

Welcome to

# CHRIST CHURCH

THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 16, 2020—8:00 A.M.



+ --Appropriate place to make the "Sign of the cross"

BCP—The "Black" Book of Common Prayer

Hymnal—The "Red" Hymnal 1982

LEVAS—Music from Lift Every Voice and Sing Hymnal (Episcopal)

WLP—Music from Wonder, Love, and Praise Hymnal (Episcopal)

VF—Voices Found Hymnal (Episcopal)

\*--Parishioner Pick for Hymn

## Notes On This Sunday's Readings

Welcome to Christ Church. Again, we hear a portion of the Sermon on the Mount. Matthew's gospel presents Jesus as the fulfillment of Moses. In today's reading, Jesus speaks of various requirements of the Law. Those who live in his Way will follow the Law inwardly, not simply outwardly. Jesus' own relationship to God as God's Child is revealed in his teaching our relationship as children of God given to us in baptism grows through the way of living he taught.

The first reading from Sirach (Ecclesiasticus) is perhaps the clearest statement on human freedom of choice in the Hebrew Scriptures. This passage alone would seem to suggest that everyone can do that which is right unhindered by sin. This passage needs the corrective supplied by today's gospel reading that makes it clear that we are still dependent upon God's gracious assistance if we are to carry out the inward obedience that Jesus commands.

In the second reading, Paul continues to seek to deal with division in the Corinthian church between cliques loyal to him and those loyal to Apollos. His approach is to suggest that each member of the body is essential and it is God alone who is building up the church through the varied ministries we are given. The liturgy is this truth about our life in the church, as each of us has a role to play and all of our individual liturgical actions and words combine to make the work of the people of God.

*From The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year. Copyright © 2009 by Michael W. Merriman. Church Publishing Incorporated, New York.*

# GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER TOGETHER

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

*Celebrant*        + Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People*         *And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.*

## THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

*The Celebrant and People say,*

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

*The Celebrant continues*

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

*Glory be to God on high,  
and on earth peace, good will towards men.*

*We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee,  
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,*

*O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.*

*O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;*

*O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,*

*that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.*

*Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.*

*Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.*

*For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord;*

*thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,*

*+ art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

## THE COLLECT FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

*Celebrant*      The Lord be with you.

*People*          *And with thy spirit.*

*Celebrant*      Together, let us pray.

*O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in thee: Mercifully accept our prayers; and because, through the weakness of our mortal nature, we can do no good thing without thee, grant us the help of thy grace, that in keeping thy commandments we may please thee both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

## THE WORD OF GOD

### FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy (30:15-20).

<sup>15</sup>See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. <sup>16</sup>If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. <sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup>I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup>I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, <sup>20</sup>loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

*Reader*          The Word of the Lord.

*People*          *Thanks be to God.*

## PSALM 119:1-8

- <sup>1</sup>Happy are they whose way is blameless, \*  
*who walk in the law of the LORD!*
- <sup>2</sup>Happy are they who observe his decrees \*  
*and seek him with all their hearts!*
- <sup>3</sup>Who never do any wrong, \*  
*but always walk in his ways.*
- <sup>4</sup>You laid down your commandments, \*  
*that we should fully keep them.*
- <sup>5</sup>Oh, that my ways were made so direct \*  
*that I might keep your statutes!*
- <sup>6</sup>Then I should not be put to shame, \*  
*when I regard all your commandments.*
- <sup>7</sup>I will thank you with an unfeigned heart, \*  
*when I have learned your righteous judgments.*
- <sup>8</sup>I will keep your statutes; \*  
*do not utterly forsake me.*

## THE EPISTLE

A reading from Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth. (3:1-9)

<sup>1</sup>And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. <sup>2</sup>I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, <sup>3</sup>for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? <sup>4</sup>For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human? <sup>5</sup>What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. <sup>6</sup>I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. <sup>7</sup>So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. <sup>8</sup>The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. <sup>9</sup>For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

Reader	The Word of the Lord.
People	<i>Thanks be to God.</i>

*Celebrant*     The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.  
*People*         ***Glory be to thee, O Lord.***

[Jesus said,] <sup>21</sup>“You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ <sup>22</sup>But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. <sup>23</sup>So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, <sup>24</sup>leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. <sup>25</sup>Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. <sup>26</sup>Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

<sup>27</sup>“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ <sup>28</sup>But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. <sup>29</sup>If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. <sup>30</sup>And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

<sup>31</sup>“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ <sup>32</sup>But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

<sup>33</sup>“Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ <sup>34</sup>But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, <sup>35</sup>or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. <sup>36</sup>And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. <sup>37</sup>Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one.”

