

# The Sixth Sunday After the Epiphany

February 16, 2014



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
1512 Willow  
Blytheville, AR 72315

The Rt. Rev. Larry Benfield, Bishop of Arkansas  
Fr. John Scott Trotter

870 763 8646  
[www.saintstephensblytheville.org](http://www.saintstephensblytheville.org)  
[www.facebook.com/ststephensblytheville](http://www.facebook.com/ststephensblytheville)

## **Opening Rites**

*The people stand as they are able.*

BCP 76

I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth. Isaiah 49:6b

## **Confession of Sin**

*Officiant* Let us confess our sins to God.

*The people kneel as they are able.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

*All say 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.

## **Absolution**

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. *Amen.*

*The people stand as they are able.*

## Invitatory and Psalter

### Invitatory

**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.

BCP 81

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

## The Invitatory

### Venite Psalm 95:1-7; 96:9, 13

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 people sit.*

**Psalm 119:1-8**

*BCP p. 763*

*Beati immaculati*

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

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 period of silence is kept.*

## **The Liturgy of the Word**

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.

The Word of the Lord  
People  
Thanks be to God

*A period of silence is kept.*

*The people stand as they are able.*

The Song of Moses

**Canticle 8**

*BCP p. 85*

Exodus 15:1-6, 11-13, 17-18

Canticle 8

The Song of Moses

*Cantemus Domino*

I will sing to the Lord, for he is lofty and uplifted; \*  
the horse and its rider has he hurled into the sea.

The Lord is my strength and my refuge; \*  
the Lord has become my Savior.

This is my God and I will praise him, \*  
the God of my people and I will exalt him.

The Lord is a mighty warrior; \*  
Yahweh is his Name.

The chariots of Pharaoh and his army has he hurled into the sea; \*  
the finest of those who bear armor have been  
drowned in the Red Sea.

The fathomless deep has overwhelmed them; \*  
they sank into the depths like a stone.

Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in might; \*  
your right hand, O Lord, has overthrown the enemy.

Who can be compared with you, O Lord, among the gods? \*  
who is like you, glorious in holiness,  
awesome in renown, and worker of wonders?  
You stretched forth your right hand; \*  
the earth swallowed them up.  
With your constant love you led the people you redeemed; \*  
with your might you brought them in safety to  
your holy dwelling.  
You will bring them in and plant them \*  
on the mount of your possession,  
The resting-place you have made for yourself, O Lord, \*  
the sanctuary, O Lord, that your hand has established.  
The Lord shall reign \*  
for ever and for ever.

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 people sit.*

A reading from The First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians (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.

The Word of the Lord  
People  
Thanks be to GHod

*A period of silence is kept.*

*The people stand as they are able.*

The Third Song of Isaiah

**Canticle 11**

*BCP p. 87*

Isaiah 60:1-3, 11a, 14c, 18-19

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.

*The people sit.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

## **Gospel**

Gospel according to Matthew (5:21-37).

<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.

The Word of the Lord  
People  
Thanks be to God

## **Sermon**

*The people stand as they are able.*

## **The Apostles' Creed**

*All say together*

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**

*The people stand or kneel, as they are able*

**Officiant**            The Lord be with you.

**People**                *And also with you.*

**Officiant**            Let us pray.

***Officiant 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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

R. Govern and uphold them, now and always.

V. Day by day we bless you;

R. We praise your Name for ever.

V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;

R. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.

V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;

R. For we put our trust in you.

V. In you, Lord, is our hope;

R. And we shall never hope in vain.

## **Collect of the Day**

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in you: Mercifully accept our prayers; and because in our weakness we can do nothing good without you, give us the help of your grace, that in keeping your

commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### **Prayer for Mission**

BCP 100

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

### **Hymn**

The Hymnal 1982 #304 - I come with joy to meet my Lord

### **Prayers of the People**

BCP 388

**Intercessor:** Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
*Hear our prayer.*

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

*Hear our prayer.*

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
*Hear our prayer.*

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
*Hear our prayer.*

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
*Hear our prayer.*

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
*Hear our prayer.*

## **Collect**

BCP 395

Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whom all our intercessions are acceptable through the Spirit, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## **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.

## **Prayer of St. Chrysostom**

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

**Officiant**                    Let us bless the Lord.

**People**                        *Thanks be to God.*

## **Closing Sentence**

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. 2 Corinthians 13:14

## **Prayers**

Ronnie, Joe, Bill, Chris, John, Buzz, Dale, Angie, Marcel, Corbet, Evan, Harry, Cooper Richey, Charles, Renee, Carolyn, Sam, Sandra, Chris and family, Debbie, "E", Sarah and Ray, Leila & Diana Khouny, Claude, Jessica Williams and her family, Larry, Vince, John and Deb, Peggy and Dave, Charles, Tucker & Ellen, Adam, Jenna, Mary-Gay, Carter & Charles, Dennis, Alice, Dennis and Molly Hay, Rey, Sarah and Family those suffering from seasonal storms and fires, meals on wheels, making better men of young men, those serving our country, those traveling, and for those we now name...

for those who have died: Jane Martel, Quinn ....

## **Calendar**

2/16 6th after Epiphany

9:00 am Morning Prayer

10:00 am Fellowship

2/18 Alanon 6:00 pm

2/21 Friday Families 6:00 pm

2/23 7<sup>th</sup> after Epiphany

9:00 am Eucharist

10:00 am Fellowship & Sunday School

3/5 Ash Wednesday

## **Announcements**

**Ash Wednesday Service:**

**Ashes on Main:**

**Gift of Healing Retreat March 13–15**, at Camp Mitchell This retreat will teach you a method of prayer that can be effectively used by clergy and laity to bring healing to those who need God’s healing touch. (Read more about Gift of Healing Prayer training at [houseofblessing.org](http://houseofblessing.org).) It will be facilitated by Fr. Jos Tharakan. Call him at 479-259-1777 or 479-968-3622 for more information and registration

**Worship Leaders**

<b>Date/ proper</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>EM Worship Ldr</b>	<b>reader</b>	<b>Intercessor</b>
2/16 6 <sup>th</sup> Epiphany	Morning Prayer	Beth McGrain	Kathryn Musholt	Connie Erwin
2/23 7 <sup>th</sup> Epiphany	Eucharist	Liz Cato		Beth McGrain

**Fr. Scott's contact**

870 740 9777

[frscott94@gmail.com](mailto:frscott94@gmail.com)



**St. Stephen's contact**

saint.stephens@att.net

[www.saintstephensblytheville.org](http://www.saintstephensblytheville.org)

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