

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

January 7, 2024 8:45 AM



Welcome GUESTS & VISITORS!

We are glad you are here. If you are new to St. Thomas, stop by the Reception Desk 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 about obtaining a hearing device.

To request prayers, please fill out the form on the "Pray" card located on the backs of the chairs. We invite you to list your specific concerns and leave them in the Prayer Request box at the back of the church, place them in the offering plate, or bring them to the church office. Prayers of the People are written weekly. Normally they are offered for three weeks, but any request may be resubmitted as needed.

Loving care is offered in our Nursery, open from 8:30am – 12:15pm (6 months-age 4).

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Prelude

Opening Hymn *Come, Now is the Time to Worship*

Chorus:

***Come now is the time to worship. Come now is the time to give your heart
Come just as you are to worship. Come just as you are before your God
Come***

One day every tongue will confess You are God
One day every knee will bow, still the greatest treasure remains
For those who gladly choose You now

Willingly we choose to surrender our lives, willingly our knees will bow
With all our heart soul mind and strength, we gladly choose You now

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 *Holy is Your Name / Luke 11:46-55*

Cantor: My soul is filled with joy as I sing to God my savior:
you have looked upon your servant, you have visited your people.

Refrain:

***And holy is your name through all generations!
Everlasting is your mercy to the people you have chosen,
and holy is your name.***

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.

Children pre-school through 3rd grade will process to Children's Church.

The Lessons

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

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

¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, *

ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

²Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his 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.

⁴The 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*he makes Lebanon skip like a calf, *
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.*
⁷*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.*
⁸*The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe *
and strips the forests bare.*
⁹*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.*
¹¹*The LORD shall give strength to his people; *
the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.*

The Epistle: Acts 19:1-7

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

The Word of the Lord.

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

Gospel Acclamation

Amen – Cantor only

A musical score for the Gospel Acclamation 'Amen'. It consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: 'A - men, al - le - lu - ia, for ev - er and ev - er, for ev - er, al - le - lu - ia, for ev - er and ev - er, A - men.' The melody is simple and melismatic, with long notes and ties.

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.***

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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Gospel Response

Amen (Congregation)

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 children will return from Children's Church.

The Peace

All stand.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People ***And also with you.***

HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Music

O Come to the Altar

Brown/Brock/Jove/Furtick

Are you hurting and broken within, overwhelmed by the weight of your sin
Jesus is calling. Have you come to the end of yourself. Do you thirst for a drink from the
well. Jesus is calling.

Chorus:

O come to the altar. The Father's arms are open wide.

Forgiveness was bought with the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes, come today there's no reason to wait
Jesus is calling. Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy from the ashes a new life is
born. Jesus is calling.

Oh what a Savior, isn't he wonderful. Sing alleluia Christ is risen. Bow down before him
for he is Lord of all. Sing alleluia Christ is risen.

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown.
Tell the world of the treasure you've found.

Offertory

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord.

People ***And of thine own have we given thee.***

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

D Dadd9 Dsus4 D *mf* G Em A G A D

Melody

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

E E7 A D F#m Bm Bm4/A

God of pow'r and might. Heav - en and earth are full of your

G Em A *mp* G Em Bm Bm7

glo - ry. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na on

E A D F# Bm Bm4/A

Melody

high. Bless - ed is he who comes in the

G Em A D G Em

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho -

D G Em A F# Bm Bm4/A

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na, ho -

G A D D9 D

san - na on high.

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

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light my strength my song.
This Cornerstone this solid Ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love what depths of peace, when fears are stilled when strivings
cease. My Comforter my All in All. Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died.

No guilt in life no fear in death. This is the power of Christ in me.
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand.
Till He returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

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.***

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

Reckless Love

Before I spoke a word You were singing over me. You have been so so good to me.
Before I took a breath You breathed Your life in me. You have been so so kind to me.

Chorus:

***(And) O the overwhelming never-ending reckless Love of God
O it chases me down fights 'til I'm found. Leaves the ninety-nine
I couldn't earn it I don't deserve it, still You give Yourself away
O the overwhelming never-ending reckless Love of God yeah***

When I was Your foe still Your love fought for me. You have been so so good to me.
When I felt no worth You paid it all for me. You have been so so kind to me. (Chorus)

Dismissal

Deacon Let us bless the Lord.

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

Postlude

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