

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany
February 23, 2025

LOVE
YOUR ENEMIES
DO GOOD
TO THOSE WHO HATE YOU
BLESS
THOSE WHO CURSE YOU
PRAY
FOR THOSE WHO MISTREAT YOU

Episcopal Church of the Good Samaritan
www.GoodSamaritanEpiscopal.church
The Holy Eucharist, Rite II
The Rev. Dr. Richard Effinger

Hymn 390 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

The Word of God

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

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

Celebrant and People: 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.

Gloria in Excelsis S280

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

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O Lord, you have taught us that without love whatever we do is worth nothing: Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts your greatest gift, which is love, the true bond of peace and of all virtue, without which whoever lives is accounted dead before you. Grant this for the sake of your only Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Hebrew Scripture

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there--since there are five more years of famine to come--so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'" And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

Psalm 37:1-12, 41-42

Do not fret yourself because of evildoers; *
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

For they shall soon wither like the grass, *
and like the green grass fade away.

Put your trust in the Lord and do good; *
dwell in the land and feed on its riches.

Take delight in the Lord, *
and he shall give you your heart's desire.

Commit your way to the Lord and put your trust in him, *
and he will bring it to pass.

He will make your righteousness as clear as the light *
and your just dealing as the noonday.

Be still before the Lord *
and wait patiently for him.

Do not fret yourself over the one who prospers, *
the one who succeeds in evil schemes.

Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; *
do not fret yourself; it leads only to evil.

For evildoers shall be cut off, *
but those who wait upon the Lord shall possess the land.

In a little while the wicked shall be no more; *
you shall search out their place, but they will not be there.

But the lowly shall possess the land; *
they will delight in abundance of peace.

But the deliverance of the righteous comes from the Lord; *
he is their stronghold in time of trouble.

The Lord will help them and rescue them; * he will rescue them from the wicked
and deliver them, because they seek refuge in him.

The Epistle

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

Someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from

heaven. As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven. What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn 577 (vv. 1-2) God is love, and where true love is

The Gospel

Luke 6:27-38

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you. "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Hymn 577 (vs. 3) God is love, and where true love is

The Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Rick Effinger

The Nicene Creed

BCP p. 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 worshipped 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 (Form III)

BCP p. 387

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you:

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others
Silence

Collect

Confession

BCP p. 360

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.

Absolution

The Peace

BCP p. 360

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

(Share a greeting, a wave, a nod with your fellow parishioners.)

Announcements and Birthday and Anniversary Blessings

Offertory

Bless the Lord, My Soul

Dan Edwards

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise him all creatures here below.

Praise him above ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer C

BCP p. 369

Celebrant: 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.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus S130

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

(Stand or kneel as you are able)

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God of Sarah and Hagar, Rebecca, Leah and Rachel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

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

Celebrant and People: 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, forever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

S154 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hymn 593 Lord, make us servants of your peace

Post Communion Prayer

BCP p. 366

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People:

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 Blessing

Hymn 657 Love divine, all loves excelling

The Dismissal

Celebrant: Go and peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Postlude in C

Bach, arr. Alfred Fedak

Thank you for worshipping with us today

ANNOUNCEMENTS
(Read more in the eNews)

Fellowship

Please join us for fellowship after the service. It's a wonderful time to enjoy each other's company and have something light to eat.

Healing Eucharist - Wednesdays at 12:05 p.m.

Annual Parish Meeting & Mardi Gras Lunch – TODAY!

Join us after worship for our Annual Parish Meeting, followed by a festive Mardi Gras-themed lunch featuring a New Orleans-inspired main course. We look forward to your participation in this important gathering of our parish family!

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper – March 4th, 5:30 p.m., \$7 per person

Join us for a fun and delicious evening of pancakes, fellowship, and festivities! We'll enjoy fluffy pancakes, sausage, applesauce, and King Cake, plus coffee, tea, iced tea, and lemonade! And don't miss our 50/50 drawing for a chance to win! Come hungry, bring friends, and let's celebrate together before Lent begins. See you there!

Lenten Book Study – Beginning Tuesday, March 11th, 6:00 p.m.

Lent is just around the corner and we will again share in a book study, Tuesday evenings throughout Lent. We'll begin with a simple Lenten meal of soup and salad, followed by a discussion of *The Dream of God* by Verna Dozier. You can find it, new or used, in bookstores and online.

March Outreach—Underwear

Still one week left for Mac & Cheese!

March outreach collection will be for underwear. We are looking for **new** underwear for children grades K-12. As always, thank you for your generosity and your support.

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND DEDICATION FOR THE RT. REV. DABNEY SMITH.

On Sunday, March 9, at 4:00 pm we will gather as a diocesan community for a Service of Remembrance and Dedication at DaySpring.

We will begin in Kline Hall with a Service of Remembrance and then move to the diocesan offices for a Service of Dedication, followed by a reception. The date for this event is highly significant, since the following day, March 10, marks the 18th anniversary of Bishop Smith's consecration as Bishop in the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.

Lent Looms! Ash Wednesday is March 5. We will have a Eucharist with imposition of ashes at 12:05 pm.

As a Lenten discipline this year try the **40 items in 40 day challenge**. Each day of Lent remove an item or piece of clothing you no longer use or need and place it in a bag. At the end of Lent donate it to the Good Samaritan Thrift Store.