

Welcome to Christ Episcopal Church  
in Cape Girardeau, Missouri

# Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

February 5th 2023

# The Gathering of God's People

**Prelude**.....Kevin Hampton , Organist

**Processional**.....#441 In the cross of Christ I glory  
*Beginning on BCP p. 76*

*All stand as the Presider greets the people with these words.*

**Presider:** Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. *Isaiah 60:3*

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

From the rising of the sun to its setting my Name shall be great among the nations, and in every place incense shall be offered to my Name, and a pure offering; for my Name shall be great among the nations, says the Lord of hosts. *Malachi 1:11*

*BCP p. 79*

*The following Confession of Sin may then be said.*

## **The Confession And Absolution**

**Presider:** Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**All:** 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.

**Presider:** 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.

*BCP p. 80*

## **The Invitatory and Psalter**

*All stand.*

**Presider:** Lord, open our lips.

**People:** And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

**Song of Praise**.....#S35 Venite

*From the Epiphany through the Baptism of Christ, and on the Feasts of the Transfiguration and Holy Cross:*

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

## The Psalm

Psalm 112:1-9, [10]

*Beatus vir*

- 1 Hallelujah!  
Happy are they who fear the Lord \*  
and have great delight in his commandments!
- 2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land; \*  
the generation of the upright will be blessed.
- 3 Wealth and riches will be in their house, \*  
and their righteousness will last for ever.
- 4 Light shines in the darkness for the upright; \*  
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.
- 5 It is good for them to be generous in lending \*  
and to manage their affairs with justice.
- 6 For they will never be shaken; \*  
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.
- 7 They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; \*  
their heart is right;  
they put their trust in the Lord.
- 8 Their heart is established and will not shrink, \*  
until they see their desire upon their enemies.
- 9 They have given freely to the poor, \*  
and their righteousness stands fast for ever;  
they will hold up their head with honor.
- [10 The wicked will see it and be angry;  
they will gnash their teeth and pine away; \*  
the desires of the wicked will perish.]

## First Reading

Isaiah 58:1-9a, [9b-12]

**S**hout out, do not hold back!  
Lift up your voice like a trumpet!  
Announce to my people their rebellion,  
to the house of Jacob their sins.  
Yet day after day they seek me  
and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness  
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;

they ask of me righteous judgments,  
they delight to draw near to God.

“Why do we fast, but you do not see?  
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,  
and oppress all your workers.

Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight  
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today  
will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose,  
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,  
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,  
a day acceptable to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the thongs of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover them,  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;

your vindicator shall go before you,  
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

[If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,  
if you offer your food to the hungry

and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.

The Lord will guide you continually,  
and satisfy your needs in parched places,  
and make your bones strong;

and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water,  
whose waters never fail.

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.]

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

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

### **Second Reading**

1 Corinthians 2:1-12, [13-16]

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the human heart conceived,  
what God has prepared for those who love him"—

these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being

knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. [And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

"For who has known the mind of the Lord  
so as to instruct him?"

But we have the mind of Christ.]

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

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

*The People stand for the hymn.*

**The Sequence Hymn**.....#554 'Tis the gift to be simple

**Third Reading** Matthew 5:13-20

**J**esus said, "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that

of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

**Sermon**

Rev. Edie Bird

*BCP p. 96*

**The Apostles Creed**

*Presider and People together, all standing*

*People:* 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 Lord's Prayer**

*Presider:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* And also with you.

*Presider:* Let us pray.

*All:* 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 Prayers of the People

*BCP p. 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

*Presider:* God is with you.

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

*Presider:* Let us pray:

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.**

*BCP p. 98*

### A Collect for Sundays

*Presider:* 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.**

*BCP p. 100*

### A Collect for Grace

*Presider:* Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor

be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*BCP p. 100*

### Prayers for Mission

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.**

*Authorized intercessions and thanksgivings may follow.*

Offertory Hymn.....#656 Blest are the pure in heart

*BCP p. 101*

### The General Thanksgiving

*All:* Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and lovingkindness 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.**

*BCP p. 102*

### A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

*Presider:* 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.**

*Then may be said:*

*Presider:* Let us bless the Lord.

