials. For business leaders.
For educators. For innovators and inventors who provide new solutions.
For Deacons, Priests, and Bishops.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader
For peace in our city and in our world.
For renewed friendships among neighbors.
For solidarity and unity among all peoples.
For a greater appreciation and love of all humanity.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader
For patience and perseverance.
For calm in the midst of fear.
For the grace to overcome adversity.
For generosity of spirit. For hope in times of despair.
For light in the darkness.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Priest Gracious and Loving God, You are our comforter and our hope.
Hear our prayers as we come before you. Strengthen us in this time of need. In-spire us to acts of solidarity and generosity and give us hope of a brighter future.
Amen. (Adapted from a prayer by Joseph P. Shadle)

Confession of Sin
Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
All 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.

Priest 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
Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

Lord’s Prayer
Priest And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
All Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

Prayer for Spiritual Communion
Priest Let us join together in the Prayer for Spiritual Communion.
All Jesus, may all that is you flow into me.
May my food and drink be your body and blood.
May your passion and death be my strength and life.
Jesus, with you by my side enough has been given.
May the shelter I seek be the shadow of your cross.
Let me not run from the love which you offer
But hold me safe from the forces of evil.
On each of my dyings shed your light and your love.
Keep calling to me until that day comes
When, with your saints, I may praise you for ever. Amen.
(1989 Anglican Church of South Africa Prayer book)
Final Blessing

_Priest_  Lord, bind us to you and to our neighbor with love,
May our hearts not be turned away from you.
May our souls not be deceived nor our talents or minds
enticed by allurements or error.
Thus may we love our neighbor as ourselves,
with strength, wisdom, and gentleness.
And may God our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer
be with us all forever more. Amen.

_(Adapted from a prayer by St. Anthony of Padua)_

Dismissal

_Deacon_  Dismissal of their choice.
_People_  Thanks be to God.

Christ is the world's true light

1982 Hymnal 542

1. Christ is the world’s true Light,
   its Captain of salvation,
   the Day-star clear and bright
   of every race and nation;
   new life, new hope awakes,
   for all who own his sway:

2. In Christ all races meet,
   their ancient feuds forgetting,
   the whole round world complete,
   from sunrise to its setting:
   when Christ is throned as Lord
   all shall forsake their fear,

3. One Lord, in one great Name
   unite us all who own thee;
   cast out our pride and shame
   that hinder to enthrone thee;
   the world has waited long,
   has travailed long in pain;

4. Long ago was anathema
   to Christ: now all is peace.
   They are healed, their sins
   are forgiven, sin is dead.
   Hallelujah! Christ it is!

_(Chorus)_

O God, who art to us a light,
Shed forth thy peace through all the earth.

_(Chorus)_

O God, who art to us a light,
Shed forth thy peace through all the earth.

_(Chorus)_

O God, who art to us a light,
Shed forth thy peace through all the earth.

_(Chorus)_

O God, who art to us a light,
Shed forth thy peace through all the earth.
Virtual Coffee Hour: We are offering a virtual version of Coffee Hour at 10:30am right after the Sunday morning worship service! Coffee and Chat will be an informal way to pop in and have a chat with your church community! You can join the Zoom gathering by going here: https://zoom.us/j/98906592488 or entering the Meeting ID: 989 0659 2488. The Password for the gathering is: 618030

Faith Powers Our Resilience: July 19th and 26th 11:15am-12:15pm We explore a big question which is relevant now more than ever in the pandemic: What helps people navigate and adapt during life’s toughest times? Cheryl Austin started researching resilience in 2008, during the global financial crisis. Over the years, her research came to reflect two perspectives fostered by her degree and work in theology and her career. Cheryl’s conclusion is our spiritual life gives us tremendous capacity for resilience. To attend email Cheryl at cherylruthaustin@icloud.com.

Orange Stoles: You may have noticed our clergy wearing orange stoles and wondering what liturgical season we are in! Episcopalians wear orange as a sign of our commitment to raise call for action against gun violence.

Fake Emails: Priest Marianna only uses priestm@epiphanyaz.org, and occasionally reverendmarianna@gmail.com as her email addresses. If you ever receive any emails that purport to be her, but use other email addresses, please do not respond. These are fake email addresses trying to scam money off of church members.
**Pledges and Giving:** These are uncertain times for all of us. If you are able to, please try to keep your pledge payment as current as possible. Epiphany is committed to paying our staff throughout our time apart, but we need everyone’s support in order to accomplish it.

**An additional note about pledge payments:** During the time period when the church is closed, pledge deposits are made by our tellers every other Monday. Please note that your checks may not clear the bank as quickly as they have in the past.

**ART IN ACTION IS BACK!** Take a moment to view the excellent movie that Mary Ross has put together featuring the photography of students from Flagstaff High School and CCC, including our own Pearl. The photos are a stark reminder of what our little town looked like during the first weeks of the shutdown. It is the first offering by Open Doors: Art in Action of the virtual exhibits we plan to produce in the future. It is our hope that when we can return to the gallery, we will still offer an online version. You can find the exhibit entitled “Flagstaff in the time of COVID 19” on Youtube or on the Open Doors: Art in Action Facebook page.

**This week we give thanks for** Bishop Reddall and all the Diocesan staff who worked to put on last weekend’s virtual worship.

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