



THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

SUNDAY 7 JANUARY 2024

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

10:15 A.M.

Prelude

Processional Hymn 516

“Come down, O Love divine”

Down Ampney

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 299

*Celebrant
People*

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.
There is one Body and one Spirit;
There is one hope in God's call to us;
One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
One God and Father of all.
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

p. 214

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed 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 you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The First Reading: Genesis 1:1–5

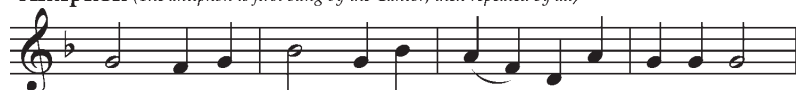
The Holy Bible; *NRSV*, p. 1

Commentary: The creation account in Genesis 1 is theocentric, not creature-centered. Its purpose is to glorify the Creator by magnifying Him through the majesty of the created order. God made the universe from nothing. God alone is eternal, everything else owes its origin and existence to Him. Before God prepared it for habitation, the earth was formless, dark and empty. A major theme of the Bible is found in these verses: God is the One who brings light into darkness.

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.

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

Antiphon (The antiphon is first sung by the Cantor, then repeated by all)



Wor - ship the Lord in the beau - ty of ho - li-ness.



Ascribe to the LORD, you / **gods**, *
 ascribe to the LORD glory and / **strength**.
 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his / **Name**; *
 worship the LORD in the beauty of / **holiness**.

ANTIPHON

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters;
 the God of glory / **thunders**; *
 the LORD is upon the mighty / **waters**.
 The voice of the LORD is a powerful / **voice**; *
 the voice of the LORD is a voice of / **splendor**.

ANTIPHON

The voice of the LORD breaks the / **cedar trees**; *
 the LORD breaks the cedars of / **Lebanon**;
 He makes Lebanon skip like a / **calf**, *
 and Mount Hermon like a young wild / **ox**.

ANTIPHON

The voice of the LORD splits the flames of / **fire**;
 the voice of the LORD shakes the / **wilderness**; *
 the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
 The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees / **writhe** *
 and strips the forests / **bare**.

Second half of chant

And in the temple of the / **LORD** *
 all are crying, / **"Glory!"**

ANTIPHON

The LORD sits enthroned above the / **flood**; *
 the LORD sits enthroned as King for ever-/ **more**.
 The LORD shall give strength to his / **people**; *
 the LORD shall give his people
 the blessing of / **peace**.

ANTIPHON

The Epistle: Acts 19:1–7

NRSV, p. 1004

Commentary: Ephesus was an important city in Asia Minor. For many years it was a commercial center due to its location and even after commerce declined, worshippers continued to be drawn to the city by the magnificent temple of Artemis. Ephesus was an eclectic mix of pagan religious superstition and occult practices. Christianity had also found a foothold there and in the city Paul met some disciples of John the Baptist who had a limited understanding of the gospel. Paul explained to them that John's baptism of repentance was good but incomplete. These former followers of John received the Holy Spirit when Paul laid his hands on them, baptizing them into the Name of Jesus Christ.

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— altogether there were about twelve of them.

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

Sequence Hymn 121

"Christ, when for us you were baptized"

Caithness

During the Sequence Hymn, the children leave for Children's Chapel

The Holy Gospel: Mark 1:4–11

NRSV, p.912

People The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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 to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Reverend C. Phillip Craig, Jr.

Hymn 297

"Descend, O Spirit, purging flame"

Erhalt uns, Herr

THE HOLY BAPTISM OF

PARKER HALE BENFORD

Child of Fuller and Samantha Benford

AMELIA JONES TAYLOR

Child of Jackson and Grace Taylor

Presentation and Examination of the Candidates

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 301

The Candidates for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

Parents and Godparents

I present _____ to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

Priest

Will you be responsible for seeing that these children you present are brought up in the Christian faith and life?

Parents and Godparents

I will, with God's help.

Priest

Will you by your prayers and witness help these children to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Parents and Godparents

I will, with God's help.

Then the Priest asks the following questions of the candidates who can speak for themselves, and of the parents and godparents who speak on behalf of the infants and younger children

Question Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Answer **I renounce them.**

Question Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Answer **I renounce them.**

Question Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Answer **I renounce them.**

Question Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Answer **I do.**

Question Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Answer **I do.**

Question Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?
Answer **I do.**

The Priest addresses the congregation, saying

Priest Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?
People **We will.**

Priest Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant

p. 304

Priest Do you believe in God the Father?

People **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Priest Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People **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.**

Priest Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People **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.**

Priest Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Priest Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Priest Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Priest Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Priest Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Prayers for the Candidates

p. 305

Priest Let us now pray for these persons who are to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

Leader Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Open their hearts to your grace and truth.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Send them into the world in witness to your love.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**
Leader Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**
Priest Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving over the Water

p. 306

Priest The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life. We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

At the following words, the Priest touches the water

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Baptism

p. 307

Priest _____, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.
_____, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever.
Amen.

