

Holy Baptism

January 7, 2024

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85887946777?pwd=eig4MEdsMUh6cV6b2dUblFOQ3I2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 858 8794 6777

Passcode: 782611

Epiphany 1B: The Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ

Prelude

All stand as they are able

Opening Hymn

Baptized in water

Tune: *Bunessan*

Unison or harmony

Bap-tized in wa-ter, sealed by the Spi-rit,
Bap-tized in wa-ter, sealed by the Spi-rit,
Bap-tized in wa-ter, sealed by the Spi-rit,

Cleansed by the blood of Christ our King:
Dead in the tomb with Christ our King:
Marked with the sign of Christ our King:

Heirs of sal-va-tion, trusting his pro-mise,
One with his ri-sing, freed and for-gi-ven,
Born of one Fa-ther, we are God's chil-dren,

Faith-ful- ly now God's praises we sing.
 Thank-ful- ly now God's praises we sing.
 Joy- ful- ly now God's praises we sing.

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**
Presider There is one Body and one Spirit;
People **There is one hope in God's call to us;**
Presider One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
People **One God and Father of all.**

|
Collect of the Day

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

All sit.

First Reading

Genesis 1:1-5

A reading from the book of Genesis

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Remain seated

Psalm 23

to be prayed in unison

- ¹The LORD is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.**
- ²He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.**
- ³He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.**
- ⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**
- ⁵You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.**
- ⁶Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.**

Second Reading

Acts 19:1-7

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

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.

Reader **The Word of the Lord.**
People **Thanks be to God.**

All stand as they are able.

Sequence Hymn

Tune: *O Quanta Qualia*

Spirit of God, you moved over the waters



Spi- rit of God, you moved o- ver the wa- ters
 Spi- rit of God, like a dove you once rest- ed,
 Help us to see you, still call- ing and car- ing,



Whisp'ring God's love to the whole of cre- a- tion.
 Show- ing God's joy on the day Christ was bap- tized.
 Help us to know you a- mong us, cre- a- ting.



You breathe your life in- to God's sons and daugh- ters.
 You sent Christ out to the hills to be test- ed,
 Spi- rit of God, give us cour- age and dar- ing —



Giv- ing us tal- ents and your in- spi- ra- tion.
 Through you he called us to see God with new eyes.
 To share God's love with a world that is wait- ing.

Holy Gospel

Mark 1:4-11

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Mark.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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."



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

Sermon

Rob Hampton

Holy Baptism

Thanksgiving over the Water

The Presider blesses the water of Baptism

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Presider We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

At the following words, the Presider dips the foot of the Paschal Candle in the water

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Presentation and Examination of the Candidates

The candidates, parents and godparents, stand as they are able.

The Presider says

The Candidates for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

The candidates who are not able to answer for themselves are presented individually by their Sponsors.

Sponsors

I present Bodie Michael Schubring to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

I present Michael Robert Schubring to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

The Presider then asks each candidate when presented

Do you desire to be baptized?

Candidate

I do.

Then the Presider asks the following questions of the parents and godparents who speak on behalf of the infants and younger children

Question Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Answer I do.

Question Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Answer I do.

Question Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Answer I do.

After all have been presented, the Presider addresses the congregation, saying

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support this person in his life in Christ?

People **We will.**

The Presider then says

Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ, and renew our own baptismal covenant.

All stand as they are able

The Baptismal Covenant

Presider Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Presider 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.**



Presider 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.**

Presider 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.**

Presider 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.**

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

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

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

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

Presider 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.**

Prayers for the Candidates

Intercessor Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Open their hearts to your grace and truth.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Send them into the world in witness to your love.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.
People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

The Presider then says

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 Baptism

The candidates are presented by name to the Presider, who then pours water upon each candidate, saying

N.N., I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Then the Presider places a hand on each person's head, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross [using Chrism if desired] and saying

N., you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever.
Amen.

When this action has been completed, baptismal candles are lit and given to the newly baptized.

The Presider, at a place in full sight of the congregation, then prays over the newly baptized, saying

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give them inquiring and discerning hearts, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

The Presider then says

Let us welcome the newly baptized:

Presider and People then say

We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

All remain standing as they are able.

