

April 28, 2024
The Fifth Sunday of Easter
8:00AM and 10:30AM, The Holy Eucharist, Rite II



"Remember who you are. Don't compromise for anyone, for any reason. You are a child of the Almighty God. Live that truth." - Lysa Terkeurst

Epiphany Episcopal Church

Founded 1918

1419 Odenton Road, Odenton, Maryland 21113

Mailing address: PO Box 110, Odenton, MD 21113

Office: 410-482-5500

Interim Rector's Cell: 301-491-5792

*Epiphany-md.org – Information about the people, ministries, outreach,
and links to on-line worship.*

**We are a diverse community seeking to embody and share
the teachings and love of Jesus Christ for all people.**

The Rev. Anne Weatherholt, Interim Rector

Mark Hardy, Music Director

Debbie Leonard, Director of Christian Education

Maryellen Polvino-Bodnar, Assistant for Pastoral Care

Welcome to Epiphany Episcopal Church

If you are a guest today, please sign the register and make yourself known to the people around you. The Episcopal Church welcomes everyone to the world-wide Anglican Communion, and to this historic WW I Chapel in the Diocese of Maryland. ***We are glad you are here*** and hope you will return! Please make yourself at home and if you need anything, just ask and someone will be glad to assist you. ***The restrooms*** are located through either door on the side of the fireplace at the back of the Church. There is a ***ramp*** for easy access on the side of the Church opposite the road. **Sign up for our weekly “E-News” delivered to your email by Constant Contact:** <https://epiphany-md.org/events/>.

Children and Youth, Toddlers-Teens, are invited to “Godly Play” on Sundays in the Conboy Center during the 10:30 AM service. The Mission of Godly Play is: To make meaning through story, wonder, and play and nurture spiritual lives by honoring the centrality, competency, and capacity of children. Children come into Church for Communion.

All baptized persons of any age are welcome to receive communion at our services. If you or a family member are not baptized and would like to know more about joining the Church and making a commitment to the Christian way of life, speak to the clergy or call the Church office. Holy Baptism is the initiation by which we become members of Christ’s body, the Church, and are invited to grow in love for God and service to others, supported by a spiritual family.

Health guidelines: Masks are encouraged, and hand sanitizer is provided on the literature tables.

At the time of Communion, you may intinct (“dip”) the consecrated bread in the small intinction bowl of wine offered by the Celebrant, or drink from the chalice of wine.

Gluten-free wafers and non-alcoholic wine are offered by the Priest when you come forward to receive Holy Communion.

The Rev. Anne O. Weatherholt, Interim Rector

Rector’s Cell: 301-491-5792

Office Hours on Thursdays or by appointment

E-Mail: anneweatherholt@gmail.com

Be sure to call the church office or the Interim Rector’s Cell Phone if you or a loved one is in the hospital or in need of a visit.

WORSHIP NOTES

The Liturgy is found in the red Book of Common Prayer (BCP).

Hymns are found according to the following: H=Blue Hymnal,

S=front portion of the Blue Hymnal,

LEVAS = Black cover, Lift every voice and sing. The Hymns are omitted at the 8 AM service.

You are invited to add names for today’s prayers on the clipboard near the Altar.

We Gather in the Name of God

THE PRELUDE

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN H 182 - Christ Is Alive

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

All **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.**

THE SONG OF PRAISE S 280 - Glory to God (*Powell*)

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Please be seated.

We Hear the Word of God

THE FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

Lector A reading from the book of Acts.

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and

heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” ³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God!**

THE PSALM: Psalm 22:24-30 *Deus, Deus meus*

*The Psalm is said responsively by whole verse at the 8 AM service,
and sung at the 10:30 service.*

- 24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; * I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.
- 25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: * "May your heart live for ever!"
- 26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, * and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
- 27 For kingship belongs to the LORD; * he rules over the nations.
- 28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; * all who go down to the dust fall before him.
- 29 My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; * they shall be known as the LORD's for ever.
- 30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn * the saving deeds that he has done.

THE SECOND READING: 1 John 4: 7-21

Lector A reading from the first letter of John.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God!**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN LEVAS 50 - The Angel said to Philip (vs.1-2)

THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Saint John.

All **Glory to you, Lord Christ!**

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is

thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, Lord Christ!

THE SEQUENCE HYMN LEVAS 50 - The Angel said to Philip (vs.3-4)

We Respond to the Word of God

Please be seated at the invitation of the Preacher.

