

St. Gregory's Episcopal Church
The First Sunday after the Epiphany:
The Baptism of Our Lord
January 12, 2025

PRELUDE.....Sr. Helena Marie, CHS, Musician

THE ANGELUS

The Angelus is a traditional Christian devotion offered before Holy Eucharist and Morning and Evening Prayer in honor of the Incarnation. It is usually accompanied by the ringing of the church bell (in three sets of three for each versicle, response, and Hail Mary, followed by one set of nine for the concluding prayer). You may pray it as the bell rings, or use the silence to prepare for worship in your own way.

The first three bells



V. The angel of the Lord announced unto Mary,
R. *And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.*

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

The second three bells

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
R. *Be it unto me according to your word.*

Hail Mary, full of grace...

The third three bells

V. And the Word was made flesh.
R. *And dwelled among us.*

Hail Mary, full of grace...

The nine bells



V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,
R. *That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.*

Pour your grace into our hearts, O Lord, that we who have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, announced by an angel to the Virgin Mary, may by his cross and passion be brought to the glory of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN



1 The sin - less one to Jor - dan came,
 2 Up - ris - ing from the wat - ers there,
 3 A - bove him see the heaven - ly Dove,
 4 How blest that mis - sion then be - gun
 5 O Christ, may we bap - tized from sin,
 6 On you may all your peo - ple feed,



1 and in the riv - er shared our stain;
 2 the Fa - ther's voice did then de - clare
 3 the sign of God the Fa - ther's love,
 4 to heal and save a race un - done!
 5 go forth with you a world to win:
 6 and know you are the Bread in - deed,



1 God's right - eous - ness he thus ful - filled,
 2 that Christ, the Son of God, had come
 3 now by the Ho - ly Spi - rit shed
 4 Straight to the wil - der - ness he goes
 5 grant us the Ho - ly Spi - rit's power
 6 who gives e - ter - nal life to those



1 and chose the path his Fa - ther willed.
 2 to lead his scat - tered peo - ple home.
 3 up - on the Son's a - noint - ed head.
 4 to wres - tle with his peo - ple's foes.
 5 to shield us in temp - ta - tion's hour.
 6 that with you died, and with you rose.

Words: G. B. Timms (b. 1910), alt. From English Praise. By permission of Oxford University Press. Music: *Solemnis haec festivitas*, melody from *Graduale*, 1685; harm. Arthur Hutchings (b. 1906). By permission of Oxford University Press.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed be God: most holy, glorious, and undivided Trinity.
People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Celebrant 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.**

SONG OF PRAISE

A - wake, a - wake, your light has come. A -
wake, a - wake, — my soul, O my soul. A

G D C D e m

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
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.*

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 43:1-7

Thus says the Lord, the One who created you, O Jacob, 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 Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 29:2-6, 9-11 (*chanted in unison*)

- 2 Ascribe the glory due God's holy | **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 God makes Lebanon skip like a | **calf**, *
and Mount Hermon like a young wild | **ox**.
- 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 Sovereign for ever|**more**.
- 11 The LORD shall give strength to the | **people**; *
the LORD shall give the people the blessing of | **peace**.

THE EPISTLE

Acts 8:14-17

When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ALLELUIA



Music: *Mass of Light*, David Haas, © 1988, GIA Publications, Inc.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON.....The Rev. Matthew Wright

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 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Following each petition, the People respond, "Hear our prayer."

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence

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.**

The Priest 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 PEACE

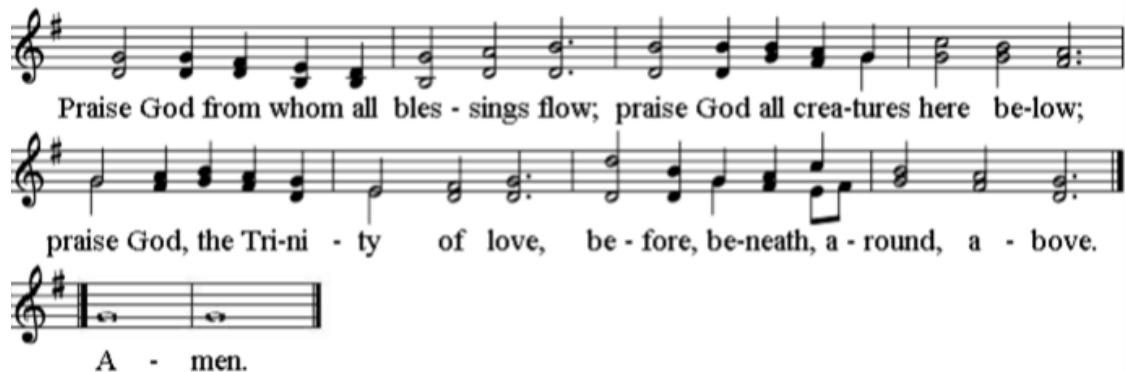
Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The people greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace. Parish announcements may be made.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *(sung by choir)*

DOXOLOGY



Praise God from whom all bles - sings flow; praise God all crea-tures here be-low;
praise God, the Tri-ni - ty of love, be - fore, be-neath, a - round, a - bove.
A - men.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth, because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and all company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1971, 1977 GIA Publications, Inc.

The Celebrant continues the Eucharistic Prayer.

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

**Christ has died.
 Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.**

The Celebrant continues the Eucharistic Prayer.

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 forever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your Name,
 your kingdom come, your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those**

who sin against us.
 Save us from the time of trial,
 and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
 now and forever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A brief silence follows. All then joining in singing

Cantor or Choir

My flesh is food in - deed, and my blood is drink in -
 deed, says the Lord. My Lord. Those who eat my
 flesh and drink my blood dwell in me and I in them. My
 flesh is food in - deed, and my blood is drink in - deed, says the Lord.

Music: Ray W. Urwin (b. 1950). Copyright © 1984 by Ray W. Urwin. Used by permission.

A Prayer of Spiritual Communion

In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you, and, since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all the love of my soul. Let nothing ever separate you from me. May I live in you, and may you live in me, both in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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.

THE BLESSING

RECESSIONAL HYMN (see following page)

1 Christ, when for us you were bap - tized, God's Spi - rit on you came,
2 God called you his be - lov - ed Son, called you his ser - vant true,
3 Straight - way and stead-fast un - til death you then o - beyed his call
4 Bap - tize us with your Spi - rit, Lord, your cross on us be signed,

as peace - ful as a dove and yet as ur - gent as a flame.
sent you his king - dom to pro - claim, his ho - ly will to do.
free - ly as Son of Man to serve and give your life for all.
that, like - wise in God's ser - vice we may per - fect free - dom find.

Words: F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984), rev. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Caithness*, melody from *The Psalms of David in Prose and Meeter*, 1635; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906.

Celebrant Alleluia, alleluia! Let us go forth in the Name of Christ.
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**