

1-10-21

Hymn of Praise *Baptized in Water*

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, cleansed by the blood of Christ our King:

Heirs of salvation, trusting his promise, faithfully now God's praise we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ our King:

Born of one Father, we are his children, joyfully now God's praise we sing.

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. **Amen.**

The Lessons

Introduction: Today's reading from the Book of Acts most likely took place in the year 54; which was at least two or three decades after today's Gospel lesson of Jesus' baptism. Hear now as Paul reflects upon John's baptismal ministry and the Holy Spirit.

A reading from the book of Acts

Acts 19:1-7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul took a route through the interior and came to Ephesus, where he found some

disciples. He asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you came to believe?” They replied, “We’ve not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” Then he said, “What baptism did you receive, then?” They answered, “John’s baptism.” Paul explained, “John baptized with a baptism by which people showed they were changing their hearts and lives. It was a baptism that told people about the One who was coming after him. This is the One in whom they were to believe. This One is Jesus.” After they listened to Paul, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in other languages and prophesying. Altogether, there were about twelve people.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The psalm for this morning is 29. It can be found in your bulletin and in your prayer books on page 620. Let us read it responsively by whole verse.

Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

**Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his Name;
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;

the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

**The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice;
the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.**

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

**He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

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.

**The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe
and strips the forests bare.**

And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, "Glory!"

The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as King for evermore.

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark
Glory to you, Lord Christ. *Mark 1:4-11*

John the Baptist was in the wilderness calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. Everyone in Judea and all the people of Jerusalem went out to the Jordan River and were being baptized by John as they

confessed their sins. John wore clothes made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. He announced, "One stronger than I am is coming after me. I'm not even worthy to bend over and loosen the strap of his sandals. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." About that time, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. While he was coming up out of the water, Jesus saw heaven splitting open and the Spirit, like a dove, coming down on him. And there was a voice from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ? **I do.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

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

I will, with God's help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

I will, with God's help.

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

I will, with God's help.

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

I will, with God's help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

I will, with God's help.

May Almighty God, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and made us one with the saints in

heaven and on earth, strengthen and support us in the baptismal life of this holy fellowship, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Prayers of the People *Please be seated*

God of Light and Life, our prayers rise before you this day in hope and faith.

As the prophet Isaiah rang out, “Arise, shine; for your light has come”; empower your Church to ring out the Good News of the Light of your son Jesus, which pierces even the deepest darkness.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

As a star rose high into the nighttime sky to draw the nations to the Christ-child; send your blessing on this nation and draw the whole world to your peace and truth.

As John the Baptist guided throngs of people to the edge of the wilderness and baptized Jesus in the River Jordan, we pray that you would guide our country and our leaders to the ways of justice and righteousness.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

As Jesus climbed the mountaintop, and proclaimed blessings on the people of the world; especially the sick and the distressed, the poor and those who mourn, we pray especially for Downs IV, Holden, Nikolai, Brian, Joan, Luanne, Bill and Erin. Grant healing and recovery for all who

have gone through surgery, especially Tim. Give peace and strength for those going through cancer treatments, especially Victoria, Andres, Ginny, Alex, Colleen, Jack, John and Douglas. Visit and comfort all who are under the care of skilled nursing, especially Bob, Timothy, Don, Barbara and Mike. Be near to all who are in hospice care.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

As the psalmist declared, the Lord shall give strength to his people and the blessing of peace, we pray for all who protect us both at home and abroad and that you may bless our communities, and the whole world, with your peace.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

As Jesus called his disciples to leave their nets and boats, and follow him; we pray for those we love and who have answered your call to follow Jesus to your Heavenly Kingdom. Give them your peace and comfort all who mourn.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, Light of the World, hear our prayers, and make us reflections of your Light, that the places of darkness in our world would be pierced by your Light, and that all nations would be drawn to you and be overwhelmed with joy. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn Shall We Gather at the River?

Shall we gather at the river,
where bright angel feet have trod;
With its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?

Refrain: Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river;
Gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.

On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,
We will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day.

Refrain

Ere we reach the shining river, lay we ev'ry burden down;
Grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown.

Refrain

Soon we'll reach the shining river,
soon our pilgrimage will cease,
Soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace.

Refrain