

The First Lesson

*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.



*Joseph Makes Himself Known to His Brothers. Artist unknown. Etching*

The Psalm

*Psalm 37:1-12, 41-42*

*Noli aemulari*

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

- 2 For they shall soon wither like the grass, and like the green grass fade away.
- 3 Put your trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and feed on its riches.
- 4 Take delight in the Lord, and he shall give you your heart's desire.
- 5 Commit your way to the Lord and put your trust in him, and he will bring it to pass.
- 6 He will make your righteousness as clear as the light and your just dealing as the noonday.
- 7 Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him.
- 8 Do not fret yourself over the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in evil schemes.
- 9 Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; do not fret yourself; it leads only to evil.
- 10 For evildoers shall be cut off, but those who wait upon the Lord shall possess the land.
- 11 In a little while the wicked shall be no more; you shall search out their place, but they will not be there.
- 12 But the lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace.
- 41 But the deliverance of the righteous comes from the Lord; he is their stronghold in time of trouble.
- 42 The Lord will help them and rescue them; he will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because they seek refuge in him.

*Said together:*

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.

Second Lesson

*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.

Hymn

*O for a thousand tongues to sing*

**H 493**

Gospel Lesson

*Luke 6:27-38*

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."

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

*Written about 325 AD, this is the ancient statement of our faith*

Prayers of the People IV

BCP 388

*We pray together as the people of God*

Confession & Absolution

BCP 360

*We confess our sins and are reassured of our pardon*

The Peace

*We share the joy of the Good News!*

Announcements

Presentation of Gifts and Tithes

To God the Father, heavenly Light  
To Christ, revealed in earthly night  
To God the Holy Ghost we raise  
Our equal and unceasing praise

from Hymn 124 v. 5

The Lord's Prayer

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 General Thanksgiving

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.

Hymn Love divine, all loves excelling

**H 657**

The Dismissal

We are dismissed from this gathering to go into the world to spread the Good News and the love of Christ! We respond to this instruction with: *Thanks be to God!*

Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers

Dorene Dimes, Wanda Myers, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Marlene, Lee Puckett, Sr., Alex B., Toni R., Jared Cregger, Kerrigan Farmer, Lindsey Parsley, Daisy Bowman, Ellie Spencer, Mabeline & Elton Robinson, Ann Richardson, Sherry Mitchell, Carrie D., Sharon Cranfill,, George Strike, Levertt T., Bea Paine, Frankie Sparks, Audrey, Denny Arner, Charlotte Woolwine, Lynn Burney, Bob Waschler, Elizabeth Kane, Marilyn Denney, Judy Anderson, Debbie Wells, Paul Anderson, Ruby, Debbie & Jerry, Ed Arnett, Michelle Parks

Last Sunday Attendance

47

The Altar Flowers are given today by the Altar Guild of Christ Episcopal Church in memory of their loved ones.

Participants in Today's Liturgy

<u>Lay Reader</u>	Alyson Bowling	
<u>Acolyte</u>	Rob Merritt	John Allen
<u>Lectors</u>	Linda Ammar	Alyson Bowling
<u>Altar Guild</u>	Linda Ammar	Linda Thomas

Following our service will be Coffee Hour, hosted today by the Clement and Harris families. This is a time for us to have fellowship, share our joys and sorrows, and get to know one another. It is very much an extension of the communal feast we share in the Holy Eucharist. Please join us!

Calendar of Events

Wednesday – February 27 Chili Cook-Off at Union Mission  
 Tuesday – March 5 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 5:30pm  
 Wednesday – March 6 Ash Wednesday  
 Services at 8am, 12noon, and 7pm  
 Wednesday – March 13 Dinner at Union Mission 3pm  
 Evening Prayer and Pot Luck Dinner 6pm

Announcements:

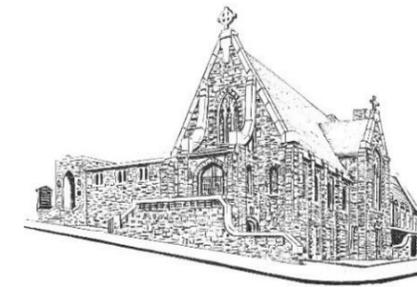
2<sup>nd</sup> Annual CEC Chili Cook-Off: Make your best pot of chili to be judged by the Union Mission staff as we make dinner for those hungry in our community! Bring all pots of chili to the mission at 4 pm to be judged!

ECM Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper: Remember to get your tickets for our annual Pancake Supper! Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. Volunteers from the Men's Group will be needed beginning around 2pm that day. See you there! Checks should be made out to "Christ Episcopal Church" with "ECM" in the memo.

Building and Grounds Committee: If you are interested in assisting, there is a sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

Clergy, Staff, and Wardens of this Parish

The Rev. Chad Slater	Rector
Ms. Emma Bennett	Parish Administrator
Mr. Terry E. Whittington, Jr.	Organist & Choirmaster
Mrs. Vanessa Hall	Sexton
Mrs. Becky Beckett	Senior Warden
Mr. Tom Coughlan	Junior Warden



# Christ Episcopal Church

200 Duhring Street, Bluefield, WV 24701-2910  
(304) 327-6861  
www.christchurchbluefield.org



https://www.facebook.com/christchurchbluefield

February 24, 2019

The Seventh Sunday After the Epiphany

*Sometimes called Sexagesima*

Welcome to this Place of Prayer

If you are new or visiting this congregation for the first time we invite you to fill out a Visitor's Card (found on the rack in front of you) and place it in the collect plate as it is passed. We are honored you have chosen to worship with us today and hope that you will continue your faith journey here.

This bulletin will help guide you through today's service. The abbreviation "H" stands for "Hymnal." This is the larger red book located on the shelf in front of you. That music noted as "H-S" followed by a number is service music, and is found in the very first pages of the Hymnal. "BCP" is our abbreviation for "Book of Common Prayer," which is the smaller red book.

The Liturgy of the Word

Hymn Praise to the Lord, the Almighty **H 390**

The Service Begins BCP 355

Gloria in Excelsis H-S 280

*The text to this ancient hymn of praise is found in the BCP*

The Collect *Our collective prayer for the day.*

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.