



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

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## Morning Prayer for Sunday, February 7, 2021

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Sometimes called *Sexagesima*

### Opening Sentences

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

*Psalm 19:14*

### Confession of Sin

*The Officiant says to the people*

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth his praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

*The Officiant and People together*

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 Priest alone 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.

*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.

Alleluia. The mercy of the Lord is everlasting: Come let us adore him.

### **The Jubilate**

*Psalms 100*

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.

### **The Psalm or Psalms Appointed**

Psalm 147:1-12, 21c

*Laudate Dominum*

1. Hallelujah!

How good it is to sing praises to our God!

how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!

2. The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem;

he gathers the exiles of Israel.

3. He heals the brokenhearted

and binds up their wounds.

4. He counts the number of the stars

and calls them all by their names.

5. Great is our Lord and mighty in power;  
there is no limit to his wisdom.
6. The Lord lifts up the lowly,  
but casts the wicked to the ground.
7. Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;  
make music to our God upon the harp.
8. He covers the heavens with clouds  
and prepares rain for the earth;
9. He makes grass to grow upon the mountains  
and green plants to serve mankind.
10. He provides food for flocks and herds  
and for the young ravens when they cry.
11. He is not impressed by the might of a horse;  
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;
12. But the Lord has pleasure in those who fear him,  
in those who await his gracious favor.
21. Hallelujah!

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 Lessons**

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

*Isaiah 40:21-31*

Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
Has it not been told you from the beginning?  
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?  
It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,  
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;  
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,  
and spreads them like a tent to live in;  
who brings princes to naught,  
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.  
Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,  
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,  
when he blows upon them, and they wither,  
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

To whom then will you compare me,  
 or who is my equal? says the Holy One.  
 Lift up your eyes on high and see:  
 Who created these?  
 He who brings out their host and numbers them,  
 calling them all by name;  
 because he is great in strength,  
 mighty in power,  
 not one is missing.  
 Why do you say, O Jacob,  
 and speak, O Israel,  
 "My way is hidden from the Lord,  
 and my right is disregarded by my God"?  
 Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
 The Lord is the everlasting God,  
 the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
 He does not faint or grow weary;  
 his understanding is unsearchable.  
 He gives power to the faint,  
 and strengthens the powerless.  
 Even youths will faint and be weary,  
 and the young will fall exhausted;  
 but those who wait for the Lord shall  
 renew their strength,  
 they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
 they shall run and not be weary,  
 they shall walk and not faint.

Here ends the reading.



**Canticle 19** The Song of the Redeemed

*Magna et mirabilia*

*Revelation 15:3-4*

O ruler of the universe, Lord God,  
 great deeds are they that you have done,  
 surpassing human understanding.  
 Your ways are ways of righteousness and truth,  
 O King of all the ages.

Who can fail to do you homage, Lord,  
and sing the praises of your Name?

for you only are the Holy One.

All nations will draw near and fall down before you,  
because your just and holy works have been revealed.

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.

A Reading from Paul's First Letter to the Church in Corinth *1 Corinthians 9:16-23*

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

Here ends the reading.

Canticle 18 A Song to the Lamb

*Dignus es*

*Revelation 4:11, 5:9-10, 13*

Splendor and honor and kingly power

are yours by right, O Lord our God,

For you created everything that is,

and by your will they were created and have their being;

And yours by right, O Lamb that was slain,

for with your blood you have redeemed for God,

From every family, language, people, and nation,

a kingdom of priests to serve our God.

And so, to him who sits upon the throne,  
and to Christ the Lamb,  
Be worship and praise, dominion and splendor,  
for ever and for evermore.

