

Welcome to Little Fork Episcopal Church

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany - January 29, 2017

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist



Using Our Gifts to Spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Welcome and Gathering Songs

The Word of God

Processional Hymn

O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee

#660 Hymnal 1982

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. *Book of Common Prayer* p. 355
People And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Celebrant and People "Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law."
Romans 13:8, 10

Song of Praise Love, love, love, love. *[begin round]* Christians this is your call.
Love your neighbor as yourself. For God loves us all. *(round)*

Celebrant The Lord be with you. *Book of Common Prayer* p. 215

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Collect of the Day *in unison* Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time, grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The First Lesson

Micah 6:1-8

Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

“With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with tens of thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 15

Book of Common Prayer p. 599

Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? *

who may abide upon your holy hill?

Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, *

who speaks the truth from his heart.

There is no guile upon his tongue; he does no evil to his friend; *

he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.

In his sight the wicked is rejected, *

but he honors those who fear the Lord.

He has sworn to do no wrong *

and does not take back his word.

He does not give his money in hope of gain, *

nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.

Whoever does these things *

shall never be overthrown.

The Epistle

I Corinthians 1:18-31

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world

to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn

Christ for the World We Sing

#537 Hymnal 1982

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Brad Lee Jackson

The Nicene Creed - standing

BCP p. 358

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People for Epiphany

Deacon Merciful Father, it is time for us to take off our shoes, and wade into the stream of your mercy. To stand still, barefoot, on holy ground, and let the healing waters wash our feet. To take a deep breath as Love soaks into our souls. To be silent and listen for your Spirit's word in us today. We have heard what you require of us. Leave empty talk and pride behind. Walk the walk. Be prepared to step out in faith, even into troubled waters. You know dear Lord where we might need to go. We will not be afraid for Jesus will guide our steps. Teach us to walk humbly, to love boldly, to serve you with body, soul, mind, and strength. We pray now for the humility and courage to follow where your Spirit is leading us. *paraphrased from Mary Jo Bowman, Mount Solon, VA*

Intercessor As the prophet Micah rang out, "what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God"; empower your Church, O God, to ring out the Good News of the Light of your son Jesus, which pierces even the deepest darkness. We pray for all baptized people, especially for Michael Curry our Presiding Bishop; Shannon Johnston, Susan Goff, Ted Gulick, our Bishops; for the churches they serve today; for Emmetri and Brad our clergy; for our brothers and sisters at Beulah Baptist Church; and for our congregation and guests gathered here at Little Fork Episcopal Church.

Christ, be our Light. ***Shine in the church. Shine in the world.***

As a star rose high into the nighttime sky to draw the nations to the Christ-child; send your blessing, O God, on this nation, and every nation, and draw the whole world to your peace and truth. We pray for refugees around the world who are seeking a country, a home.

Christ, be our Light. ***Shine in the church. Shine in the world.***

As John the Baptist guided throngs of people to the edge of the wilderness and baptized Jesus in the River Jordan, we pray that you would guide our country and our leaders to the ways of justice and righteousness. We pray for Donald our president and Terry our governor.

Christ, be our Light. ***Shine in the church. Shine in the world.***

Like the Magi who traveled from afar to bring gifts and celebrate the Savior's birth; we pray for this community, and for those who minister to the poor and the neglected. We pray for our winter heat shelter, Culpeper Food Closet, Our Little Roses orphanage in Honduras, Kairos ministry to women, the Manna hot lunch program, and others which we now name. . .

Christ, be our Light. ***Shine in the church. Shine in the world.***

Celebrant Please share with us your joys and concerns for prayer.

Deacon Merciful Father! When you say 'blessed are you who are poor for yours is the kingdom of God', do your eyes rest on me and see how weighed down I am with possessions? When you say 'blessed are you who are hungry for you will be filled', do you place your hand in mine and know the feasts I have eaten? When you say 'blessed are you who weep now for you will laugh', do you anoint my head with oil and sense that I have laughed long and hard? Bless us all again Lord; take our riches, our fullness, our laughter all which we have in excess and let it rise up in the poor, the hungry and those who weep. So that together, we may delight in good things, share bread and wine together, open our hearts in joy and sorrow knowing that together we seek your kingdom as one body. Amen.

paraphrased from IAm Making All Things New, by Rosie Venner

The Confession

BCP p. 393

Deacon We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

All Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant 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 Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Offertory *Matthew 5: Blest Are They* *Bobbie Cabibbo, soprano*

Offering *Our 5th Sunday offering today goes to the Clergy Discretionary Fund.
Pledges and other offerings support the spread of Jesus' gospel through Little Fork Church.
Disaster relief: Episcopal Relief and Development, P.O. Box 7058, Merrifield, VA 22116*

Hymn of Thanks Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all creatures here below. Praise Him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer C *Book of Common Prayer, page 369*

Celebrant *People*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.
Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

All Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,
We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. ***Amen.***

Celebrant And now joining hands, as our Savior Christ has taught us we are bold to say: 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 Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Communion Hymn *Let Us Break Bread Together* # 152 LEVAS

Celebrant and People *BCP p. 833*

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

The Blessing

Closing Hymn *Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace* #593 Hymnal 1982

Announcements

The Dismissal

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**