

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday following the  
Epiphany  
17 January 2021

**Grace Episcopal Church**  
827 Church Street  
Honesdale, PA

The Rev'd Edward K. Erb, rector      [rector@gracechurchhonesdale.org](mailto:rector@gracechurchhonesdale.org)  
570-241-2685

**The Second Week after Epiphany, 2021**  
*Virtual Grace*

Organ Prelude -

*“Solemn Melody”*

H. Walford-Davies

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Hello and welcome to “Virtual Grace”  
from Grace Episcopal Church in Honesdale, PA,  
as we continue to celebrate the story of Christ’s birth.  
We continue the story of Jesus’s childhood  
Today we will see him at age 12 as He is ‘lost’ in the Temple with the Elders,  
and then we’ll be with him in the Jordan River  
as cousin John baptizes Jesus at age 29,  
followed by his Temptation in the Wilderness by Satan  
Soon we will come to our own forty days observance of Lent!

I’m Fr. Ed, the rector of our parish, and we’re glad you’re here in “Virtual Grace,”  
not knowing when our doors will be open again for in-person worship  
and the offering of the Blessed Sacraments.

So many people are struggling.  
It is our mission to aid any and everyone in whatever way we can,  
to spread the Good News of Salvation  
in whatever situation one may find themselves.  
We are deeply grateful for all the help, donations, best wishes and prayers  
that have been offered to the Church.

If you, or anyone you know, are in any pastoral need at all, call me, 24/7.  
I am more than ready to come to your spiritual aid and visit with a mask.

This week, I will be sending out in an e-mail, a series of Scripture and Prayers  
as we look to the Inauguration of our new President.

Let us always remember that our salvation lies only  
in our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, in this life and in the world to come.

## CONFESSION & ASSURANCE of PARDON

St. Paul writes:

In Christ we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us.

*Ephesians 1:7-8*

Let us confess our sins against God and our fellow sisters and brothers.

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.

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive our sins through our savior Jesus Christ, and in the power of the Holy Spirit, strengthen us in all goodness, ✝ and keep us in eternal life. Amen.

## COLLECT of the DAY

Let us pray...

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

St. Paul writes to the Church at Ephesus:

## FIRST READING

*Ephesians 1: 3-6, 15-19*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children

through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

Here ends the Reading.

#### GRADUAL

*Psalm 84: 1, 9-12*

How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts!  
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.  
For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room,  
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God  
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.  
For the Lord God is both sun and shield;  
he will give grace and glory;  
No good thing will the Lord withhold  
from those who walk with integrity.  
O Lord of hosts, happy are they who put their trust in you!

#### SECOND READING

*Luke 2: 41-52*

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him.

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard

him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

Here ends the Reading.

## MEDITATION

Dorothy Sayers, most famous for the Lord Peter Wimsey mysteries was a member of the "Inklings" - a group of British writers that included Tolkien and C.S. Lewis, and was like them also a famous British theologian.

Sayers reminds us that Jesus is not the milque-toast nice guy we have made him over the centuries, nor the sin-less child. And Mary was not the sweet, demure, young woman, but a kvetching Jewish mother.

No, they were real human beings, with a family like any.

Just think of Mary at the Wedding in Cana when she kvetches and makes Jesus do his first magic trick, umm, I mean miracle.

Hear that same Jewish mother's voice today as she scolds him:

"Boy, why have you treated us like this?

What are you thinking?!?

We've been searching for you for three days.

You had us half-dead with worry!"

Yes, Jesus was a real human 12-year old.

And we've all been rebellious at that age, even older, truth be told.

My Dad upbraided me for saying something to my Mom.  
It doesn't matter what you do so much as how you treat your Mom.  
I got so mad at Dad that night that I went running off on my bike.  
I came across my best friend who was with another friend  
    looking for that friend's lost brother.  
We scoured the streets of our small town for about an hour,  
    then I rode home when we found him.  
By that time, I had forgotten why I was angry with my Dad, and he with me.  
He was just concerned for his Prodigal Son returned home.  
Yes, Jesus was a real human boy!  
Sadly, *a*) so am I,  
    and sadly *b*) he was divine even at 12 - me? not so.

Truth told, Jesus wasn't being rebellious.  
He just got wrapped up with these Temple scholars and their discussion of Scripture.  
He forgot to check his watch - for three days.  
We don't know for sure, but some believe that one of those rabbis  
    became Jesus - and St. Paul's - own rabbinic professor.  
We do know that Jesus - and Paul - were both trained as rabbis themselves.  
Surely, Jesus so impressed these guys that one of them took him - and Paul -  
    under his wings.  
Which raises a question in my mind -  
    were Paul and Jesus classmates?  
But that's a rabbit-hole we don't need to go down today.

I've told my story - or at least one of them.  
What about yours?

When have you rebelled, or have been thought to by others?  
Were you running away in anger, as I was,  
or did you get lost and just forgot that others may be looking for you?  
Or even better - best of all -  
was there a time when you got so wrapped up into talking about God,  
and the Holy Scriptures with someone,  
or your relationship with Christ,  
that you just plain lost track of time?

Now, let me push us into the future, rather than recalling the past.

Can I, can you “get lost” in God,  
in studying God’s Word,  
in the depths of prayer?

Can we get lost, and in so doing, get found?

AMEN

Let us offer the words of our faith using the Apostles’ Creed.

The CREED

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.

We are dividing the Parish Directory to lift up a portion of our family each week.

Let us pray for God's people throughout the world.

PRAYERS, Form II, *adapted*

BCP, p.385

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Kevin, our Bishop; and for all ministers and faithful. Remembering those in our parish family: Pat; Paige & Matt, Ethan and Dylan; Sue; Margie & Paul; Beth & Harry, Hannah and Harry Jr.; Libby & Bill; Gerry; Pray for our parish family, and the Church throughout the world.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace in our country, in our homes and abroad.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for the poor, the hungry, the oppressed, those in prison, those separated from loved ones, for the sick, the crippled children, the disabled elderly and those suffering from Covid-19 symptoms. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for the departed, for Philip, and especially those who have succumbed to the virus, and those killed by violent acts. Pray for those who have died.

*Silence*

I ask your thanksgiving for loved ones, and the creative ways they and we have found to share our love, especially in this holy season. Pray for our families wherever they may be.

*Silence*

And in this time of conflict in our country, let us pray:

O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

BCP, p.824

To sum up all these petitions, let us pray the words which Christ has taught us:

Our Father...

Hymn -

*“Amazing Grace”*

Hymnal #671

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
was blind, but now I see.

*BLESSING*

The blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, be with us,  
and remain with us always. *Amen.*