



# THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY



ANGELICAN CHURCH  
OF NORTH AMERICA

YEAR A

## 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

Almighty God, look mercifully upon your people, that by your great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## FIRST READING

Ecclesiasticus 15:11-20

Do not say, “Because of the Lord I left the right way”; for he will not do what he hates. <sup>12</sup> Do not say, “It was he who led me astray”; for he had no need of a sinful man. <sup>13</sup> The Lord hates every abomination, and they are not loved by those who fear him. <sup>14</sup> It was he who created mankind in the beginning, and he left him in the power of his own choice. <sup>15</sup> If you desire, you will keep the commandments, and to act faithfully is a matter of choice. <sup>16</sup> He has placed before you fire and water: stretch out your hand for whichever you wish. <sup>17</sup> Life and death are in front of people, and whichever one chooses will be given to him.

<sup>18</sup> For great is the wisdom of the Lord; he is mighty in power and sees everything; <sup>19</sup> his eyes are on those who fear him, and he knows a person’s every deed. <sup>20</sup> He has not commanded anyone to be ungodly, and he has not given anyone permission to sin.

*Reader:* Here ends the Reading.

## 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 119:(1-8)9-16

- (<sup>1</sup> Blessed are those who are undefiled in their ways, \*  
and walk in the law of the LORD.
- <sup>2</sup> Blessed are those who keep his testimonies \*  
and seek him with their whole heart,
- <sup>3</sup> Even those who do no wickedness \*  
and perfectly walk in his ways.
- <sup>4</sup> You have ordered your precepts \*  
that we should diligently keep them.
- <sup>5</sup> O that my ways were made so direct \*  
that I might keep your statutes!
- <sup>6</sup> Then would I not be put to shame \*  
while I give heed unto all your commandments.
- <sup>7</sup> I will thank you with an upright heart, \*  
when I have learned your righteous judgments.
- <sup>8</sup> I will keep your statutes; \*  
O do not forsake me utterly. )
- <sup>9</sup> How shall a young man cleanse his way? \*  
By ruling himself according to your word.
- <sup>10</sup> With my whole heart I have sought you; \*  
O let me not go astray from your commandments.
- <sup>11</sup> Your words have I hidden within my heart, \*  
that I may not sin against you.
- <sup>12</sup> Blessed are you, O LORD; \*  
teach me your statutes.
- <sup>13</sup> With my lips have I been telling \*  
of all the judgments of your mouth.
- <sup>14</sup> I have had greater delight in the way of your testimonies \*  
than in all manner of riches.
- <sup>15</sup> I will meditate on your commandments \*  
and have respect for all your ways.
- <sup>16</sup> My delight will be in your statutes, \*  
and I will not forget your word.

## EPISTLE READING

### 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. <sup>2</sup> I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, <sup>3</sup> for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? <sup>4</sup> For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not being merely human?

<sup>5</sup> What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. <sup>6</sup> I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. <sup>7</sup> So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. <sup>8</sup> He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. <sup>9</sup> For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

*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. Matthew.

*People:* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

### Matthew 5:21-37

"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' <sup>22</sup> But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire. <sup>23</sup> So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, <sup>24</sup> leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. <sup>25</sup> Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. <sup>26</sup> Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

<sup>27</sup> "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' <sup>28</sup> But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. <sup>29</sup> If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of

your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. <sup>30</sup> And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

<sup>31</sup> “It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ <sup>32</sup> But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

<sup>33</sup> “Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’ <sup>34</sup> But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, <sup>35</sup> or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. <sup>36</sup> And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. <sup>37</sup> Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.

*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

*The Lord’s Day*

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

OR

*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.