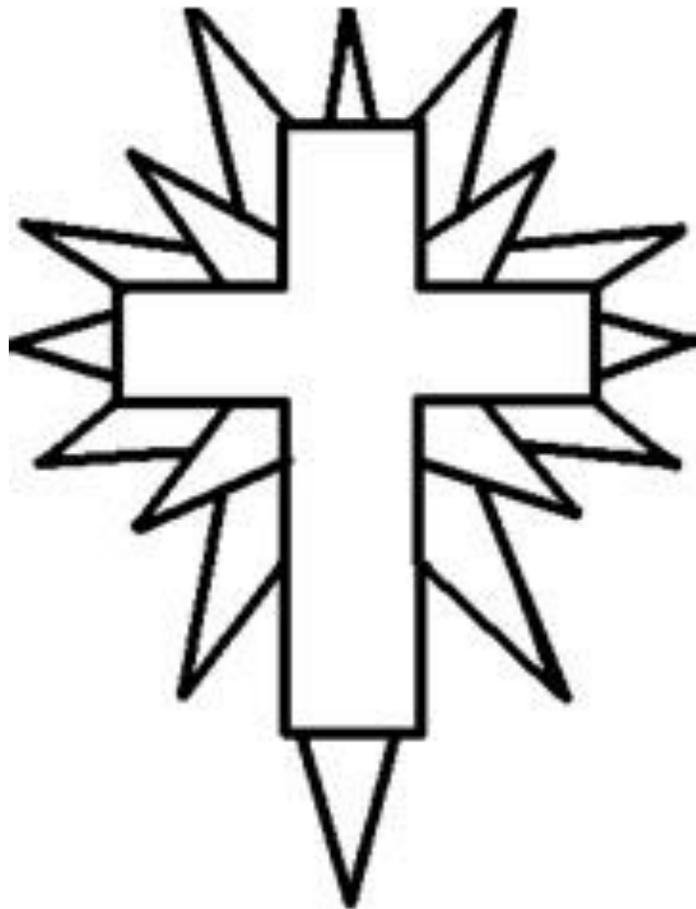


**WELCOME TO  
THE CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY  
ROYERSFORD, PA**

*A friendly welcome to all! If you are visiting, please fill out a visitor's card  
and place it in the offertory plate or give it to an usher.  
We hope you'll join us for refreshments and fellowship after worship today.*





# PROCESSIONAL HYMN #690

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this  
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun-tain, whence the heal - ing  
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land; I am weak, but thou art might - y;  
 stream doth flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar  
 fears sub - side; death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion,

hold me with thy power - ful hand; bread of hea - ven,  
 lead me all my jour - ney through; strong de - liv - erer,  
 land me safe on Ca - naan's side; songs of prais - es,

bread of hea - ven, feed me now and ev - er -  
 strong de - liv - erer, be thou still my strength and  
 songs of prais - es, I will ev - er give to

more, feed me now and ev - er - more.  
 shield, be thou still my strength and shield.  
 thee, I will ev - er give to thee.

Words: William Williams (1717-1791); tr. Peter Williams (1722-1796), alt. Music: *Cwm Rhondda*, John Hughes (1873-1932)

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

## THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

*All stand*

*Presider* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

## THE COLLECT FOR PURITY *(said by 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 following is sung, all standing*

1 From all that dwell be - low the skies let  
2 E - ter - nal are thy mer - cies, Lord, and  
the Cre - a - tor's praise a - rise! Let the Re - deem - er's  
truth e - ter - nal is thy word: thy praise shall sound from  
Name be sung through ev - ery land, by ev - ery tongue!  
shore to shore till suns shall rise and set no more.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

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

*Presider* Let us pray together

**O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## THE FIRST READING

Amos 5:18-24

### A Reading from the Book of Amos

Thus says the Lord, the God of hosts, the Lord: Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the LORD? It is darkness, not light; as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream.

*Reader*        The Word of the Lord  
*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

Response from the Wisdom of Solomon 6:17-20

The beginning of wisdom is the most sincere desire for instruction,  
and concern for instruction is love of her,  
and love of her is the keeping of her laws,  
and giving heed to her laws is assurance of immortality,  
and immortality brings one near to God;  
so the desire for wisdom leads to a kingdom.

