

# The First Sunday after the Epiphany: The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ

January 6, 2024 5:30 PM



## **Welcome GUESTS & VISITORS!**

*We are glad you are here. If you are new to St. Thomas, stop by the Welcome table in the lobby and identify yourself to our clergy and people so we may properly welcome you. You may also fill out an "I'm New" card located on the backs of the chairs in the church. If you need assistance with the order of service, feel free to ask the person next to you.*

*Auditory Assistance is available – ask an usher or a greeter to obtain a hearing device.*

*To request prayers, please fill out the "Pray" card located on the backs of the chairs. We invite you to list your specific concerns and leave them in the offering plate, bring to the church office, or hand to one of the clergy. Prayers of the People are written weekly. They are offered for three weeks, but any request may be resubmitted as needed.*

# LITURGY OF THE WORD

## Prelude

## Opening Hymn

### *Earth Has Many a Noble City*

1 Earth has man - yā no - ble ci - ty; Beth-lehem, thou dost all ex - cel:  
2 Fair - er than the sun at morn - ing was the star that told his birth,  
3 East - ern sa - ges at his cra - dle make ob - la - tions rich and rare;  
4 Sa - cred gifts of mys - tic mean - ing: in - cense doth their God dis - close,  
5 Je - sus, whom the Gen - tiles wor - shiped at thy glad e - piph - a - ny,

1 out of thee the Lord from hea - ven came to rule his Is - ra - el.  
2 to the world its God an - nounc - ing seen in flesh - ly form on earth.  
3 see them give, in deep de - vo - tion, gold and frank - in - cense and myrrh.  
4 gold the King of kings pro - claim - eth, myrrh his sep - ul - cher fore - shows.  
5 un - to thee, with God the Fa - ther and the Spi - rit, glo - ry be.

Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-410); tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861

*All standing, the Celebrant says*

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* ***And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.***

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.**

## Gloria

*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.*

## The Collect

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 Lessons

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

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>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.

*Response Thanks be to God.*

## The Psalm: *Psalm 29*

- <sup>1</sup>*Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, \*  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.*
- <sup>2</sup>*Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his Name; \*  
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.*
- <sup>3</sup>*The voice of the LORD is upon the waters;  
the God of glory thunders; \*  
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.*
- <sup>4</sup>*The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; \*  
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.*
- <sup>5</sup>*The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; \*  
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;*
- <sup>6</sup>*he makes Lebanon skip like a calf, \*  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.*
- <sup>7</sup>*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.*
- <sup>8</sup>*The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe \*  
and strips the forests bare.*
- <sup>9</sup>*And in the temple of the LORD \* all are crying, "Glory!"*
- <sup>10</sup>*The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; \*  
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.*
- <sup>11</sup>*The LORD shall give strength to his people; \*  
the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.*

## The Epistle: *Acts 19:1-7*

<sup>1</sup>While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. <sup>2</sup>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." <sup>3</sup>Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." <sup>4</sup>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." <sup>5</sup>On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup>When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—<sup>7</sup>altogether there were about twelve of them.

The Word of the Lord.

Response ***Thanks be to God.***

## **The Holy Gospel: Mark 1:4-11**

*All stand.*

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

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

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

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

People     ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

## **The Sermon**

### **Nicene Creed**

*All stand.*

***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**

*Deacon or other leader*

*. . . Let us gather our prayers saying, "**Hear our prayer.**"*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

## **Confession of Sin**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept. Leader and People*

***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.*

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.**

## **The Peace**

*All stand.*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

*Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*



# HOLY COMMUNION

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## Offertory Music

*Cradle Hymn*  
Hope Dedrick, Soloist

Craig Curry

## Offertory

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord.  
People ***And of thine own have we given thee.***

*Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the deacon or celebrant. The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.*

## The Great Thanksgiving

### *Eucharistic Prayer B*

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

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

*Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions.*

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

People ***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.***

Celebrant We give thanks to you, O God . . .  
. . . Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

***We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;***

And we offer our sacrifice and thanksgiving . . .

