

**The Second Sunday of Easter**  
**April 16, 2023, 10:00 a.m.**



**THE CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY**

*The Episcopal Church in Agoura, Oak Park, and Westlake Village*

The Rev. Jamie Barnett, Vicar

## Welcome to The Church of The Epiphany

**For our Visitors:** We are delighted you have come to worship with us today. There is coffee and fellowship in the Bishop's Hall directly after the service. Please join us!

**Worshipping with us:** This booklet contains the full order of service. If you are unfamiliar with our rituals and customs, just be present with us in this ancient liturgy and let the rest of the congregation carry you in worship. The bold type indicates where the people are invited to respond or pray.

During the distribution of Communion, we welcome you to receive the sacrament or a prayer of blessing. Additional information about communion is in that section of this booklet. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to an usher or other congregants.

**Additional assistance:** To locate the restrooms proceed through the office door to the right of the church and go straight down the hall and to the left. Both restrooms have baby changing tables.

**Assisted listening devices** are available from the ushers in the back of the church.

**Children in the church:** We welcome children at all our worship services. The sounds of children are a gift from God. Please do not feel you have to subdue them! In the chapel to the left of the altar, we have our *pray ground*. This space is for parents and younger children to use quiet activities such as books, coloring, soft blocks etc., while still participating in worship. We offer activity bags for older children. Children aged 3-11 are welcome to join us in the atrium for our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Sunday school program.

**Making Epiphany your spiritual home:** If you are interested in learning more about our church, please fill out the purple information card found in the slot in front of your seat and place it on the collection plate. We are excited to meet you and would love to get to know you. Start by joining us for coffee after the service!

**When we are open:** The church is open Monday-Thursday for private prayer and meditation from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Our office is open Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Our phone number is (818) 991-4797. The Rev. Jamie Barnett has office hours Tuesday through Thursday by appointment.

### THE CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

*The Episcopal Church in Agoura, Oak Park, and Westlake Village*  
5450 Churchwood Drive, Oak Park, California 91377  
(818) 991-4797 · [tcote.org](http://tcote.org)

#### Connect to the Staff

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#### THE BISHOP'S COMMITTEE

Bishop's Warden – Steve Stephens  
People's Warden – Susan Halligan  
Treasurer – Keith Krantz  
Clerk – Eileen Hannemann

John Brunson '23  
Shay Hass '23  
Katie Roberts '23

Susan Halligan '24  
Gabriel Rueda '24  
Bob Thomson '24

Claudia Dempster '25  
Laura Paden '25  
Bob Schneider '25

# The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

PRELUDE

Offertory for Easter on "O filii et filiae"

Clément Loret (1833-1909)

## The Word of God

*At the sound of the bell, at stand, as able, and sing*

### ENTRANCE HYMN

Hymn 206

O sons and daughters, let us sing

O FILII ET FILIAE

### OPENING ACCLAMATION

*The people standing, the Priest says*

*Priest* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*People* **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

### OPENING ANTHEM OR SONG OF PRAISE S 280 *Glory to God (Canticle 20) (Powell)*

*The following is sung, all standing*

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly  
King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we  
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus  
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy

on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -

ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,

you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most

High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the

glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Priest* The Lord be with you.

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

*Priest* Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## The Lessons

### FIRST READING: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

<sup>14a</sup>Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], <sup>22</sup>“Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—<sup>23</sup>this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. <sup>24</sup>But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. <sup>25</sup>For David says concerning him,

‘I saw the Lord always before me,  
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;

<sup>26</sup>therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;  
moreover my flesh will live in hope.

<sup>27</sup>For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,  
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

<sup>28</sup>You have made known to me the ways of life;  
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

<sup>29</sup>‘Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. <sup>30</sup>Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. <sup>31</sup>Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

‘He was not abandoned to Hades,  
nor did his flesh experience corruption.’

<sup>32</sup>This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.’”

*Reader*           The Word of the Lord.

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

*Silence may follow.*

### **PSALM: Psalm 16**

*Remain seated.*



S-415 | © 1956, Jerome Webster Meachen.

- 1   Protect me, O God, for I take | refuge in you; \*  
    I have said to the LORD, “You are my Lord,  
    my good above all | other.”
- 2   All my delight is upon the godly that are in the | land, \*  
    upon those who are noble among the | people.
- 3   But those who run after other | gods \*  
    shall have their troubles | multiplied.
- 4   Their libations of blood I will not | offer, \*  
    nor take the names of their gods upon my | lips.
- 5   O Lord, you are my portion and my | cup; \*  
    it is you who uphold my | lot.
- 6   My boundaries enclose a pleasant | land; \*  
    indeed, I have a goodly | heritage.
- 7   I will bless the LORD who gives me | counsel; \*  
    my heart teaches me night after | night.
- 8   I have set the LORD always be|fore me; \*  
    because he is at my right hand I shall not | fall.

