

Baptism of the Lord 2021 Ante Communion Service - January 10, 2021

Opening Hymn

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Schola Cantorum St. Peter's in Loop

*Hail to the Lord's anointed, great David's greater son!
Hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free;
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.*

*He comes with succor speedy to those who suffer wrong;
to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying, were precious in his sight.*

*He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth:
before him on the mountains shall peace the herald go;
and righteousness in fountains from hill to valley flow.*

*Kings shall bow down before him, and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore him, his praise all people sing:
to him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.*

*O'er ev'ry foe victorious, he on his throne shall rest,
from age to age more glorious, all-blessing and all-blest;
the tide of time shall never his covenant remove;
his name shall stand for ever, that name to us is love.*

Celebrant Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God, to 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 your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A moment of silence for self-reflection

Celebrant Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

People

Gracious God, have mercy on us.

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.

Celebrant Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Celebrant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People **And also with you.**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our holy house, and for all who offer their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Worthy is Christ the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and blessing, and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing, and honor, and glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God. For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.

Alleluia. Alleluia.

Celebrant Let us pray: 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.**

First Reading **Genesis 1:1-5**

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 29

Afferte Domino

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.

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.

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.

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.

And in the temple of the Lord *

all are crying, "Glory!"

The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; *

the Lord sits enthroned as King for evermore.

The Lord shall give strength to his people; *

the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. World without end. Amen.

Second Reading

Acts 19:1-7

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Mark 1:4-11

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

*Spirit of God, descend upon my heart; wean it from earth; through all its pulses move;
stoop to my weakness, mighty as thou art, and make me love thee as I ought to love.*

*Hast thou not bid us love thee, God and King; all, all thine own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
I see thy cross; there teach my heart to cling. O let me seek thee, and O let me find!*

*Teach me to love thee as thine angels love, one holy passion filling all my frame;
the baptism of the heaven-descended Dove, my heart an altar, and thy love the flame.*

Affirmation of Baptismal Vows

This day when we remember the baptism of Jesus, I invite you to reaffirm your own vows with me:

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

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

I will, with God's help.

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

I will, with God's help.

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

I will, with God's help.

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

I will, with God's help.

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

I will, with God's help.

Let us pray: We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Celebrant With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation. In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the peace and unity of the world;
That a spirit of respect may grow among nations and peoples.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.

For all who love and trust in God, that divisions may cease;
And that all may be one, as you and the Father are one.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For wisdom in this time of pandemic;
That our actions may protect the health of ourselves and others.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.
Silence. The People may add their own petitions.

Hear us, Lord; **For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. *Silence.*
We will exalt you, O God our King; **And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.
Silence. Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them. **Who put their trust in you.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we pray together:

**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.**

We pray together for Christ's presence:

**My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the bread and wine.
I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart.
I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you.
Amen.**

Celebrant: While we long to receive the sacrament of Christ's Body,

People: **We become the sacrament of Christ's Body.**

Celebrant: Let your lives be manna to feed our hunger for communion.

People: **The love we share becomes bread for the world.**

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 in you, among you, and remain with you always. **Amen**

Closing Hymn

Be Thou My Vision

Acapeldridge

*Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that Thou art;
Thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.*

*Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word; I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son, Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.*

*Riches I heed not, or man's empty praise, Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart, high King of heaven, my treasure Thou art.*

*High King of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*

Dismissal

The Lord Bless You and Keep You [Lutkin]

Acapeldridge

St. John's Episcopal-Lutheran Church
202 W. Grant Avenue
Williams, Arizona

The Rev. Cheryl Fox, Pastor and Vicar