. . . 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.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*People and Celebrant*

*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**

*A period of silence is kept.*

### **Fraction Anthem**

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People ***Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.***

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*and may add* Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion Music

*Father, We Thank Thee*

1 Fa - ther, we thank thee who hast plant - ed thy ho - ly Name with -  
 2 Watch o'er thy Church, O Lord, in mer - cy, save it from e - vil,

in our hearts. Know - ledge and faith and life im - mor - tal Je - sus thy  
 guard it still, per - fect it in thy love, u - nite it, cleansed and con -

Son to us im - parts. Thou, Lord, didst make all for thy plea - sure,  
 formed un - to thy will. As grain, once scat - tered on the hill - sides,

didst give us food for all our days, giv - ing in Christ the  
 was in this bro - ken bread made one, so from all lands thy

Bread e - ter - nal; thine is the power, be thine the praise.  
 Church be gath - ered in - to thy king - dom by thy Son.

## *Shall We Gather at the River*

Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod;  
With its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?

Refrain:

***Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;  
Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.***

On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,  
We will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day. [Refrain]

Ere we reach the shining river, lay we ev'ry burden down;  
Grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown. [Refrain]

Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease;  
Soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace. [Refrain]

## **Sending Forth**

*When a Lay Eucharistic Visitor is to take the sacrament to those hospitalized, ill at home or home-bound, the following is said:*

In the name of this congregation, go forth bearing these holy gifts; that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

*Congregation*    ***We who are many are one body,  
because we all share one bread; one cup. Amen.***

Let us pray.

## **Post Communion Prayer**

*Celebrant and People*

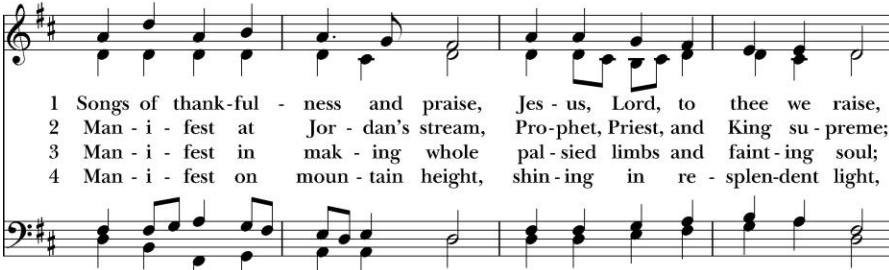
***Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
you have graciously accepted us  
as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you***

*with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

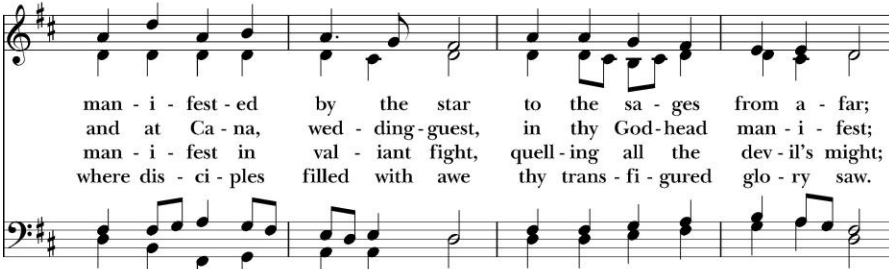
## Blessing

## Closing Hymn

## *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*



1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Jes - us, Lord, to thee we raise,  
2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, Pro-phet, Priest, and King su - preme;  
3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole pal - sied limbs and faint - ing soul;  
4 Man - i - fest on moun - tain height, shin - ing in re - splen - dent light,



man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far;  
and at Ca - na, wed - ding - guest, in thy God - head man - i - fest;  
man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell - ing all the dev - il's might;  
where dis - ci - ples filled with awe thy trans - fi - gured glo - ry saw.



branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem;  
man - i - fest in power di - vine, chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine;  
man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring - ing good from ill;  
When from there thou led - dest them stead - fast to Je - ru - sa - lem,



an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.  
an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.  
an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.  
cross and Eas - ter Day at - test God in man made man - i - fest.

## Dismissal

Deacon Let us bless the Lord.

*People* ***Thanks be to God.***

## Postlude



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