

Morning Prayer, Rite Two

Proclamation Hymn 135: *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*

Opening Sentence Book of Common Prayer
(BCP) 76

*The Officiant begins the service with one or more of these
sentences of Scripture*

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 BCP 79

The Officiant says to the people

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People together, all kneeling

**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 Layreader remains kneeling and says

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 Invitatory and Psalter

BCP 81

All stand

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.

Venite *Psalm 95:1-17* Hymn S35, BCP 82

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 29

1 Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, *
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his Name; *
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

3 The voice of the LORD is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders; *
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

4 The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; *
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.

- 5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; *
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- 6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, *
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.
- 7 The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire;
the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; *
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- 8 The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe *
and strips the forests bare.
- 9 And in the temple of the LORD *
all are crying, "Glory!"
- 10 The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; *
the LORD sits enthroned as King for evermore.
- 11 The LORD shall give strength to his people; *
the LORD shall give his people the blessing of
peace.

The Lessons

BCP 84

First Lesson

Isaiah 43:1-7

The people sit. The lesson is read by the Lector.

A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD,
he who created you, O Jacob,

he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
 I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
 and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm
 you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
 and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the LORD your God,
 the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
 Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
Because you are precious in my sight,
 and honored, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
 nations in exchange for your life.
Do not fear, for I am with you;
 I will bring your offspring from the east,
 and from the west I will gather you;
I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
 and to the south, "Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
 and my daughters from the end of the earth--
everyone who is called by my name,
 whom I created for my glory,
 whom I formed and made."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

11 The Third Song of Zechariah *Surge, illuminare*

Hymn S225, BCP 87

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

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.

Second Lesson

Acts 8:14-17

The people sit. The lesson is read by the Lector.

A reading from Acts.

When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

7 We Praise Thee *Te Deum laudamus* Hymn

S205, BCP 52

We praise thee, O God; we acknowledge thee to be the Lord.

All the earth doth worship thee, the Father everlasting.

To thee all Angels cry aloud,
the Heavens and all the Powers therein.

To thee Cherubim and Seraphim continually do cry:
Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of thy
glory.

The glorious company of the apostles praise thee.
The goodly fellowship of the prophets praise thee.
The noble army of martyrs praise thee.
The holy Church throughout all the world doth
acknowledge thee,
the Father, of an infinite majesty,
thine adorable, true, and only Son,
also the Holy Ghost the Comforter.

Thou art the King of glory, O Christ.
Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father.
When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man,
thou didst humble thyself to be born of a Virgin.
When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death,
thou didst open the kingdom of heaven to all
believers.

Thou sittest at the right hand of God, in the glory of
the Father.

We believe that thou shalt come to be our judge.
We therefore pray thee, help thy servants,
whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood.
Make them to be numbered with thy saints,
in glory everlasting.

Third Lesson

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

The people sit. Like the others, this lesson is read by the Lector from the lectern.

There is no procession.

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Sermon*

read by Sarah Harmon

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows BCP 292

Officiant and People together, all standing

Officiant Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

People I do.

Officiant Do you believe in God the Father?

People I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

Officiant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People 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.

Officiant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People 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.

Officiant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People I will, with God's help.

Officiant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People I will, with God's help.

Officiant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People I will, with God's help.

Officiant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People I will, with God's help.

Officiant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People I will, with God's help.

The Officiant concludes the Renewal of Vows as follows

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Amen.*

The Prayers

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Suffrages A

BCP 97

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.

Collect of the Day BCP 212

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan didst proclaim him thy beloved Son and anoint him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with thee and the same Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

A Collect for Sundays BCP 98

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.*

Additional Collects may be added from pages 99-100 and/or 810-841 in the BCP

A Collect for the selection of a Rector BCP 818

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Prayer for Mission

BCP 100

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Authorized intercessions and thanksgivings may follow.

(Insert the prayers in thanksgiving for those who celebrate birthdays and anniversaries and prayers for those who have died, those for whom our prayers have been requested.)

Announcements by a member of the vestry

Offertory

The Officiant begins the Offertory with the following, or one of the sentences on page 376

But do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. *Hebrews 13:15, 16*

When Christ's Appearing Was Made Known

Hans Leo Hassler

Doxology and Presentation of Alms Hymn 380,
v. 3

The General Thanksgiving

Officiant and People

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we thine unworthy servants
do give thee most humble and hearty thanks
for all thy goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all men.

We bless thee for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for thine inestimable 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 beseech thee,
give us that due sense of all thy mercies,
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful;
and that we show forth thy praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to thy service,
and by walking before thee
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost,
be all honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

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

Hymn 448

O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High

Dismissal

The Officiant dismisses the people with these words

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

***This morning's sermon is from *Sermons that Work*, a ministry of The Episcopal Church's Office of Communication. It is titled *A Call That Cannot Be Denied* and was written by Rev. Susanna E. Metz; Metz is an Episcopal priest who serves St. John the Baptist Church, Battle Creek, TN, Diocese of East Tennessee and is also an Assistant Professor, School of Theology, Sewanee, TN. Published by the Office of Communication of The Episcopal Church, 815 Second Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017 © 2024 The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America. All rights reserved. When using this sermon in part or in whole, please credit verbally or in print *Sermons That Work*, a ministry of The Episcopal Church, and the original author.**

This Sunday's altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in appreciation of the work of St. Paul's Vestry and the Rector Search Committee by Sandy and Nelson Barnett.

