



St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Piney Parish

The Baptism of Our Lord

January 10, 2021

PRELUDE

Fairest Lord Jesus

Gawthrop

CALL TO WORSHIP

Officiant In the beginning,
God created the heavens and the earth.
The Spirit of God
swept over the face of the waters;
then God said: Let there be light,
and God saw that it was good.
At the beginning of his ministry,
Jesus was baptized by John.
The heavens opened,
and the Spirit descended like a dove;
then God said: This is my beloved Son,
in whom I am well pleased.

Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

PRAYER FOR PURITY

Officiant Let us pray.

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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Glory to God

Hymnal S-280

Glory to god in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father, Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Open the heavens, Holy Spirit, for us to see Jesus intercede for us; may we be strengthened to share his cup and ready to serve him for ever. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

YOUNG DISCIPLES MOMENT

Jesus' Baptism

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 1:1-10

Frank Pilato

Today's reading is the first of the two accounts of creation in Genesis. In contrast to the dualistic interpretation of this worldview in other traditions, where chaos always threatens to overwhelm the world again, here God's sovereignty over creation is affirmed.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM

Psalm 29

Psalm 29 is a hymn to Yahweh as the God of storm that may have been written to counter the pagan worship of Baal as the thunder-god. The "glory" of the Lord gives God dominion over nature and over all gods. Thus, Yahweh alone is the source of strength and blessing for the people.

Ascribe to God, you heavenly beings, *
ascribe to God glory and strength.

Ascribe due honor to God's holy Name; *
worship the Most High in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of God is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders; *
God is upon the mighty waters.

The voice of God is a powerful voice; *
the voice of God is a voice of splendor.

The voice of God breaks the cedar trees; *
God breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

God makes Lebanon skip like a calf, *
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

The voice of God splits the flames of fire; the voice of God shakes the wilderness; *
God shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of God makes the oak trees writhe *
and strips the forests bare.

And in the temple of the Holy One, *
all are crying, "Glory!"

God sits enthroned above the flood; *
enthroned as Sovereign for evermore.

God shall give strength to his people; *
God shall give his people the blessing of peace.

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 1:1-2a, 4-11

Mark recounts the preaching of John the Baptist and the baptism of Jesus. Jesus is revealed as both divine Son and as Spirit-filled servant, but in Mark his identity is hidden from his disciples and other contemporaries, only recognized at the end by the centurion (15:39).

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

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

The beginning of the good news about Jesus Christ, God's Son...

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Maria Kane

THE NICENE CREED

The Nicene Creed, the Church's central statement of faith, emerged out of the first four councils of the Church in the 4th century in response to controversies about Jesus' divinity. The Latin root of the phrase "we believe" (credo) means to "give one's heart." The creed is our way of affirming who is deserving of our heart amidst fear and doubt. The term apostolic refers to the historic succession of the apostles (original leaders of the early church) through our bishops. The term catholic refers to the church throughout the world.

Celebrant Let us affirm our faith in the Triune God.

All **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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Paula Truitte

Officiant

Let us pray to the Lord, saying, Give strength, O Lord, and bless us with peace.

Intercessor

All-glorious God, maker of heaven and earth, hear us as we pray:

Give strength, O Lord,
and bless us with peace.

We pray for the world you have made. . . Move again over these troubled waters, steeped in chemicals and stained with blood. Where carelessness and violence bring chaos, restore order, goodness, and life.

Give strength, O Lord,
and bless us with peace.

We pray for the church you have redeemed. . . Renew in us the gifts of your Spirit and the call to Christian discipleship. Where history and heresy have divided us, make us one in the baptism we share.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Christ Church, Washington Parish; Christ Church Parish, Kensington; and Christ Church, Georgetown.

Give strength, O Lord,
and bless us with peace.

We pray for the peoples you have created. . . Give to the leaders of all nations the wisdom to know what is good. Where people are poor and hungry provide justice and daily bread.

Give strength, O Lord,
and bless us with peace.

We pray for the loved ones you have given us. . . Bless our families, friends, and neighbors; keep them safe from trouble and danger. Where there is sorrow, sickness, or suffering send your Spirit of comfort and healing. We pray for: Lorraine, Sallie, Barbara, Re-Gathering Team, Sally, Donna, Diane, Jack, Joyce, Rodgers, Shauna, Margaret, Tom, BJ, Keech, Jerry, Jim, Tedi, Edie, Joe, Glenda, Carol, Michael, Joseph, Josephine, Saffie, Gayle, Darrel, Gina, Sully, Rhonda, Rhonda's coworkers and patients, Jim and Susan. Give strength, O Lord,
and bless us with peace.

(Please add your intercessions and thanksgivings, silently or aloud.)

The Officiant will add a concluding collect.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Officiant As Christ teaches us, we pray:

All **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 CONFESSION

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *(Please kneel.)*

All **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 ABSOLUTION

Officiant 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.

BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

PRAYER FOR A BIRTHDAY

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants *she/he/they* begin another year. Grant that *she/he/they* may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *his/her/their* trust in your goodness all the days of *his/her/their* life(ves); through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ANNIVERSARY

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken,
for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings.

Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
Make straight the way for God within,
and let each heart prepare a home
where such a mighty guest may come.

THE BLESSING**THE DISMISSAL****Questions for Reflection**

What is the difference between baptism with water alone (John's baptism; see Acts 19:3, Mark 1:8) and baptism with the Holy Spirit (baptism into Jesus; see Acts 19:4-5, Mark 1:8)? Why is it still important to use water in baptism? What does water mean in your daily life? What difference does the Holy Spirit make in baptism? What difference does the Holy Spirit make in your daily life?

Household Prayer: Morning

Living God, maker of light, thank you for the gift of this day. Let me be a light in your world so that people will look at me and see the goodness of your creation; in Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Living God, maker of light, thank you for the gift of this night. Let me be at peace in your presence so that I may rest, be restored, and arise to praise your glory; in Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

PERMISSIONS

Cover Art: Baptism in the River Jordan, 2011, *Art in the Christian Tradition*, Vanderbilt Divinity Library

Call to Worship & Prayers of the People & Scripture Notes: *Rites and Rituals for Year B, 2020-2021*

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