*Celebrant*     The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*         ***Praise be to thee, O Christ.***

## SERMON

*+ May the words of my mouth and the meditations of all our hearts be always acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.*

*The people sit.*

*After the Sermon, the people stand as they are able.*

## THE NICENE CREED

*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.*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Celebrant:*

*Taught by the commandments of God to choose life and love, let us bring to God our prayers for the needs of all creation, saying: Lord, hear our prayer.*

*LEM*

*For the Church, that we may guide others to serve God and work together to build and strengthen God's world. In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we give thanks this week for Chapel of the Episcopal Center for Children and Rosemont Center. Lord, hear our prayer.*

For this Parish Family, that we may seek the wisdom of the Spirit in all that we say and do and never be satisfied with merely fulfilling the letter of the law.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

For leaders of the nations and all elected officials, that they may speak the truth and be servants of the common good. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For all who are daily threatened with violence, anger and insult in many places around the globe, that God will hear their cry and heal their painful memories.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

For all those with the flu or the coronavirus, that God will grant them healing and strength, and wisdom and compassion to those who are assisting them.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

For those suffering from storms, cold and other natural disasters, and for all in need of our prayers, remembering especially those on our Prayer List. *(The people may add petitions for any need or concern.)* We pray that God will lift them up and renew their spirits. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For those who have died. *(The people may add petitions for those they wish to have remembered.)* May they live forever in the place prepared for them in the presence of God. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For ourselves in this Epiphany season, that we may be thankful for all the blessings we enjoy and seek ways to share them with others. We give thanks for the members of Job's Daughters, and their families, from Bethel 42 in Hollywood, MD. We also give thanks for Marie Bennett, Patti Harhai, Avery Shupe, Suzanne Smith, Fay Anna Walker, and Helen Wright who are celebrating their birthdays this week. *Lord, hear our prayer*

In the communion of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, to Christ our God. *To you, O Lord our God.*

*All: God of life and love, hear our prayers and lead us to walk in the Spirit of our Savior Jesus, that we may do our part in your work of healing and reconciliation on behalf of the whole world, through the same Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

## THE CONFESSION

*Celebrant* Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

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

## THE ABSOLUTION

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, + pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## THE PEACE

*The people stand as they are able. The Celebrant says to the people*

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People* And with thy spirit.

## THE ANNOUNCEMENTS/BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

*All things come of thee, O Lord; and of thine own have we given thee. Amen.*



# THE HOLY COMMUNION

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

*Celebrant*     The Lord be with you.

*People*        *And with thy spirit.*

*Celebrant*     Lift up your hearts.

*People*        *We lift them up unto the Lord.*

*Celebrant*     Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

*People*        *It is meet and right so to do.*

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, On Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

*Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.*

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, thou hast caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of thy glory in the face of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name, evermore praising thee, and saying,

*Celebrant and People*

*Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:*

*Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.*

*Glory be to thee, O Lord Most high.*

*+ Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.*

*Hosanna in the highest*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we give thanks unto thee for the goodness and love which thou hast revealed unto us in creation; in the calling of Israel as thine own people; in thy Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, thy Son Jesus Christ. For in the fullness of time thou didst send him to be incarnate from the

Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, thou hast delivered us from evil and made us worthy to stand before thee. In him, thou hast brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks unto thee, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them saying, "Drink ye all of this: For this is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;*

*The Celebrant continues*

And according to his command, O Father, we offer unto thee this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, presenting unto thee from thy creation, O Lord of all, this bread and this cup.

We beseech thee, gracious Father, to send thy Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the New Covenant. + Unite us to thy Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. At the last day, put all things in subjection under thy Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all thy saints, we may enter into the everlasting heritage of thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. *Amen.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

*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

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

## PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

*We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.*

*Celebrant*

The Gifts of God for you, the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving. *Amen.*

**Communion Norms**--We welcome our guests this morning. All are welcome at the Lord's table. You may stand or kneel (whichever you prefer). You are invited to eat the wafer and then drink from the cup or you may dip the wafer into the cup. The people respond after receiving the bread or the wine by saying "Amen." If you prefer not to receive the cup, please cross your arms over your chest. If you do not want to receive communion, you are still welcome to come forward, cross your arms over your chest, and receive a blessing from the priest.

## THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

*Celebrant*      Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

*Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### THE BLESSING FOR THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY

Christ our Lord, to whom kings bowed down in worship and offered gifts, reveal to you his glory and pour upon you the riches of his grace; and the blessing of God Almighty: + the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

### RECESSIONAL HYMN

*I come with joy to meet my Lord*

**HYMNAL 304**

- 1 *I come with joy to meet my Lord, forgiven, loved, and free,  
in awe and wonder to recall his life laid down for me.*
- 2 *I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,  
the new community of love in Christ's communion bread.*
- 5 *Together met, together bound, we'll go our different ways,  
and as his people in the world, we'll live and speak his praise.*

*Brian A. Wren (b. 1936), alt.*

### THE DISMISSAL

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

## CHRIST CHURCH

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