The Prayers of the People

Presider Sisters and brothers, children of God, the Lord shall give us the blessings of strength and peace. Beloved of God, let us pray, “Walk with us through the waters, O God; walk with us through the fire.”

Intercessor Deliver your Church, O God, from fear. Strengthen those you have redeemed by your presence. Give us all the courage to keep our baptismal promises. Walk with us through the waters, O God; **walk with us through the fire.**

Silence is kept.

O God, you have blessed us to be members of your household. Strengthen the unity of the Church—those serving you in the east, west, north, and south. Walk with us through the waters, O God; **walk with us through the fire.**

Silence is kept.

Break down the walls of division in our city and our nation. Bring us together as one human family, formed and made by your great and gentle hands. Walk with us through the waters, O God; **walk with us through the fire.**

Silence is kept.

O God, you are ruler of all things in heaven and earth. Hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all a burning heart for our congregation, and all things necessary for our common life, and the embrace of the ministries with which you have gifted everyone. Bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church. Walk with us through the waters, O God; **walk with us through the fire.**

Silence is kept

Holy One, we rely on, and give thanks for, your divine wisdom, knowledge and understanding. We know that, because of your Holy Spirit’s guidance, we can make the right decisions in line with your will and purpose for this parish. We ask for the Spirit of discernment, that we each

may be enabled to make those decisions that will lead us to the serving of your church in this place. Walk with us through the waters, O God; **walk with us through the fire.**

Silence is kept

Heal and comfort your beloved children, O God. Be with the needy and the sick in their trials [especially _____ and those you may name now]. May they know that they are precious in your sight. Walk with us through the waters, O God; **walk with us through the fire.**

Your power, O God, is evident in the mysteries of our universe. By water and your Holy Spirit you have made us a new people. We give you thanks and praise for all the blessings you give us [especially _____]. Walk with us through the waters, O God; **walk with us through the fire.**

Heavenly Parent, you have accepted us as your children. You have made us heirs with Christ. In your great mercy, receive us, and all who have died, into glory everlasting [remembering especially _____ and those you may name now]. Walk with us through the waters, O God; **walk with us through the fire.**

Silence is kept.

Presider Almighty and transcendent God, your glory fills all creation, and your authority extends beyond time and forever: Let your Spirit open our lives to your grace and truth, that we may always see your Christ at his coming, to whom be glory and dominion forever and ever. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

The Presider says

Jesus said, “The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.” *Mark 12:29-31*

A Minister then says

Let us confess our sins to God.

All remain standing, or kneel, as they are able.

Silence is kept.

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.**

A Priest 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.**

Prayers for those celebrating their birthdays and anniversaries

In January, we celebrate the birthdays of Jan V, Bonnie, Kathy O, Pat, and any others you wish to remember in prayer.

Prayer for a Birthday

BCP p.830

O God, our times are in your hand. **Look with favor, we pray, on your servants Jan, Bonnie, Kathy O, Pat ..., as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Prayer for an Anniversary

BCP p.429

Eternal God, creator and preserver of all life, author of salvation, and giver of all grace: Look with favor upon the world you have made, and for which your Son gave his life, and especially upon [all couples]. Grant that their wills may be so knit together in your will, and their spirits in your Spirit, that they may continue to grow in love and peace with you and one another all the days of their lives. *Amen.*

Peace

All stand as they are able.

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

The Ministers and the People may offer God's peace to one another in the name of the Lord.

The People then are seated.

Announcements

Holy Communion

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty. For everything in heaven and on earth is yours. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom, and you are exalted as head over all. *1 Chronicles 29:11*

Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the Presider.

The people stand when the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar

Offertory Hymn

Doxology

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

The people remain standing.

Great Thanksgiving

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, 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 with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus



5
 God of po - wer and might. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly

9
 God of po - wer and might. Hea - ven and earth are

12
 full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! All

15
 hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na, ho -

18
 san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est!

24 *molto rit.*
 Bles-sed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.

