

Baptism of Our Lord

This week we have observed one of the seven principal feasts in the Church calendar, The Epiphany, on January 6. Today we open with a “station,” a brief liturgy, to mark our journey from The Epiphany to this first Sunday after, when we remember the Baptism of Our Lord. You can see images of The Epiphany in the Oratory Chapel (right side, near the pulpit), where figures of the creche echo the scene in The Adoration of the Magi painting. You are invited to take a closer look and pray at this station before or after the service.

The next station will take us to the baptismal font. In our Gospel today, we hear of Jesus’ baptism by John in the River Jordan and we will mark this occasion by renewing our baptismal covenant. We have evidence of the baptism of believers in scripture, though as a worship or liturgical practice, it began to emerge more clearly around the 3rd century. The baptismal covenant in our Book of Common Prayer, introduced in 1979, signals the importance of baptism and what it means for our lives as followers of Jesus – shaping our life in community and for mission. Listen for the sections in these vows, as we declare what we *believe*, the marks of *belonging* in Christian community, and the ways our understanding of baptism, with God’s help, shapes our *behavior*. At the exchange of the Peace today, there will be “asperging,” where we receive a sprinkling of blessed water to remind us of baptism.

THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude – “How Brightly Shines the Morning Star” *Dietrich Buxtehude*

OPENING HYMN #109, v. 1-4 – “The First Nowell”

See hymnal (red or blue book in pews); please rise, as able.

STATION AT THE MAGI

Presider The Lord has manifested forth his glory:

People **And all peoples shall bow before him.**

STATION AT THE FONT

Presider The voice of the Lord is upon the waters:

People **The voice of the Lord is upon many waters.**

The Gloria #S278 *spoken at 8 a.m.; see words on the next page*

Indicates music in the hymnal, which is a red or blue book in the pew racks.
The “S” numbers are in the front section and the others following.

Spoken at 8 a.m.; sung at 10:15 a.m., #S278

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 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.**

The Lessons The people may be seated.

FIRST READING Isaiah 42:1-9

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.

He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street;
a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.

He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it:

I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;

I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.
See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

After the reading, the Reader may say

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM Psalm 29 – *read 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.

SECOND READING Acts 10:34-43

Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN #121 – “Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized” please stand, as able

GOSPEL Matthew 3:13-17

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

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

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

The Sermon The people sit.

Dean Twila Smith

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows Please stand as you are able.

Along with All Saints and the Easter Vigil, this Baptism of Our Lord Sunday is a time when we renew our baptismal vows, even if there are no baptisms. On such occasions, this may take the place of the Nicene Creed. The form we use today reverses the questions in the last portion, asking, "With God's help, what will we do?" Following this, the Prayers of the People today are a form adapted from the Prayers for the Candidates in baptism.

Presider Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

People **I do.**

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 With God's help, what will we do?

People **We will continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers.**

Presider With God's help, what will we do?

People **We will persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever we fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord.**

Presider With God's help, what will we do?

People **We will proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ.**

Presider With God's help, what will we do?

People **We will seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves.**

Presider With God's help, what will we do?

People **We will strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.**

Presider May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

The Prayers of the People Please remain standing, as you are able.

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

Open our hearts to your grace and truth.
Lord, hear our prayer.

Fill us with your holy and life-giving Spirit.
Lord, hear our prayer.

Keep us in the faith and communion of your holy Church.
Lord, hear our prayer.

Teach us to love others in the power of the Spirit.
Lord, hear our prayer.

Send us into the world in witness to your love.
Lord, hear our prayer.

Bring us to the fullness of your peace and glory.
Lord, hear our prayer.

The Presider then prays

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 for ever. **Amen.**

The Peace

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

At the asperging, the sprinkling of blessed water, you may make a sign of devotion as desired – such as making the sign of the cross, placing your hand at your heart, or bowing your head – to acknowledge this blessing.

HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY HYMN #370, v. 1-2 - "I Bind Unto Myself Today"

The Great Thanksgiving *Eucharistic Prayer B*

The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and says

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 him thanks and praise.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where 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:

Celebrant and People; spoken at 8 a.m.

The musical score is written on five staves of music. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Paul and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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, 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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breads the consecrated bread.

A period of silence is kept, then the People sing (said at 8 a.m.),



O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -
way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -
on us. O Lamb of God, that
ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have
mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of
God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the
world, grant us thy peace.

The Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

An usher will invite all to a single-file line in the main aisle for communion and you may return to your pew by the side aisles. Anyone needing assistance to receive communion may indicate so to an usher.

Receive bread with both hands open and proceed to the chalice to drink from the cup, or simply consume the bread only, which we consider full communion.

To receive the bread with intinction by the priest, extend one hand.

To receive a blessing, indicate your desire by crossing your arms over your heart.

COMMUNION HYMN #324 – “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

All **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.**

BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN #296 – “We Know That Christ Is Raised”

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Announcements

Chalking the Door – *pick up after church today!*

Be sure to pick up your own Epiphany Home Blessing kit at the Cathedral. This tradition dates to the Middle Ages, and remembers the journey the wise ones made to visit Jesus, and the hope we carry for Jesus to visit us in our homes. The entry door, or the lintel above the door, is “chalked,” inscribing it with the initials for the three magi, bracketed with the century and year. C+M+B represents Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, and is also associated with *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, “May Christ Bless this Dwelling.”