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

**The Peace**

*Presider:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

*We greet each other in the name of the risen Christ. Stay standing for hymn.*

**Announcements**

*Stand for the hymn and dismissal.*

**Recessional Hymn**.....#662 Abide with me

*BCP p. 102*

**Dismissal**

*The Presider may then conclude with one of the following*

*Presider:* 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*

*Presider:* 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*

*Presider:* Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.** *Ephesians 3:20, 21*

**Postlude**.....Kevin Hampton , Organist

**This Service's Servers**

<i>Presider</i>	Kent Miller
<i>Preacher</i>	Rev. Edie Bird
<i>Reader</i>	Sheila Theile
<i>Greeter</i>	Nona Nan Chapman
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Barbara Giddens
<i>St. Isidore's Guild</i>	Tyler Helm
<i>Vestry Counter</i>	Cheryl Essner
<i>Organist</i>	Kevin Hampton

# Notes on the Service

## Fifth Sunday in Epiphany

Isa 58:1-9a (9b-12) • Ps 112:1-9(10) • I Cor 2:1-12,(13-16) • Mt 5:13-20

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The cycle of the church calendar which began on Nov. 27, '22, Advent Sunday, closed last Thursday, the Presentation, Feb. 2, which marked the infant Jesus' presentation in the Jerusalem temple 40 days after his birth. The proper preface now shifts from Epiphany's preface to that for ordinary Sundays.

During this February, Epiphany's theme of living in the light will be sustained as we read epistles from I Corinthians and Gospels from Matthew 5 & 6, the Sermon on the Mount. Today's first reading, psalm, and Gospel talk about the light of the world, an especially apt metaphor on the day of the full moon.

Written for the 1979 Prayer Book, the collect contrasts imprisonment in sin with liberty in Christ. The phrase "abundant life" has been seized upon by proponents of the prosperity gospel to mean material goods, as in today's Ps 112:3, "wealth and riches will be in his house." Such an interpretation of abundance is far from both John's Gospel and today's collect.

The third section of the Book of Isaiah is addressed to Jews recently liberated from Babylon. It asserts that external rituals are not important compared with liberating others who are oppressed, and fasting is not important compared with feeding those who are involuntarily hungry. This passage is also appointed for Ash Wednesday.

The 1979 Prayer Book changed the wording of Psalm 112, *Beatus vir*, from the original he to "they are happy who fear the Lord." Like Psalm 1, also *Beatus vir*, this acrostic wisdom psalm contrasts the life of the virtuous with the life of the law-breaker. Both psalms promise earthly rewards.

Up to this point in I Corinthians, Paul has been presenting his message as based not on human cleverness but on the suffering Christ, contrary to human expectation and human marketability. In today's epistle, Paul claims that although it may seem foolish by those human standards, his message is filled with divine Wisdom which can be grasped only by those who are spiritually mature. Note Paul's intriguing argument that the Holy Spirit is God's own self-understanding.

"Your light shall rise in darkness and your gloom will be as the noon," said Isaiah; "light shines in the darkness for the upright," said Psalm 112. "You are the light of the world," says Jesus in today's Gospel which follows the Beatitudes. Living in the way which the Beatitudes enjoin is the way to fulfill, not to break, the Law and the prophets.

**Rev. Stephen Weissman**  
Asheville, North Carolina

# Thank you for visiting Christ Episcopal Church!

## Who are We?

We are a community, forgiven and loved by God, joyfully called to the work of reconciliation.

Known throughout Cape Girardeau as "the Red Door Church" by those we serve, our mission is to share God's love and grace.

## When are our Services?

On Sundays, there are Morning Prayer services every Sunday at 8:00 AM.

Services are then held from 10:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M. on Sundays and Evening Prayer is from 5:30 P.M. – 6:30 P.M. on Wednesdays.

We are hosting a Bible study group before service at 9:00 A.M. on Sundays as well.

