



St. John's Episcopal Church

First Sunday after the Epiphany - The Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ

January 12th, 2025

The Word of God

Entrance Hymn

#121 ~ *Christ, When for Us You were Baptized*

Christ, when for us you were baptized, God's spirit on you came,
as peaceful as a dove and yet as urgent as a flame.

God called you his beloved Son, called you his servant true,
sent you his kingdom to proclaim, his holy will to do.

Straightway and steadfast until death you then obeyed his call
freely as Son of Man to serve and give your life for all.

Baptize us with your Spirit, Lord, your cross on us be signed,
that, likewise in God's service we may perfect freedom find.

The voice of God resounds upon the water

The Spirit of the Lord hovers over the stream.

The Son of God is named "Beloved"

And all who worship shout out, "Glory!"

Ascribe to the Lord majesty and strength.

Officiant 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.

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.*

Old Testament

[Isaiah 43:1-7](#)

Thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

Because you are precious in my sight,
and honored, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;
I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
and to the south, "Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth-
everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

Reader The Word of God.

People Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

Psalm 29

- 1 Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, *
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- 2 **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his Name; *
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**
- 3 The voice of the LORD is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders; *
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
- 4 **The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; *
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**
- 5 The 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 for evermore.**

11 The LORD shall give strength to his people; *
the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

**John said: One mightier than I is coming;
he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

The Gospel

[Luke 3:15-17, 21-22](#)

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. John Beach

The Nicene Creed

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.

The Prayers of the People

Glorious God, As Jesus prayed at his baptism, your mothering Spirit brooded over him, providing sustenance and strength. So brood over us today as we offer our prayers for the church and world saying Mothering Spirit, stir us with your power.

We pray for your church: may your word spark our lives with truth and joy as we serve one another to the glory of your name.
Mothering Spirit, **stir us with your power.**

We pray for all leaders and people around the globe; may your justice provoke us to shape a peaceful world where all work for the common good.
Mothering Spirit, **stir us with your power.**

We pray for all who suffer grief or sickness of any kind. May your tender presence abide us and hasten our healing: Elin Babin, Paul Brophy, Norma Cahill, Francine Carroll, Marie Connors, Barbara Cox, Sue Croft, Kelly Dodge, Jim and Tim Eldridge, Joanne and Paul Felci, Ruth Garrett, Peggy Gibbs, Allison Gray, Patti Greene-Botticeli, Jerica Hamre, Will Hare, Carolyn and Tom Hashem, Bruce Higgins, Louis Hoelzl, Larry Kamp & Family, Doris Kelly, Jeanne Kelly-Smith, Janet Lancaster, Elizabeth, Melissa McSheffery, Mary & Dante, Bobby Miller, Harriet Miraglia, Jonelle Moloney, Erica and Gisela Moore, Jeanine Morris, Fran Muise, Sara Murray, Carol Patroliia, Kathy and Keelan Pothier, Shirley Raithel, Debbie Rossetti, Gina Sorrentino, Sandy and David St. Clair, Nancy Scarry, Terrie Sevier, Gail Smith, Dom and Joanie Tello, Steve and Kathy, Tony Venezia, Kathy Webber, Nancy White, Lizzi, Rachel, Abigail, and Claire; may they be restored to wholeness of life. *Are there others...*
Mothering Spirit, **stir us with your power.**

We pray for those who have died, that your steadfast love shelters them in the tranquility of eternal life and remember especially Robert & Anne Russell, and PFC Richard D. Devine, Jr., taking comfort in knowing they are at peace.
Mothering Spirit, **stir us with your power.**

We pray for all who lack the essentials of life; may your righteousness raise us up to walk together with respect and dignity for all.
Mothering Spirit, **stir us with your power.**

O God, you have made us, formed us, and called us by name, and you have redeemed us in Christ. Receive our prayers this day, for your life-giving Spirit is powerful to save.

Officiant God loves us and calls us each by name. Knowing we are eternally forgiven and infinitely loved, let us boldly confess our sins before God.

Minister 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.**

Officiant 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

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

Announcements

Invitation to the Offering

As people who have passed through the waters of baptism, let us make our grateful offering to God our Redeemer.

The Holy Communion

Prayer over the Gifts

God of life and freedom, we celebrate the revelation of Jesus as the Christ who makes all creation news. Accept all we offer you this day and make us new in him, who is Lord for ever and ever.

The Great Thanksgiving

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Officiant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People **It is meet and right to do so.**

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

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

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:

Minister and People

Sanctus

S129

**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.

Officiant Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Officiant 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

**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, and 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

The Officiant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Officiant Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to the banquet of the Lamb.

Fraction Anthem

1982 Hymnal #S155 ~ *Christ, our Passover*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Invitation to Holy Communion

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

The Officiant invites the following prayer to be said by all.

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Anthem during Communion Contemplation

Prayer after Communion

Gracious God, lover of all, by this sacrament you make us one family in Christ your Son, one in the sharing of his body and blood, one in the communion of his Spirit. Help us to grow in love for one another and come to the full maturity of the Body of Christ. We ask this in his name.

Officiant Glory to God,
All whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or
 imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in
 Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Blessing

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who stood with sinners on the river bank, uphold you. **Amen.**

May the love of God, who calls us beloved children, bless you. **Amen.**

May the power of the Holy Spirit, who descended upon Jesus as a dove, give you peace. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn #495 ~ *Hail, thou once despised Jesus*

Hail, thou once despised Jesus! Hail, thou Galilean King!
Thou didst suffer to release us; thou didst free salvation bring.
Hail, thou universal Savior, bearer of our sin and shame!
By thy merit we find favor: life is given through thy Name.

Paschal Lamb, by God appointed, all our sins on thee were laid:
by almighty love anointed, thou hast full atonement made.
All thy people are forgiven through the virtue of thy blood:
opened is the gate of heaven, reconciled are we with God.

Jesus, hail! enthroned in glory, there for ever to abide;
all the heavenly hosts adore thee, seated at thy Father's side.
There for sinners thou art pleading: there thou dost our place prepare;
ever for us interceding, till in glory we appear.

Worship, honor, power, and blessing thou art worthy to receive;
highest praises, without ceasing, right it is for us to give.
Help, ye bright angelic spirits, all your noblest anthems raise;
help to sing our Savior's merits, help to chant Emmanuel's praise!

Dismissal

We have been with Jesus to the River Jordan, river of life, river of promise. Go forth in the joy of life, to live as children of the promise. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Announcements/Reminders

Vestry Meeting

The Vestry will gather today after worship at 11:30; observers are welcome, and those preferring to view it online may use the worship link.

Counting

We plan to count this month on **Sunday the 26th** – please forward any memorial gifts, pledges, etc. to the office beforehand. Thank you!

Participants in this Service:

The Rev. John Beach, Officiant & Priest-in-Charge
Stephen Sikorski, Music Director
Denise Beneteau, Worship Leader ~ Joanne Lancaster, L.E.M.

St. John's Episcopal Church

8 Prospect Street, Saugus, MA 01906

Office: 781-233-1242 **Email:** StJohnsSaugus@gmail.com