## THE SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

### A Reading from the First letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

*Reader*        The Word of the Lord.  
*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 25:1-13

*All stand*

*Priest*           The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

*After the reading of the Gospel*

*Priest*           The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## THE HOMILY

### THE NICENE CREED

*All stand.*

**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

*Through baptism, God has made us the people of hope. Our hope is in God and our help comes from God. Since God promises to make all things new, let us offer our cares and concerns to God, saying: O God, who is our hope, hear our prayer.*

Gracious Creator, ruler of the universe, we know neither the day nor the hour when the Lord Christ shall return to claim the faithful. Through your saving and sustaining grace, enable us to remain in readiness and to welcome his appearing. O God, who is our hope,

Eternal Creator, author of unity, bind your people together into one holy church. Remove the barriers that separate Christian from Christian, and enable all the baptized to offer common praise to you and common witness to the world. O God, who is our hope,

Merciful Creator, source of all compassion, look with pity upon our world. Help us overcome the ravages of war, disease, hunger, and injustice ; give dignity and well-being to all the human family. Visit us with your love; grant us peace; point us to the way that leads to fulfillment and sufficiency for all. O God, who is our hope,

Almighty Creator, protector of all life, we plead with you to grant healing and wholeness to the sick [especially N.]. Lay upon them your hand of mercy; renew and restore them, giving them cause to proclaim and praise your name. O God, who is our hope,

*[Here other intercessions may be offered.]*

Divine Creator, perfecter of all life, behold the dying, who no longer await the return of the bridegroom, but rush to meet him through their death. Grant them peace at the last and welcome them into your heavenly dominion. When our last hour shall come, look not on our sins but accept us on the merits of our gracious redeemer, Jesus Christ. O God, who is our hope,

*Accept the prayers of your people, O God. Assure us anew that you give heed to our cries and that you respond to our petitions according to your divine will. Through Jesus Christ our Savior we pray.*

**BIRTHDAY'S:** 13 - Pat Conrad 16 - Cathy Bailey, Gwen Thompson 17 - Jacob Bailey

**ANNIVERSARIES:** 15 - Bob & June Blauser

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** Given in loving memory of our parents, Doris and Rufus Wixon, and Phyllis and John Cobbs, by Kathy and Jack Cobbs.

## The Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins to God. *(Silence may be kept.)*

*Minister and People*

**God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world, you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

## The Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

## The Peace

*All stand.*

*Presider*            The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People*                And also with you.

*The People greet one another in the name of Christ*

# THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

## Offertory Sentence

At the presentation of the Gifts:

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Presider*            The Lord be with you.  
*People*                **and also with you.**  
*Presider*            Lift up your hearts.  
*People*                **We lift them to the Lord.**  
*Presider*            Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People*                **It is right to give our thanks and praise**

*Presider*

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

## **Sanctus**

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

*The People may stand, kneel or sit*

*The Presider continues*

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us. We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me." And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

*Presider and People*

**Dying, you destroyed our death.**

**Rising, you restored our life.**

**Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

*The Presider continues*

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with [blessed \_\_\_\_\_, and] all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

*Presider and People*

**Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN.**

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**

*A period of silence is kept.*

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

***We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.***

### **The Invitation to Holy Communion**

The Gifts of God for the People of God

*This is the Lord's Table, God's feast for all of God's people. There is always Abundance here and a place for you.*

*You are invited and encouraged to join us at the altar rail.*

*If you wish to receive a blessing instead of the bread or wine, you are welcome;  
please come forward and cross your arms over your chest.*

*Presider*

Let us pray.

*All*

**God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## The Blessing

Announcements

## The Dismissal

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

### ASSISTING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

	<b>10am</b>
Eucharistic Minister:	Tanya Millet
Lectors:	Julie Dattilo & Helen Warner
Acolyte:	William Hummer
Greeter:	Cathy Bailey
Usher:	Kathy Cobbs & Julie Dattilo
Counters:	Vincent & Susan Garone
Altar Guild	Julie Dattilo, Joanne Arnold, Cathy Bailey, Tanya Millet
Godly Play Teacher	Marti Wilson
Godly Play Greeter	

# **CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY**

209 S. Third Avenue, Royersford, PA 19468

610-948-9655

[WWW.EPIPHANYSTAR.NET](http://WWW.EPIPHANYSTAR.NET)

## **WORSHIP SERVICES**

**MIDWEEK HOLY EUCHARIST WITH HEALING LITANY**

10:15AM WEDNESDAYS

## **SUNDAY**

**8AM HOLY EUCHARIST RITE I (SPOKEN)**

**10AM HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II (MUSIC)**

**PAUL EXLEY, PARISH ADMINISTRATOR**

**THE REV. BETH W. HIXON, RECTOR**

215-896-0828 OR RECTOR@EPIPHANYSTAR.NET