



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

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## **Morning Prayer for Sunday, January 10, 2021**

The First Sunday after the Epiphany – The Baptism of Our Lord

### **Opening Sentences**

I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.

*Isaiah 49:6b*

### **Confession of Sin**

*The Officiant says to the people*

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth his praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

*The Officiant and People together*

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.

*The Priest alone stands and says*

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 Invitatory and Psalter**

*Officiant* Lord, open our lips.

*People* And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

*Officiant and People*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Alleluia. The Lord has shown forth his glory: Come let us adore him.

### **The Jubilate**

*Psalm 100*

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands;

serve the Lord with gladness

and come before his presence with a song.

Know this: The Lord himself is God;

he himself has made us, and we are his;

we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;

go into his courts with praise;

give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

For the Lord is good;

his mercy is everlasting;

and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

### **The Psalm or Psalms Appointed**

Psalm 29

*Afferte Domino*

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.
- Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

## **The Lessons**

### **A Reading from the Book of Genesis**

*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.

Here ends the reading.



*God Separating Light from Dark* by Raffaello Sanzio da Urbino (Raphael) (1483-1520)

Canticle 11

The Third Song of Isaiah *Surge, illuminare* *Isaiah 60:1-3, 11a, 14c, 18-19*

Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.  
For behold, darkness covers the land;  
deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.  
But over you the Lord will rise,  
and his glory will appear upon you.  
Nations will stream to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawning.  
Your gates will always be open;  
by day or night they will never be shut.  
They will call you, The City of the Lord,  
The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.  
Violence will no more be heard in your land,  
ruin or destruction within your borders.  
You will call your walls, Salvation,  
and all your portals, Praise.  
The sun will no more be your light by day;  
by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.  
The Lord will be your everlasting light,  
and your God will be your glory.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*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.

Here ends the reading.

O ruler of the universe, Lord God,  
great deeds are they that you have done,  
surpassing human understanding.

Your ways are ways of righteousness and truth,  
O King of all the ages.

Who can fail to do you homage, Lord,  
and sing the praises of your Name?

for you only are the Holy One.

All nations will draw near and fall down before you,  
because your just and holy works have been revealed.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

### A Reading from the Gospel of Mark

*Mark 1:4-11*

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."

Here ends the reading.



*The Baptism of Christ* by Jacques Stella. 17<sup>th</sup> century

## The Homily

### The Baptismal Covenant

*Celebrant* Do you believe in God the Father?

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

*Celebrant* 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.

*Celebrant* 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.

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

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

*Celebrant* 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.

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

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

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

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

*Celebrant* 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.

*The Celebrant then concludes the Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant with this prayer*

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.*

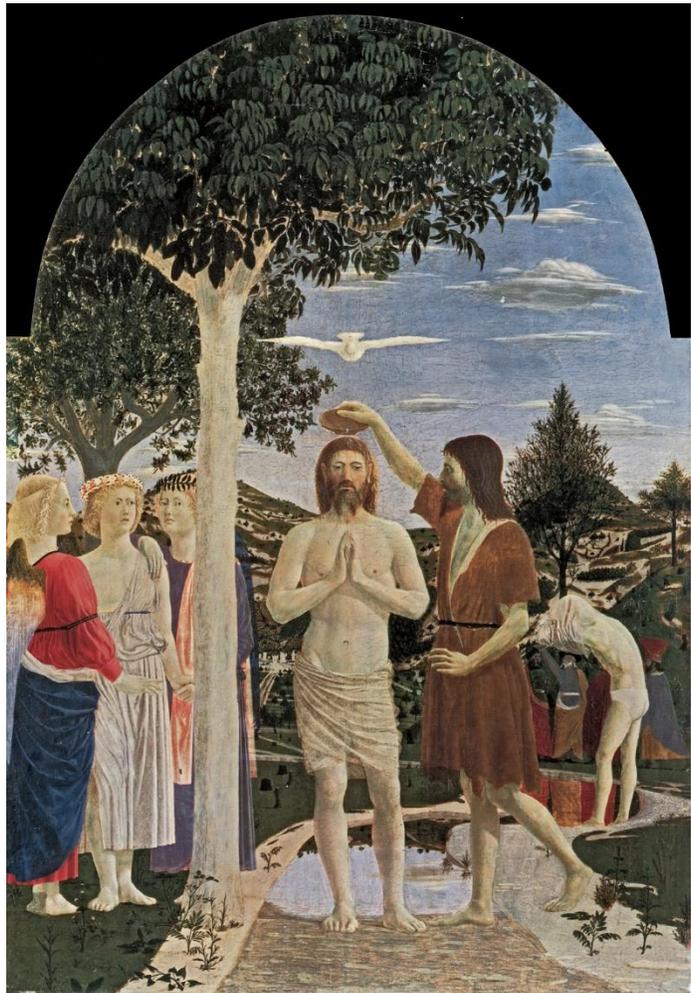
## **The Prayers**

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Officiant* Let us pray.