The people continue to stand, or kneel, as they are able.

The Presider continues

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.

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.**

The Presider then continues

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to 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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

The Presider says

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

These are the Gifts of God.
And we are the people of God.

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

After Communion, the Presider says

Let us pray.

Presider and People

**Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of Christ,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Savior.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

Blessing

A priest blesses the people, saying

You are the body of Christ.
May you have the heart of Christ, tender for mercy.
May you have the eyes of Christ to see a world in need.
May you have the feet of Christ to bring good news.

And may the blessing of the Holy One who made you,
+Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer be with you today and always.

Amen.

Concluding Hymn
Go light your world

LEVAS 68



G $\frac{E_m}{G}$ G7 C G

1. There is a can - dle in ev - 'ry soul, Some burn - ing
 2. Frus - trat - ed broth - er, see how he's tried to Light his own
 3. We are a fam - 'ly whose hearts are blaz - ing. Let's raise our

F2 F $\frac{C}{G}$ G C

bright - ly, some dark and cold. There is a Spir - it who brings a
 can - dle some oth - er way. See now your sis - ter, she's been robbed and
 can - dles - light up the sky! Pray to our Fath - er in the name of

G $\frac{C}{E}$ F $\frac{F}{G}$ G $\frac{E_m}{G}$ G7 C $\frac{C}{G}$ $\frac{E_m}{G}$ $\frac{D_m}{G}$

fire, Ig - nites a can - dle and makes His home.
 lied to, Still holds a can - dle with - out a flame. Car - ry your
 Je - sus; Make us a bea - con in dark - est times.

C $\frac{C}{E}$ F2 F $\frac{C}{G}$

can - dle, run to the dark - ness, Seek out the hope - less, con - fused and

F²/_G G E_m/_G D_m/_G C C/_E F² F
 torn. Hold out your can - dle for all to see it, Take your
 C/_G F/_G E_m⁷/_G G E₇/_{G#} A_m F C/_G D_m⁷/_G E_m/_G G⁷ C
 can - dle, and go light your world. Take your can - dle, and go light your world.

Dismissal

Minister My brothers and my sisters, let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
People **Thanks be to God.**



Postlude

+++++

Congratulations to the newly Baptized and their Families!

Bodie Michael Schubring, son of Kevin and Jessica Schubring. Bodie’s godparents are Sarah Schubring and Jake Hirschman.
Michael Robert Schubring, son of Tim and Sarah Schubring. Michael’s godparents are Jessica Schubring and Steven Daniels.
 Grandmother Debbie Daniels did the First Reading.

+++++

This week in prayer

Please remember these persons and congregations in your prayers this week:

Our Bishops Bonnie, Michael, Justin, Moises (TEC); Elizabeth, Donald and Craig (ELCA)
and for all priests, deacons, Ministry Teams, and those in formation

Anglican Cycle of Prayer:
 January 7 The Scottish Episcopal Church

Diocese of Michigan Cycle of Prayer:

January 7 Christ Church, Adrian; St Luke’s, Santiago, St Mark’s, Haina, DR

St Barnabas Cycle of Prayer: Lynn, Jan S, Selenah, Bob

and our continuing prayers for: Bob, Jim M, Mardi, Pat, Robert, Selenah

+++++

Faith in Action provides leadership in collecting donations to support households in need in the Chelsea and Dexter areas. They are in need of our continuing help. You may bring your donations to FIA, or to Nancy who will see that they get there. **If you bring food directly to FIA**, please let Nancy know, so she can continue to keep our records of donation. If you write a check, please make it to *Faith In Action*. The **next Food Drive at the church is Sunday, January 21**. Please contribute as generously as you can.