THE SERMON The Rev. Anne Weatherholt, *Interim Rector*

THE NICENE CREED BCP p. 358

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, Form III BCP p. 387

The Lector adds Petitions.

THE PRAYER FOR PEACE (*Written by the Rev. Dr. Phebe McPherson*)

Oh God, the Father and Mother of all, guide us into the ways of peace. Lead us from prejudice to truth; deliver us from hatred, cruelty, violence and mean spiritedness; fill us with generosity, hospitality, and love; and in your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION BCP p. 360

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All And also with you.

You are invited to offer each other a sign of peace as each is comfortable.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We Offer our Gifts to God

Information about giving is at the end of this bulletin. Links are provided.

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and Sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

THE ANTHEM The Epiphany Choir

PRESENTATION HYMN H 380 - From All that Dwell below the Skies

From all that dwell below the skies let the Creator's praise arise!
Let the Redeemer's Name be sung through every land, by every tongue!

Eternal are thy mercies, Lord, and truth eternal is thy word:
thy praise shall sound from shore to shore till suns shall rise and set no more.

We Give Thanks to God

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER A BCP p. 361

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts

People **We lift them to the Lord**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

THE SANCTUS LEVAS 256 – Holy, Holy, Holy

(piano) Ho - ly, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

pow'r_ and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.____

The Celebrant continues in the BCP, page 362.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself...
 ...Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People **Christ has died.**
 Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father....

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER BCP p. 364

We Break the Bread of Life

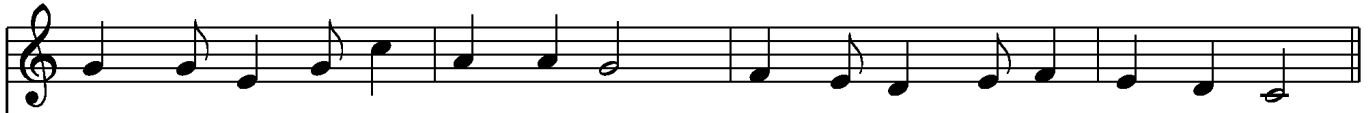
A moment of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is Sacrificed for us!

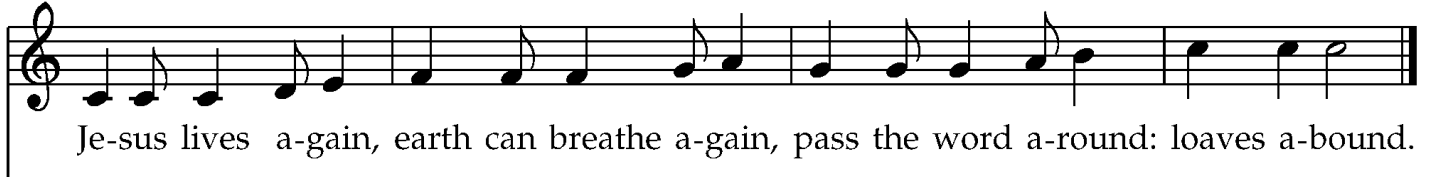
All **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

THE FRACTION ANTHEM Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at his ta - ble he sets the tone,
 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is brok-en, the wine is poured, Christ is spok - en and seen and heard:
teach-ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press:
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God Em-man - u - el ev - ery - where:



Je-sus lives a-gain, earth can breathe a-gain, pass the word a-round: loaves a-bound.

THE SPIRITUAL COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Said at 10:30 on behalf of those viewing this service online.

From the Episcopal Prayer Book for the Armed Forces,

In Union, O Lord with your faithful people at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. And since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and the life to come. Amen.

We Share the Gifts of God

Everyone who comes to this Holy Table is welcome.

You may be seated or kneel as you are able before and after receiving Holy Communion.

If you wish to receive Holy Communion, come forward to receive the bread and wine.

You may receive the consecrated bread and either intinct (“dip”) it in the small intinction bowl or drink from the Chalice offered by the chalice.

If you have never been baptized, you are invited to explore with us what this entrance to the Christian Faith is like. Prayers for healing are offered at each service.

THE COMMUNION HYMNS

LEVAS 203 - There Is a Balm in Gilead

LEVAS 118 - Spirit Song

We Go Forth in the Name of God

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER BCP p. 365

Celebrant Let us pray.

All Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

If you have a birthday or anniversary during this past or coming week, you are invited to come forward as the community offers a prayer.

