

Sunday, January 10, 2021

Baptism of Our Lord, Year B

Introduction

Mark's gospel makes clear that it is the Spirit's movement that distinguishes Jesus' baptism from John's. The Spirit has come upon us as upon Jesus, calling us God's beloved children and setting us on Jesus' mission to re-create the world in the image of God's vision of justice and peace.

Order of Worship

Our order for worship today is a lay-led non-communion service.

Worship Leader is Ken or Karen Seiler.

Our preacher for this Sunday is the Rev. Karen M. Sease, Assistant to the Bishop of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA, for Vocations and Leadership/Mission Advancement (digital format).

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Readings and Psalm

[Psalm 29](#)

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters. (*Ps. 29:3*)

[Mark 1:4-11](#)

Revelation of Christ as God's servant

Psalm: Psalm 29

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters. (Ps. 29:3)

- ¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- ²**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**
- ³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
- ⁴**The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**
- ⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- ⁶**the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

⁷The voice of the LORD
bursts forth in lightning flashes.
⁸**The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**
⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe
and strips the forests bare.
And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, “Glory!”
¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**
¹¹O LORD, give strength to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

A The Word of the Lord.
C **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

Gospel: Mark 1:4-11

Mark's gospel reports the story of Jesus' baptism with some irony: the one on whom the Spirit descends is himself the one who will baptize others with the Holy Spirit.

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And 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. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He 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. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And 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. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

Peace

As usual

Prayers of Intercession

When you hear, “let us pray” you respond, “**Have mercy, O God.**”

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and for all people in need.

A brief silence is held as we gather our prayers.

For the church throughout the world and its leaders, that guided by the Holy Spirit they proclaim the forgiveness of sins, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For wilderness and water, wind and wild beasts, and all living things on earth, that God's goodness is revealed through creation and faithful stewards care for all God has made, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the nations of the world and their leaders, for laborers busy both day and night, and for peacemakers amid strife, that God inspire all people to use their strength wisely, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the sick and those who provide medical care, for the imprisoned and those who show them mercy, for the lonely and those who provide companionship, for all who suffer, that God shower compassion, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the congregation gathered here, for students returning to school, for those seeking renewal in their daily work, that all the beloved of God experience grace and peace, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the gifts we bring to lay before you, O God,
our offerings, our time, and all the other ways we give of ourselves.

Receive them as you receive us:

like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide.

Nourish us anew in your tender care,

and empower us in faithful service

to tend to others with this same love,

that your mission may grow, and your Word may be fulfilled, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who now rest from their labors,
that their witness might inspire our faith. Holding them close in mind and heart,
remind us that You have also named us your own in baptism, that we, like them,
might be rooted and grounded in your love, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken and silent, for the sake of the One
who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Blessing

God the creator strengthen us;

Jesus the beloved fill us;

and the Holy Spirit the comforter ✝ keep us in peace.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

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Prayers adapted by Interim Pastor Janet S. Peterman

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