Ordinations at the Cathedral – *3 p.m. today*

The Cathedral will host the Ordination to the Diaconate of two vocational deacons, Diane Cox and Robin Kozlowski, who are in the Genesee Deanery. Although sometimes ordinations are held in parish churches, it is a special role for the Cathedral to host diocesan events and be a gathering space for people from across the region. Special thanks to Kim O’Connell for coordinating the reception and to all who have been helping with preparations and who have signed up for roles before, during, and after the service. From table setup to cleaning, live-streaming, ushering, and all-around hosting – it takes the work of many. All are invited to attend. Ordinations are a wonderful occasion for the Church to celebrate!

Transit Packs and Emergency Meal Kits – *this season*

For this season after The Epiphany, all are invited to bring items for “transit packs” and emergency meal kits, to be distributed through Cathedral ministries. In the recent storms, kits were given to neighbors who had run out of food, and to someone we sheltered for a time, at the request of the police supporting rescue efforts. Our Cathedral location is also at the transit hub of the city and year-round we have people stop in who are in need of enough food to help them on their way. We’re close to government offices and courts, and meet people who have been delayed by several hours and are hungry. Having these kits on hand helps us meet needs of neighbors. You can contribute whole kits or items for them, along with travel-size toiletries. Items include: Pre-made tuna, chicken, or ham salad, in kits with crackers (pre-mixed, not the kind you have to mix together); cheese and cracker packs, individual packs of cookies, “squeeze” fruit (such as applesauce), individually-wrapped handwipes, individual tissue packs, and wrapped candies, such as mints or butterscotch. If you are contributing food items, look for items that are easy to eat (not hard or crunchy). If you have questions, contact Dean Twila.

Caring Cafe

· This Sunday we resume our 9 a.m., between-worship time for connecting in community and learning together. This week is a discussion on our baptismal vows, kicked off by Dean Twila:

“Believing, Belonging, and Behaving.”

· *Epiphany Season: Becoming Disciples* – On January 15, we’ll launch a new, six-week series on “The Essentials of the Christian Life,” with discussion around a book by the Archbishop of Canterbury (2002-2012) Rowan Williams. We’ll have some copies to distribute on January 8 (there have been some weather delays) and more the following week, or, if you prefer an e-reader format, a Kindle version is available for \$2.75.

Packing Up – *Saturday morning, January 14*

What goes up must come down. And after that it must be put away nicely so that it is in good shape for next season. Calling all those who helped with the greening and decorating of the cathedral, can you please help one more time? We will meet on Saturday morning, January 14th, to put everything away for safekeeping. Hope you can join us.

SJAT: Best Books of 2022 and More, Part 2

This week's note from the Social Justice Action Team is the second of our "Best of ..." list-writing and media that have inspired us in the past year, and are on our radar for 2023.

Nonfiction

–How the Word is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America by Clint Smith. In this book, nominated for numerous awards, Smith takes a "listening tour" to important historical landmarks in both the northern and southern United States, engaging in conversations with people he meets for insight and understanding.

–Under a White Sky, the Nature of the Future by Elizabeth Kolbert, an award winning environmental journalist, who explains that some solutions to problems that were implemented years ago are now causing problems that need solutions themselves.

–A Wolf at the Schoolhouse Door: The Dismantling of Public Education and the Future of School by Jack Schneider and Jennifer Berkshire, who explain how political initiatives such as school vouchers, antagonism to teachers' unions, tax credit scholarships, among others issues are chipping away at public education and leading to a further inequality in education. The authors also host a regular podcast, Have You Heard?, that discusses educational issues with experts.

–Just Us: An American Conversation by Claudia Rankine. Like her National Award nominee Citizen, An American Lyric, this is collection of essays, poems and images that provoke conversations about race and social justice.

–Oak Flat: A Fight for Sacred Land in the American West by Lauren Redniss. A beautifully illustrated true graphical story of the struggle to protect an indigenous sacred site from destruction by a multinational mining company.

Fiction

–The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas; this is the book that the 2018 movie of the same name is based. It tells the struggle of a young girl for racial justice.

–Deaf Republic by Ilya Kaminsky; What happens when citizens are threatened with injustices? Although writing of his native country, Ukraine, Kaminsky resides in the US now, and his work has a universal message.

Other Media

–The Integrated School Podcast, conversations with about parenting, racism and school segregation.

–Articles by Bill McKibben; a writer, scholar and recipient of the Gandhi Peace Prize has published his writings on his web site, a treasure trove of articles about environmental justice.

These items are all available at the library, your local bookstore or online. We'd love to hear what you are reading!

SJAT meets the second Monday of each month. If one of your New Year resolutions is to help work toward social justice we welcome you to **join us Monday, January 9 at 5:30 p.m. on Zoom.**

New or visiting today? Everything you need to participate in worship is in this bulletin and the hymnal (red or blue book in the pew racks; hymn numbers are noted in the bulletin). We invite you to join in praying, singing, and responding, as you are comfortable. Greeters are available at the back of the church to assist you.

Restrooms are available on the lower level. From the elevator, proceed through the double glass doors and look to your right for an accessible restroom. Additional restrooms are on the same level, near the kitchen.

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Kathy Reiss (8 a.m.), Alenda Jackson and Judy Elliott (10:15 a.m.) – Altar Guild
Valerie Thomas (8 a.m.), Andrea Larracuente (10:15 a.m.) – Reader/Intercessor
Tracy Thomas – Livestream · Elenora and Reid Heffner – Greeters/Ushers
Bob Ludwig – Coffee Host
Tim Smith – Organist · The Very Rev. Twila Smith – Presider/Preacher

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