Birthday Prayer BCP p. 830

THE EASTERTIDE BLESSING

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **AMEN**

RECESSIONAL HYMN H 379 – God Is Love

THE DISMISSAL

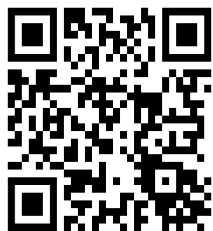
Celebrant and People

**Go forth in the name of Christ, to live as a diverse community –
seeking to embody and share the teachings and love of Jesus
Christ for all people! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
Thanks be to God!! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

Flowers today are given by Maryellen and John Bodnar in memory of Molly Bodnar.

Pastoral notice: Rev'd Allan, Anne's spouse, will have eye surgery at John's Hopkins Wilmer Institute on Wednesday, May 1. Your prayers are appreciated!

Offering Our Gifts



Use the QR Code to link to the “giving” page on the Church website: <https://epiphany-md.org/giving/>. Text Epiphany1918 to 73256 to link to the online giving form. If you include a dollar amount after the word “Epiphany1918” the form will be filled in with that dollar amount for you. See your YTD giving, as well as update or add your Church information by joining REALM, our Church database. Send an email request to realm.admin@epiphany-md.org or [treasurer@epiphany-](mailto:treasurer@epiphany-md.org)

[md.org](https://epiphany-md.org).

- Pick up a brochure about REALM on the literature table to find out how to join the Church REALM community.
- Use a credit card for online giving and check to make sure the name & address you enter in REALM matches those on your credit card account billing profile.

Gifts of time and talent are welcome! Please speak to the Interim Rector or a Vestry member for areas of need where you can offer your interests and abilities.

The Shared Life of the Community of Faith

The Flower donation chart on the literature table in the Church has one Sunday left in May. The chart for June-July has plenty of space! Sign up to donate flowers for our Sunday morning worship. You will get a call to remind you when it is your turn to bring flowers to decorate our Sanctuary! You may donate in the name of a loved one or occasion.

A Church Clean-up and Maintenance Day is scheduled for Saturday, May 11 beginning at 9 AM. Come and help us spruce up the campus before Mother’s Day! Bring gloves, small trimmers, rakes, etc.



MEAL TRAIN FOR DEBBIE LEONARD:

While Debbie is recuperating, we can help by signing up for a “Meal Train” for her family. Due to her stroke, Debbie will be out on disability from her school job and unable to work in the coming months. Use this link:

<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/7zy288>, and extend your ministry! All necessary details for diet and delivery are on the webpage.

Donations for the Food Bank are needed! Non-perishable food may be left on the donation pew. Canned meats, jelly, peanut butter, soup, shelf-stable milk. THANKS!

NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 5, Rogation Sunday

Rogation Days are the “Christian Earth Day,” and are observed on the four days before the Feast of the Ascension. Our liturgy celebrates God’s creation and emphasizes our call to be caretakers of this amazing gift. This year we will observe Rogation Sunday with a guided Labyrinth Walk (weather permitting) led by Rev’d Anne+ after both services. You may also sit and enjoy the beauty of the campus from the large outdoor bench.

We have a new Rector!



The Rev. Joshua Rodriguez-Hobbs has been called to be the new Rector for Epiphany Episcopal Church. His first Sunday is August 4. Josh is currently serving as the Interim Rector at nearby St. Martins in the Field in Severna Park. **The announcement regarding the new Rector for Epiphany** was sent on Thursday, April 25 via our e-news list. The message from the Vestry includes a summary of the Search process as well as information about the rest of our Transition from now until August. A hard copy of the message was mailed to each household, and **a video from the new Rector is on the webpage.** Copies of

the letter from the Vestry and a letter from Josh+ are available in the Church and members of the Vestry will be on hand after both services.

A huge thank you goes to Joe Gill and the Search Committee for their work in screening and unanimously recommending Josh+ to the Vestry. His election was also unanimous.

Our Interim Rector, Anne+ will conclude her time with us on June 30, as it is customary to have a period of time between the departure of the Interim and the first Sunday of a new Rector.

In addition, the Rev. Mark Winward, who has been present and very supportive of the ministry of Epiphany in addition to his duties as the head Chaplain of NSA, will retire in July. Mark will complete his time at Epiphany by serving as supply July 14, 21 and 28. **Plans are being made to honor both Anne+ and Mark+, as well as welcome Josh+.** If you wish to assist in this festive and important transition time, please speak to any member of the Vestry.