9 My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; \*  
my body also shall rest in hope.  
10 For you will not abandon me to the grave, \*  
nor let your holy one see the Pit.  
†11 You will show me the path of life; \*  
in your presence there is fullness of joy,  
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

## SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:3-9

A Reading from the First letter of Peter.

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, <sup>7</sup>so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup>Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup>for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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

*Silence may follow.*

## SEQUENCE HYMN

*All stand.*

Hymn 178 Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord

ALLELUIA NO. 1

## GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

*All stand.*

*Priest* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.  
*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” <sup>28</sup>Thomas

answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

*Priest*            The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*            **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## **THE SERMON**

Karen James

## **THE 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

*All remain standing.*

Brothers and sisters, peace be with you. Let us pray to our merciful Lord, saying, “Our Lord and our God, *have mercy on us.*”

Lord Jesus Christ, you have given your Church the gift of your Holy Spirit. May that same Spirit comfort and strengthen us as we proclaim your resurrection to the world.

Our Lord and our God,  
*Have mercy on us.*

God of wisdom, teach and counsel the leaders of the nations. May this world be filled with justice and peace.

Our Lord and our God,  
*Have mercy on us.*

God our provider, you have given us this pleasant earth as a goodly heritage. May we use its resources wisely and always according to your purpose.

Our Lord and our God,  
*Have mercy on us.*

All-knowing God, raise up for this community people who will stand and voice your truth. May we be led by you on good paths of life.

Our Lord and our God,  
*Have mercy on us.*

Merciful God, you are a strong refuge for those in trouble. Protect all those who suffer various trials. Reveal yourself to those who struggle to believe in you. Make all your people glad by the living hope that is found in you.

Our Lord and our God,  
*Have mercy on us.*

We pray today especially for those on our parish prayer list: Mario, Kathy, Joann, Angelo, and Curt. We also pray for those who are on our long-term prayer list and for those who have asked for our prayers but who prefer to remain anonymous.

Our Lord and our God,  
*Have mercy on us.*

God of Life, may the dying and the dead rest in hope. Give us faith that you do not abandon anyone—even to the grave. And preserve us for the great inheritance you give us through the resurrection of your Son from the dead.

Our Lord and our God,  
*Have mercy on us. Amen.*

## CONFESSION OF SIN



*The Priest says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People*

**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.**

*The Priest stands and says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord 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, as able.*

*Priest*           The peace of Christ be always with you.  
*People*           **And also with you.**

*All may greet one another in the name of Lord.*

## **PRAYER FOR BIRTHDAYS**

*All*               **Watch over your *children*, O Lord, as *their* days increase; bless and guide *them* wherever they may be. Strengthen *them* when *they* stand; comfort *them* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *them* up if *they* fall; and in *their* hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of *their* lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

# The Holy Communion

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM** Quia vidisti me, Thoma

*(sung by the Schola)*

*Quia vidisti me, Thoma,  
credidisti;  
beati qui non viderunt  
et crediderunt.*

Because you have seen me, Thomas,  
you have believed,  
Blessed are they who have not seen  
and have believed.

Alleluia.

Alleluia.

TEXT: JOHN 20:29  
MUSIC: LUCA MARENZIO (1553/4-1599)

## PRESENTATION HYMN

Hymn 209

We walk by faith, and not by sight

ST. BOTOLPH

## The Great Thanksgiving

*The People remain standing.*

*Priest* The Lord be with you.

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

*Priest* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Priest* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Facing the Holy Table, the Priest proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God 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 Christ's death he has destroyed death, and by Christ's 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:

## SANCTUS S 125 *Holy, holy, holy (Proulx)*

*Priest and People*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
 san - na in the high-est. Ho - san-na in the high-est.

*The People stand or kneel.*

*The Priest continues*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O God,

*Priest and People*

**We remember his death,  
 We proclaim his resurrection,  
 We await his coming in glory;**

*The Priest continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [\_\_\_\_\_ and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say in the language of our hearts,

*People and Priest*

**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,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## The Breaking of the Bread

**FRACTION ANTHEM S 169** *My flesh is food indeed (Urwin)*

*Cantor or Choir*

My flesh is food in - deed, and my blood is drink in -  
deed, says the Lord. My Lord. Those who eat my  
flesh and drink my blood dwell in me and I in them. My  
flesh is food in - deed, and my blood is drink in - deed, says the Lord.

