



# THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

SUNDAY 8 JANUARY 2023

## THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I

### THE WORD OF GOD

#### Opening Acclamation

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 323

#### The Collect for Purity

p. 323

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### Kyrie eleison

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

p. 324

#### The Collect of the Day

p. 163

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan didst proclaim him thy beloved Son and anoint him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with thee and the same Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

#### The Lesson: Acts 10:34–43

The Holy Bible; *NRSV*, p. 1004

*Commentary: Peter's speech to Cornelius' household marked the first time the gospel of Jesus Christ was presented to a Gentile audience. (To find out how Peter came to be at Cornelius' home, read Acts 10 from the beginning.) Many Jews were relying on their status as the chosen people to secure God's favor, but Peter now understood something the Lord had revealed throughout the Old Testament, that God deals with all people equally through His Son, Jesus Christ. Peter's sermon explained that Jesus is Lord over all, He went about healing all, He is Judge of all, to Him all the prophets bore witness, and God forgives all who believe in Him. The gospel of Jesus Christ is for everyone.*

Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord.

People

**Thanks be to God.**

*People* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
**Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

*People* The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

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## THE HOLY COMMUNION

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*Celebrant & Preacher: The Reverend C. Phillip Craig, Jr.*

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