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.



*Baptism of Christ* by Piero della Francesca. Circa 1450

### The Suffrages "A"

- V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;  
R. And grant us your salvation.  
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
R. Let your people sing with joy.  
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
R. For only in you can we live in safety.  
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;  
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.  
V. Let your way be known upon earth;  
R. Your saving health among all nations.  
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.  
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

### The Collect of the Day

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.*

### A Collect for Sundays

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### In Times of Conflict

O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### For those who Influence Public Opinion

Almighty God, you proclaim your truth in every age by many voices: Direct, in our time, we pray, those who speak where many listen and write what many read; that they may do their part in making the heart of this people wise, its mind sound, and its will righteous; to the honor of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### A Prayer for Times of Great Sickness and Mortality

O Most mighty and merciful God, in this time of grievous sickness, we flee unto thee for succour. Deliver us, we beseech thee, from our peril; give strength and skill to all those who minister to the sick; prosper the means made use of for their cure; and grant that, perceiving how frail and uncertain our life is, we may apply our hearts unto that heavenly wisdom which leadeth to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* *(from the 1928 BCP)*

### Special Needs and Concerns of the Congregation

Heavenly Father, we pray to you that your comfort may descend upon those on our Prayer List...and all those whom we remember in our hearts. We give thanks to you for those celebrating birthdays in the coming week—Linda Thomas, Lee Rose, Liliana Bennitt, Mark Williams, Sheila Snidow. We ask your guidance to be upon the temporal leaders of our society—for Donald, our President, Jim and Ralph, our governors, for Ron and Donnie, our mayors, and for all those in authority in this and every land. We humbly request of you, O Lord our God, to look favorably on the mission of the Diocese of West Virginia, and especially on the congregation of St. John's in Charleston and the Rev. Michelle Boomgard. May your blessing ever be upon those who put their trust in you. *Amen.*

### Collect for Mission

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. *Amen.*

### Announcements

## **The General Thanksgiving**

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.

We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

## **Concluding Versicles**

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

*The Officiant then concludes the service with*

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

*Ephesians 3:20,21*



*The Baptism of Christ by Lambert Sustris. Circa 1543*

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The Flowers on the altar today are given by  
the Clement Family in memory of loved ones.

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**Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers:** Dorene Dimes, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Lee Puckett, Sr., Mabeline & Elton Robinson, Bea Paine, Lynn Burney, Marilyn Denney, Donna Fortune, Bob and Peggy Walk, Susan Jewell, John Kersey, Martha Linkous, Sarah Irwin, Janet Slager, Kelly Cox, Maxine Stevenson, Dean Farmer, Haddon Lazenby, Jack Burchette, Nick, JL, Cis Barrett, Kathy, Patsy Arnold, Randy Snider, Lane, Loraine, Sherry, Margarete Joplin, Scott Rust, Emily Broome, David, Cady, Martin, Marion Lowe, Margaret Westfall, Harry, Ben Rose, Rev. Mark Seitz, Jay Kephart, Al Marra, Rich Longworth, and all Healthcare Personnel and Frontline Workers.

**Birthdays This Week:** Linda Thomas, Lee Rose, Liliana Bennett, Mark Williams, Sheila Snidow

### **Calendar of Events**

Wednesdays in January

Online Bible Study (Zoom) 10:30am

Wednesday—January 13

Online Annual Meeting 7:00pm

Wednesday—January 20

Zoom Vestry Meeting 7:00pm

Thursday—January 21

Food Pantry 9-11am

### **Announcements:**

**2021 Annual Meeting:** The Annual Meeting of the Congregation of Christ Episcopal Church will be held on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Given the circumstances we now face, and by authority to do so by an Act of the Convention of the Diocese of West Virginia in October 2020, this Annual Meeting will be conducted by Zoom. We will celebrate our accomplishments over the past year, review where we now are, and look forward to the ministry and mission that awaits us in 2021! A link to the Zoom meeting will be emailed later. Please make every effort to attend this online meeting. Thank you!



**Clergy, Staff, and Wardens of this Parish**

the Very Rev. Chad Slater  
Mr. Terry E. Whittington, Jr.  
Ms. Emma Bennett  
Mrs. Vanessa Hall  
Mrs. Becky Beckett  
Mr. Tom Coughlan

Rector  
Organist & Choirmaster  
Parish Administrator  
Sexton  
Senior Warden  
Junior Warden