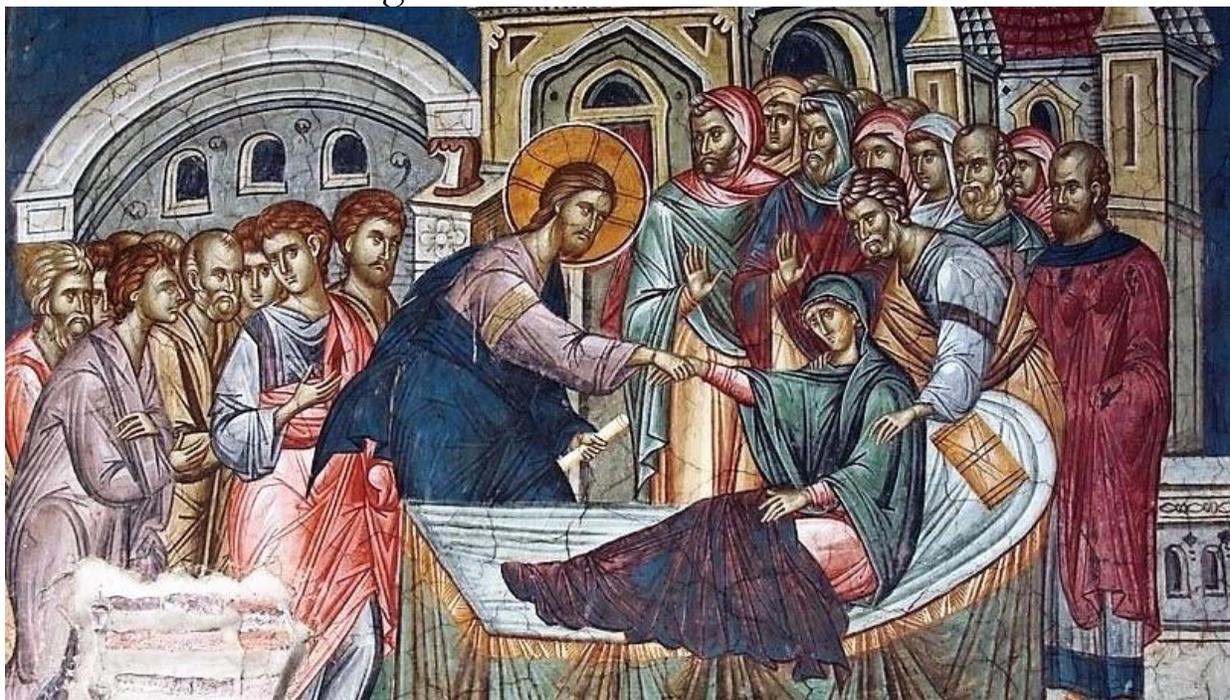
A Reading from the Gospel of Mark

*Mark 1:29-39*

After Jesus and his disciples left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Here ends the reading.



## The Homily

### The Apostles' Creed

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.

### The Suffrages "A"

- V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;  
R. And grant us your salvation.  
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
R. Let your people sing with joy.  
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
R. For only in you can we live in safety.  
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;  
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.  
V. Let your way be known upon earth;  
R. Your saving health among all nations.  
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.  
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

### The Collect of the Day

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### A Collect for Sundays

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 Prayer for Times of Great Sickness and Mortality

O Most mighty and merciful God, in this time of grievous sickness, we flee unto thee for succour. Deliver us, we beseech thee, from our peril; give strength and skill to all those who minister to the sick; prosper the means made use of for their cure; and grant that, perceiving how frail and uncertain our life is, we may apply our hearts unto that heavenly wisdom which leadeth to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* *(from the 1928 BCP)*

### Special Needs and Concerns of the Congregation

Heavenly Father, we pray to you that your comfort may descend upon those on our Prayer List...and all those whom we remember in our hearts. We give thanks to you for those celebrating birthdays in the coming week—Lisa Van Dyke, Linda Thomas, and Lee Rose. We ask your guidance to be upon the temporal leaders of our society—for Joe, our President, Jim and Ralph, our governors, for Ron and Donnie, our mayors, and for all those in authority in this and every land. We humbly request of you, O Lord our God, to look favorably on the mission of the Diocese of West Virginia, and especially on the congregation of St. Matthew's in Charleston with The Rev. Kim Webster.. May your blessing ever be upon those who put their trust in you. *Amen.*

### Collect for Mission

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.*

### Announcements

#### 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.

### **Concluding Versicles**

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

*The Officiant then concludes the service with*

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*

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The flowers on the altar today are given by  
Kathy Burge in memory of loved ones.

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**Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers:** Dorene Dimes, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Lee Puckett, Sr., Mabeline Robinson, Bea Paine, Lynn Burney, Marilyn Denney, Donna Fortune, Bob and Peggy Walk, Susan Jewell, John Kersey, Martha Linkous, Sarah Irwin, Janet Slager, Kelly Cox, Maxine Stevenson, Dean Farmer, Haddon Lazenby, Jack Burchette, Nick, JL, Cis Barrett, Kathy, Patsy Arnold, Randy Snider, Lane, Loraine, Sherry, Margarete Joplin, Scott Rust, Emily Broome, David, Cady, Martin, Marion Lowe, Margaret Westfall, Harry, Ben Rose, Rev. Mark Seitz, Jay Kephart, Al Marra, Rich Longworth, and all Healthcare Personnel and Frontline Workers, Jack, Sheri, Dan, Kathy

**Birthdays This Week:** Lisa Van Dyke, Linda Thomas, and Lee Rose

### **Calendar of Events**

Wednesdays in February

Bible Study 10:00am

Wednesday – February 17

Zoom Vestry Meeting 7:00pm

Thursday—February 18

Food Pantry 9-11am

### **Announcements:**

**Online Bible Study:** Join us on Wednesday's at 10:30 am for Bible study via Zoom. A link to the Zoom meeting is included in each week's email. A link to a tutorial on how to use Zoom, if you are new to it, is available in the email as well. For more information please see Fr. Chad.

**Lenten Project:** From Worship & Spirituality Chair, Alyson Bowling:

It is at this time I would like to ask each of you to reflect and write about your experiences over the past year and how those experiences have impacted your lives. You can write anonymously or sign your story. The important thing here is to begin reconnecting with one another in hopes and anticipation for renewed in-person fellowship among our congregation. But even if that experience continues to be postponed, we can still have our stories to bring us closer at a time when it is entirely too easy to separate ourselves from the needs of others and fall short of the glory of God.

The guidelines for this writing are simple. Reflect and Journal your Covid year experience over the next weeks and conclude your writing with how this experience has impacted your faith. How has your faith been affected? Have you lost faith, gained faith or both. Have you experienced a renewed purpose you may not have seen without the Covid struggle? The length of your manuscript is not important. Write as much or as little as you like. Sign your name or remain anonymous.

We will put together a desktop publication for distribution among our congregation. Please submitted your writing by March 1 so that we can distribute by mid-March and have you reconnecting for Easter, April 4, 2021. Your writings can be typed out on the computer and submitted via email to [arfbowling@gmail.com](mailto:arfbowling@gmail.com) or handwritten/typed and submitted to Christ Episcopal Church, 200 Duhring, Bluefield, WV 24701.



## Clergy, Staff, and Wardens of this Parish

the Rev. Chad Slater

Mr. Terry E. Whittington, Jr.

Ms. Emma Bennett

Mrs. Vanessa Hall

Mr. David Kersey

Mr. Tom Coughlan

Rector

Organist & Choirmaster

Parish Administrator

Sexton

Senior Warden

Junior Warden