



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

200 Duhring Street, Bluefield, WV 24701

(304) 327-6861

www.christchurchbluefield.org



Morning Prayer for Sunday, February 14, 2021

The Last Sunday after the Epiphany

Sometimes called *Quinquagesima*

Opening Sentences

Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me, and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling.

Psalms 43:3

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 Lord has shown forth his glory: Come let us adore him.

The Venite

Psalm 95:1-7

Come, let us sing to the Lord;

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving

and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God,

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth,

and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it,

and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God,

and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

The Psalm or Psalms Appointed

Psalm 50:1-6

Deus deorum

1. The Lord, the God of gods, has spoken;

he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

2. Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty,

God reveals himself in glory.

3. Our God will come and will not keep silence;

before him there is a consuming flame,

and round about him a raging storm.

4. He calls the heavens and the earth from above to witness the judgment of his people.
5. "Gather before me my loyal followers, those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice."
6. Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause; for God himself is judge.

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 Second Book of Kings

II Kings 2:1-12

When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not,

it will not.” As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Here ends the reading.



Elijah Taken Up in a Chariot of Fire by Giuseppe Angeli

Canticle 11

The Third Song of Isaiah

Surge, illuminare

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.
For behold, darkness covers the land;
deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.
But over you the Lord will rise,
and his glory will appear upon you.
Nations will stream to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawning.
Your gates will always be open;
by day or night they will never be shut.
They will call you, The City of the Lord,
The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

Violence will no more be heard in your land,
ruin or destruction within your borders.
You will call your walls, Salvation,
and all your portals, Praise.
The sun will no more be your light by day;
by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.
The Lord will be your everlasting light,
and your God will be your glory.
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 Second Letter to the Church in Corinth *2 Corinthians 4:3-6*

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

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 9:2-9

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Here ends the reading.



The Transfiguration of Christ by Peter Paul Rubens

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

O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and 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—Missy Thomas, James Patrick Paine, Nathaniel Taylor, Lucy Dancer, Jim Justice, Tyler Harris, John Wimmer, Denise Melvin, and Jim Pulse. 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. Christopher's in Charleston. 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

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship
of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen.* *II Corinthians 13:14*

The flowers on the altar today are given by
Betty Nash and Charlie Blevins in memory of loved ones.

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, Margarette 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: Missy Thomas, James Patrick Paine, Nathaniel Taylor, Lucy Dancer, Jim Justice, Tyler Harris, John Wimmer, Denise Melvin, and Jim Pulse

Calendar of Events

Wednesdays in February

Wednesday—February 17

Thursday—February 18

Wednesday – February 24

Bible Study 10:30am

Ash Wednesday Online Service 7:00pm

Food Pantry 9-11am

Zoom Vestry Meeting 7:00pm

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 or handwritten/typed and submitted to Christ Episcopal Church, 200 Duhring, Bluefield, WV 24701.

Help a Family in Need: From Fr. Chad--I have recently become aware of a young family in need who live near the church--a man, his wife, and their four children. This is a family that has been friends at our Food Pantry for some time. The couple recently used their stimulus money to purchase their first home. Although their home is quite modest, they are very proud to be homeowners and to provide a more stable environment for their children instead of staying in abandoned houses or crashing with relatives. The father

has been doing odd jobs around the area for money and has just taken up a position at a fast food restaurant to provide a consistent income. He and I have worked on his resume and I am proud of him for his initiative in building a better life for himself and his family.

All that being said, this young family has nothing. They have beds and mattresses for the children but virtually no other furniture. They have do not have a working stove, kitchen utensils, pots or pans, dishes, silverware, or other standard household items. They also lack much in the way of clothing. This is a family who needs our help and encouragement to continue working to make their lives better. If you are able, over the course of the next week, please consider donating new or used items that may be of benefit to them. The sizes and ages of the individuals are listed below. Any contribution would be much appreciated. If you would rather, a monetary donation can be sent to the Christ Church Rector's Discretionary Fund and I can purchase items on your behalf.

Thank you for taking the time to consider how you can help.

<u>Husband</u>	L or XL shirts, pant size 34 x 34
<u>Wife</u>	2XL shirts, pant size 26
<u>Girl 1</u>	girls size 8 shirts, pant size 10/12
<u>Girl 2</u>	5t clothing
<u>Girl 3</u>	4t clothing
<u>Girl 4</u>	24 months clothing

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