

# THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY



ANGLICAN CHURCH  
IN NORTH AMERICA



YEAR C

## SEASONAL GREETING

*Celebrant* I will make you as a light for the nations,

***People*** **That my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.**

*Isaiah 49:6*

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, you know that we are set in the midst of many grave dangers, and because of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: Grant that your strength and protection may support us in all dangers and carry us through every temptation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

### Jeremiah 1:4-10

Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

<sup>5</sup> “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

<sup>6</sup> Then I said, “Ah, LORD God! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth.” <sup>7</sup> But the LORD said to me,

“Do not say, ‘I am only a youth’; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. <sup>8</sup> Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the LORD.”

<sup>9</sup> Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the LORD said to me,

“Behold, I have put my words in your mouth. <sup>10</sup> See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

*Reader:* The word of the Lord.

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

## PSALTER VERSES

*(In said services, the psalm verses may be placed between the Epistle and the Gospel, with the congregation standing in preparation for the Gospel. At services where there is a hymn or canticle before the Gospel, the psalm might be said between the Old Testament and Epistle, the people seated.)*

### Psalm 71:11-20

<sup>11</sup> Go not far from me, O God; \*  
my God, make haste to help me.

<sup>12</sup> Let those who are my adversaries be confounded and perish; \*  
let those who seek to do me evil be covered with shame and dishonor.

<sup>13</sup> As for me, I will always patiently abide, \*  
and will praise you more and more.

<sup>14</sup> My mouth shall speak daily of your righteousness and salvation, \*  
for I know not the end of them.

<sup>15</sup> I will go forth in the strength of the Lord God, \*  
and will make mention of your righteousness, yours alone.

<sup>16</sup> You, O God, have taught me from my youth; \*  
even to this day I am telling of your wondrous works.

<sup>17</sup> Forsake me not, O God, in my old age, when I am gray-headed, \*  
until I have proclaimed your strength to this generation, and your power to  
all those who are yet to come.

<sup>18</sup> Your righteousness, O God, reaches to the heavens; \*  
you have done great things. Who is like you, O God?

<sup>19</sup> Oh, what great troubles and adversities you have shown me! And yet you have  
turned and refreshed me; \*  
indeed, you have brought me again from the depths of the earth.

<sup>20</sup> You have brought me to great honor \*  
and comforted me on every side;

## EPISTLE READING

## 1 Corinthians 14:12-25

So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.

<sup>13</sup> Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret.

<sup>14</sup> For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. <sup>15</sup> What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also. <sup>16</sup> Otherwise, if you give thanks with your spirit, how can anyone in the position of an outsider say “Amen” to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying?

<sup>17</sup> For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not being built up. <sup>18</sup> I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. <sup>19</sup> Nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

<sup>20</sup> Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature. <sup>21</sup> In the Law it is written, “By people of strange tongues and by the lips of foreigners will I speak to this people, and even then they will not listen to me, says the Lord.” <sup>22</sup> Thus tongues are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is a sign not for unbelievers but for believers.

<sup>23</sup> If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your minds?

<sup>24</sup> But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, <sup>25</sup> the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you.

*Reader:* The word of the Lord.

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

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

*Deacon:* The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ, according to St. Luke

*People:* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

### Luke 4:21-32

And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” <sup>22</sup> And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” <sup>23</sup> And

he said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, “Physician, heal yourself.” What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well.”<sup>24</sup> And he said, “Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown.”<sup>25</sup> But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land,<sup>26</sup> and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow.<sup>27</sup> And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.”<sup>28</sup> When they heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath.<sup>29</sup> And they rose up and drove him out of the town and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff.<sup>30</sup> But passing through their midst, he went away.

<sup>31</sup> And he went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And he was teaching them on the Sabbath,<sup>32</sup> and they were astonished at his teaching, for his word possessed authority.

*Deacon:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## OFFERTORY AND POST-COMMUNION SENTENCES

*(Drawn from verses of Holy Scripture, these sentences are chosen by the celebrant or preacher to reinforce the lessons or teaching of the day.)*

## PROPER PREFACE

*Epiphany*

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who took on our mortal flesh to reveal his glory; that he might bring us out of darkness and into his own glorious light.

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*Sources:* The Collect of the Day is taken from the Book of Common Prayer 2019. The Psalm verses are taken from the New Coverdale Psalter of the BCP 2019. Scripture quotations are taken from The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.