Priest Let us pray.
Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

Priest and People

We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

The Peace

p. 308

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Anthem

“Down to the river to pray”

American Spiritual, arr. Robert Lee

As I went down to the river to pray,
Studyin' about that good old way,
And who shall wear the starry crown,
Good Lord, show me the way,
*O sisters, let's go down,
Let's go down, come on down,
O sisters, let's go down,
Down to the river to pray.*

As I went down to the river to pray,
Studyin' about that good old way,
And who shall wear the robe and crown,
Good Lord, show me the way,
*O brothers, let's go down,
Let's go down, come on down,
O brothers, let's go down,
Down to the river to pray.*

As I went down to the river to pray,
Studyin' about that good old way,
And who shall wear the robe and crown,
Good Lord, show me the way,
*O fathers, let's go down,
Let's go down, come on down,
O fathers, let's go down,
Down to the river to pray.*

As I went down to the river to pray,
Studyin' about that good old way,
And who shall wear the robe and crown,
Good Lord, show me the way,
*O mothers, let's go down,
Let's go down, come on down,
O mothers, let's go down,
Down to the river to pray.*

As I went down to the river to pray,
Studyin' about that good old way,
And who shall wear the starry crown,
Good Lord, show me the way,
*O sinners, let's go down,
Let's go down, come on down,
O sinners, let's go down,
Down to the river to pray.*

Presentation Hymn

Stuttgart



God, my King, thy might con - fess - ing, ev - er will I bless thy name;
All thy works, O Lord, shall bless thee: thee shall all thy saints a - dore:

day by day thy throne ad - dress - ing, still will I thy praise pro - claim.
King su - preme shall they con - fess thee, and pro - claim thy sov - ereign power.

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A

p. 361

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

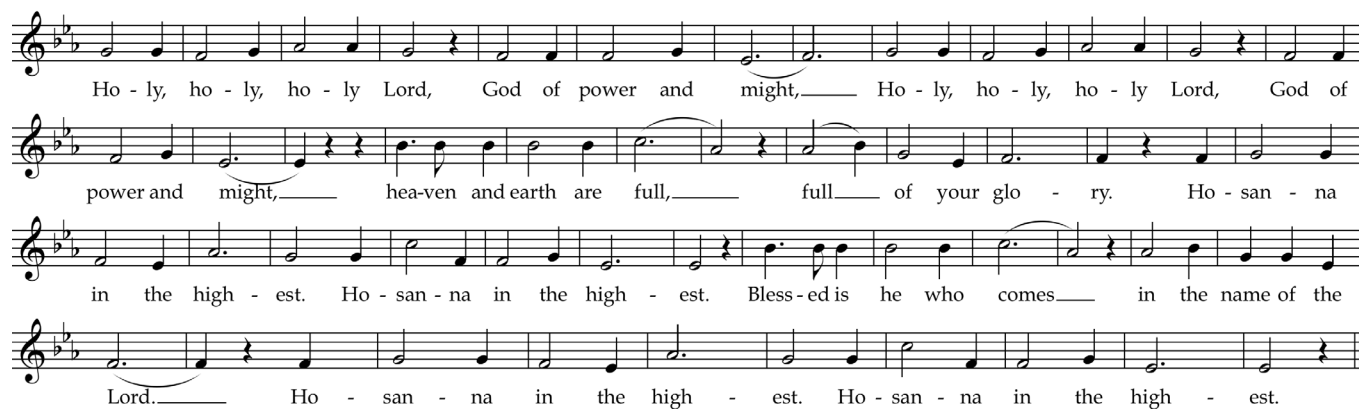
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

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

“Holy, holy, holy Lord”

Deutsche Messe



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
power and might, hea-ven and earth are full, full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na
in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed 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 Eucharistic Prayer continues until the Celebrant says the following words

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord's Prayer

p. 364

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 Breaking of the Bread

p. 364

The Fraction Anthem S152 “Christ our Passover”

Ambrosian chant

Cantor Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.



People There-fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Communion of the People

Gluten-free wafers are available at the main altar upon request.

Communion Hymns

Hymn 509

“Spirit divine, attend our prayers”

Nun danket all und bringet Ehr

Hymn 304

“I come with Joy to meet my Lord”

Land of Rest

Hymn 513

“Like the murmur of the dove’s song”

Bridegroom

The Postcommunion Prayer

p. 365

Celebrant Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son 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 Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.
Amen.

Closing Hymn 296

“We know that Christ is raised and dies no more”

Engelberg

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude



Celebrant: The Reverend Cheryl Brainard

Preacher: The Reverend C. Phillip Craig, Jr.

Assisting Priest: The Reverend Gray Hodsdon

Children's Chapel: Ansley Trask

Organist and Choir Director: John Sullivan

*The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of
Daniel Harris Penton, Frances Dunn Penton, and Henry Edgar Longley*

ST. JAMES PARISH

THE REVEREND C. PHILLIP CRAIG, JR., RECTOR

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