### INVITATION

*The Priest says*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

### DISTRIBUTION

*The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.*

*Priest*

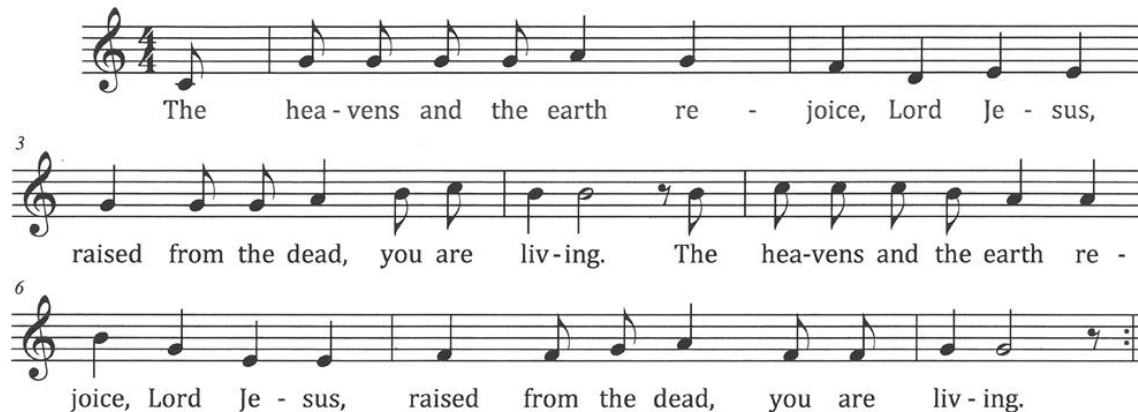
This is Christ's Banquet. It is made ready for those who love God, and for those who want to love God more. So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often, and you who have not been here long. You who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed. Come, because it is Christ who invites you.

*During Communion, all are welcome – even encouraged! – to come forward to receive the holy food of new and everlasting life in Jesus Christ. Simply put your hands out (one on top of the other), and the bread will be placed in your hand. (If needed, gluten-free wafers are available.)*

*You may then consume the wafer (if you do not wish to have it intincted in the wine) or leave the wafer on your palm and the chalice bearer will dip it into the wine for you and place it in your hand. If you aren't sure, or if you'd rather not receive the actual Sacrament, come up and cross your arms across your chest to receive a blessing. You may also cross your arms over your chest or touch the bottom of the chalice if you wish not to receive wine. Finally, if you'd like to receive Communion but mobility is an issue, alert an usher and Communion will be brought to you.*

## COMMUNION HYMN

*All are invited to sing*



The hea - vens and the earth re - joice, Lord Je - sus,  
3 raised from the dead, you are liv - ing. The hea - vens and the earth re -  
6 joice, Lord Je - sus, raised from the dead, you are liv - ing.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

*After Communion, the Priest says*

Let us pray.

*Priest and People*

**Eternal God,**

**you have graciously accepted us as living members**

**of 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 Savior. Amen.**

## BLESSING

*The Priest blesses the people.*

## POST-COMMUNION HYMN

Hymn 193

That Easter day with joy was bright

PUER NOBIS

## DISMISSAL

*Priest* Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

*People* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

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“Holy, holy, holy Lord (Sanctus),” by Richard Proulx, © 1971, 1977, GIA Publications, Inc. Reproduced under OneLicense.net License No. A-717483. All rights reserved.

“My flesh is food indeed” by Ray Urwin, © 1984 Ray W. Urwin. Reproduced under OneLicense.net License #A-717483. All rights reserved.

The altar flowers this morning are given  
in loving memory of Michael Cahill  
Thomson by Robert Thomson.



# EPIPHANY CONNECTIONS

## THIS WEEK AT EPIPHANY

- |      |                          |  |
|------|--------------------------|--|
| 4/16 | 9:45 a.m.                | Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for children's formation in Atrium   |
|      | 10:00 a.m.               | Holy Eucharist (In-person and live-streaming at <a href="http://www.tcote.org">www.tcote.org</a> )                       |
|      | 11:30 a.m.               | Epiphany Youth Group meeting   |
| 4/17 | 7:00 p.m.                | EfM Meeting  |
| 4/19 | 5:00 p.m.<br>7:00 p.m.   | Bishop's Committee Meeting<br>Lectio Divina  |
| 4/20 | 6:30 p.m.<br>7:45 p.m.   | Schola Rehearsal<br>Parish Choir Rehearsal   |
| 4/21 | 5:00 p.m.                | RDV Happy Hour   |
| 4/23 | 10:00 a.m.<br>10:00 a.m. | Children in Church<br>Holy Eucharist (In-person and live-streaming at <a href="http://www.tcote.org">www.tcote.org</a> ) |
|      | 11:30 a.m.               | Epiphany Youth Group meeting   |