+++++

Upcoming Commemorations

- January 8 Harriet Bedell, Deaconess and Missionary, 1969
- 9 Julia Chester Emery, Lay Leader and Missionary, 1922
- 10 William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1645
- 12 Aelred of Rievaulx, Abbot, 1167
- 13 Hilary of Poitiers, Bishop, 367

+++++



Epiphany 1B January 7, 2024

Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning of God’s creation, Scripture records that “darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.” The word translated wind here is the Hebrew word *ruach*, which can ambiguously refer to wind, breath, or Spirit. Swept is from the Hebrew *rahaf*, meaning “to hover,” like a bird brooding or hovering over her young. God’s breath hovers, and God’s word speaks light and matter into being. In the beginning, the Father, the Spirit, and the Word cooperate to create the world in wisdom, and it was good! The Church would later come to recognize an epiphany—a revelation—of God the Holy Trinity in this passage. As God speaks light and matter into being from formlessness and void, we catch a glimpse both of who God is in himself and what his plan is.

- The first verse of Genesis could also be translated, “In the beginning, when God began to create the heavens and the earth...” How might this affect your understanding of this passage?

Acts 19:1-7

John’s vocation was to prepare the people for Christ, and in so doing, he summarizes and fulfills the whole old covenant, a purpose of which was to point forward to Jesus. John’s preaching and baptizing “prepare the way of the Lord” and “gives knowledge of salvation to [God’s] people

by the forgiveness of their sins.” John was not that light of which he preached, but he was testifying to that light, the “dawn from on high [that] shall break upon us.” Still, John’s baptism prepared the people by calling them to repentance—a full change of life, in light of the coming one, “whose sandal strap [John was] not worthy to untie,” who would come to judge the whole world and deliver his people from the hands of their enemies. But it is baptism in the name of Jesus that delivers what John only anticipated: God’s promises (Jeremiah 31:30-34, Ezekiel 36:25-27, Joel 2:28) to make a new covenant where the people will be given a new heart with which to love and obey him, and where he would pour out his prophetic Spirit upon all flesh.

- Some Christians are sometimes accused of living as though they “have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit,” or that there is little evidence of the Spirit’s renewing, creative and sanctifying presence in their lives, even though they were baptized into the name of the Trinity. How might we draw nearer as a Church and as individuals to the fullness of life in the Spirit given to us in our baptism?

Mark 1:4-11

This scene of Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan by John draws our attention back to the very beginning of Holy Scripture, where God, his Spirit, and his Word were present upon the face of the primordial deep, and creation began. As Jesus arises from the waters, the heavens are “torn open” so that we might see for a moment what lies beyond the veil. We see the Spirit descending like a dove upon him, and the voice of the Father approving Jesus as his beloved son. Here again is an epiphany, mysteriously suggesting the divine identity of Jesus the man. Even as Jesus humbly and fully identified with the people of Israel who were baptized (so to speak) in the Red Sea, who were once captive in Egypt and presently captive to sin, he is revealed as Israel’s mighty God. When we are baptized into the name of the Trinity, we fully identify with Jesus, even as he fully identified with us and our human condition, and everything the voice of the Father declared about Jesus becomes true of us as his adopted sons and daughters. We receive his holy and life-giving Spirit and become part of Jesus’ glorified Body and are freed from our former captivity to sin and death. In this scene is revealed the fulfillment of the purpose of God’s work of creation.

- What do we most need to hear the voice of the Lord saying to us to live into the fullness of God’s purposes for us?
- Read Genesis 22:1-2. How might this passage help us understand today’s Gospel lesson?

*This Bible study was written by **Ryan Jordan***

+++++

From riteplanning.com. Copyright © 2020 Church Publishing Inc. All rights reserved.

Entrance Hymn text at *LEVAS*, #121 Tune *Bunessan* at *Hymnal*, #8.

Sequence Hymn text at *Voices Found*, #58 Tune: *O Quanta Qualia* at *Hymnal*, #348.

Sanctus musical setting from *St Barnabas Mass*, by Doug Howell. © 2016 Creative Measures. Used by permission of the composer.

Invitation to the Table from <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/bcr-132/> Accessed 12 June 2019

+++++

Our Mission:

We seek to grow as diverse disciples of Jesus Christ, and to serve Jesus by serving others in the world, guided by the values of Ancient Rites, Open Minds, and Affirming Hearts.



St Barnabas Episcopal Church

20500 W Old US-12
Chelsea MI 48118
stbarnabaschelsea.org