Upcoming Events & News

Pledge 2025: When you share your gifts with your neighbors, every step is walking in love. We invite you to share your time and talents by signing up for Lay Ministries, or participation in church groups. We also invite you to share your treasure by turning in your pledge. A pledge is not a contract, but a goal. By turning in your pledge, the Vestry can plan 2025. So far, we have received 51 pledges; last year, we had a total of 64. Pledges can be turned in at the church office, on Realm or in the offering plate. Thank you for walking in love with us.

Vestry Nominations: The vestry is seeking nomination for three members to serve three-year terms on our vestry beginning in February. Candidates must be confirmed members and must attend regularly and pledge. You may submit your name or the name of another member to a member of the vestry. A slate of candidates will be presented to the membership prior to our annual meeting on January 19th.

Altar Guild Volunteers Needed & Flower Scheduling: St Paul's Altar Guild needs volunteers for the following months: March (need 2), September (need 1), and October (need 1).

Also, flowers are needed for the following Sundays before Ash Wednesday: Jan 19th & 26th, Feb 2nd, 9th, & 23rd, and March 2nd. Contact Jo Cargill-Krug at 870-613-6981. Text Jo if possible and she will confirm what dates are available.

Mark Your Calendar:

- **Coffee Hour:** After the service, everyone is invited to the Parish House (two lefts at the bottom of the steps) for refreshments and fellowship
- **Children's Sunday School:** Sunday, January 19th at 9:45 am
- **Care Team Meeting:** Sunday, January 12th after the 10:30 service

- **St. Paul's Annual Meeting:** Sunday, January 19th between services; coffee & snacks provided
- **Bishop Harmon's Annual Visit:** Sunday January 26th we will have a breakfast potluck between services. Please bring your favorite breakfast casserole or treat!
- **Mahjongg Lessons:** Every Sunday at 2:00 pm in the Parish Hall
- **Adult Sunday School:** Sundays, 9:30 am in the Parish Hall
- **The Chosen Discussion Group:** Every Monday from 5:30-7 pm. During the waiting period for Season 5 of *The Chosen* to become available, we will be using our Tuesday 3-4:30 pm meeting time to put together a 1000-piece jigsaw puzzle depicting Jesus and the apostles. We invite anyone who likes such puzzles to join us each Tuesday afternoon for comradery starting January 7, 2025.

Blessing Box: Looking for ideas about what to donate for the Blessing Box? Rice Krispie treats, pop tarts, ramen noodles, fruit snacks, granola bars or chips work! These items will go in the Blessing Box, and will also be shared with our Lyon College students when the Care Team makes “snack bags” to pass out monthly. Thank you! 😊

St. Paul's Prayer List:

*Prayer requests will stay on the Parish Prayer List for four weeks with the exception of parishioners with ongoing needs. **If you wish a prayer request to remain on the list, please call the office to renew the request.***

Intercessions: Jamie Bridgers, Ann Rhodes, Jim & Deb Johnson, Patricia Smith, Joan Davidson, Matt Stephenson, John & Susan Dempsey, Ellen Massey, Bill Olson, Sam Crawford, Rebecca Ward, Cindy Perkey, Tammy Kipfer, Ann Stephenson, the Healey family, and Cameron Gillespie.

Intercessions for Family & Friends: Jim Wilson, Jay, Kitten Lawless, DeAnna McCool, Robin Goertz, Gerry Goertz & Jinny Goertz, Tom & Kathy Celestine, Mark & Jennifer, Susan, Jody

Gayle, Tara Nance, David Smith, Lucy Harris, Adam M, Keith Perkins, Jim & Charlotte, Daniel & Steven King, Sherry Snow, Mark Counts, Nan & Matt Tucker, Walker, Mark Higginbotham, Danny Yeager, Shannon Bohnert, Micah Jordon, Rodney Brady, Kathy Kleveno, Mike & Brandy Wyatt, John V. Miller, Ben Handford, Jim Reynolds, Christina, Peggy Comer, Kristin, Marilyn Townsend, Georgina Mosser, Jeannie Sade, Kristi Smith, Raymond Staggs, Gary & Phylis Bratton, Connie Barnett, Neva Miles Hector, Jennifer Huskins, Diarmund (Dar Mood), Sarah, Cody, & Brady, Q, Vicki Bettis, Betty Rains, and Katherine McSpadden.

An Anniversary: Fuller & Elizabeth Bumpers (1/13).

Lay Ministers Serving this Sunday

Officiant: Sarah Harmon

8:00 Lector: Mike Schmidt

10:30 Lector: Gary Perkey

Acolyte: Karis Ford

Ushers: Mike & Rhonda Mundy

Technical Support: Jon Healey

Coffee Hour: Sarah Drake

Altar Guild: Judy Purnell, Kathryn Johnson, & Jo Cargill-Krug

Community Meal (1/15/2025): Team Wray

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8am-12pm. The office is closed on Wednesdays.