To access the bulletin from either your tablet or your cell phone, please scan the QR code:

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## ALTAR GUILD OPENINGS



Members of the Altar Guild work quietly and reverently behind scenes preparing all that is necessary for the celebration of the Eucharist and any of the other sacraments of the church, ensuring that our sanctuary reflects the holiness and the joy that we all create together in our worship. If you are interested or want to learn more about the Altar Guild- which is open to women and men at Epiphany, please contact Leigh Wallace at [mizeinla@gmail.com](mailto:mizeinla@gmail.com).

## RDV & OUTREACH BLOOD DRIVE



You can make a difference--a big difference in someone's life. Did you know that with just one blood donation, you can help up to 3 hospital patients? The next blood drive at The Church of the Epiphany is **April 30 from 11:15 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.** in the bloodmobile. Please sign-up online at [www.donors.vitalant.org](http://www.donors.vitalant.org) using the blood drive code: 3185190 or call 805-542-8500.

All donors will receive a \$10 Amazon eGiftcard through email.

## HARBOR HOUSE LUNCHEES FOR DINNER



Many thanks to all the folks who prepare lunches each month for our neighbors in need at Harbor House. Your outreach to them is very much appreciated. **Our April date is Tuesday, April 18**, and this month we need 7 people who will each provide 10 lunches. If you can help this month email: [yvonnelix@gmail.com](mailto:yvonnelix@gmail.com). For details, please visit [www.tcote.org](http://www.tcote.org).

Lunches include a sandwich - turkey or ham appreciated or pb & j, granola bar, chips, raisins, cookies, fruit, and a drink. Drinks and fruit should be separate. The more snacks you can add to the lunch the better. Drop off is between 4:00 and 4:30 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church at Avenida de las Flores and Mt. Clef. Parking lot is in the back.

## RED DOOR VINEYARD HAPPY HOUR



All are invited to the **Red Door Vineyard Happy Hour on Friday, April 21, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**

BYO Beverage {hopefully wine} to share (or not)  
Bring an appetizer (or not) to share (or not)  
Barrel tastings upon request

Drop in any time - stay as long as you'd like - no RSVP required. Hoping to provide a loose and lively end to your busy week!

## CREATION CARE



*Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.*

Sometimes when we read Scripture texts like this, the “river of the water of life” may seem abstract, like a dream. But for those living without a safe or an adequate water supply, the problem is far from abstract.

Water is not a luxury for human beings. It is a necessity! It not only quenches thirst, it renews life. Water is always mentioned as a source of life in the Bible. The prophet Isaiah said to the people, “Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!” (Isaiah 55:1)

Our faith tells us water is a gift from God to be shared by all of creation.

### Thoughts for reflection

In our daily lives, do we treat water as a gift from God, or as something to which we are entitled?

- What is our responsibility to speak up for those who have unequal access to water?

**A Prayer:** Holy God, author of creation, we give you thanks for the gift of water. Increase our thirst for your presence in our daily lives. Open our eyes to see where the flowing waters of justice have been blocked. Open our mouths to speak up for those who thirst for an equal measure of the gifts of creation. Open our hearts to share the water of life with all.

## HELPFUL LINKS

The Church of the Epiphany is a mission in the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles, a diocese of the Episcopal Church, and the United States province of the Anglican Communion. If you would like to learn more about our wider community, please visit [www.tcote.org/helpful-links](http://www.tcote.org/helpful-links). You will also find links to our Lectionary, the Book of Common Prayer and the Episcopal Dictionary.

### PRAYERS

**Please pray for those on our Parish Prayer List:** Mario, Kathy, Joann, Angelo, and Curt

**Please pray for those on our Long-Term Parish Prayer list:** Kay, Boyd, Kristi, Neil and Sarah, Donna, Byron and Olivia, Susan, Arturo, Dave, Matt, David, Tommy, Judith, Vicki, Matthew, Kim, Ronnie

*To add yourself, family, or friends to the prayer list, please fill out a prayer card or submit your prayer request online at [www.tcote.org/prayer-request/](http://www.tcote.org/prayer-request/).*

*After two weeks on the Parish Prayer List, the names of those for whom we have prayed are moved to the Long-Term Prayer List for two more months, unless told otherwise.*

No matter where you are on your journey of faith,  
you are welcome here.