

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



"You are my Son, the Beloved:
with you I am well pleased."

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

THE CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor:

God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.



Lord, open our lips, and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

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

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

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.

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.

THE FIRST LESSON

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.

THE CANTICLE

Eternal light, shine in my heart;
eternal hope lift up my eyes;
eternal power, be my support;
eternal wisdom make me wise.

Eternal life, raise me from death;
eternal brightness, help me see;
eternal Spirit, give me breath;
eternal Savior, come to me;

until by your most costly grace,
invited by you holy word,
at last I come before your face
to know you, my eternal God.

*(c) Christopher Idle
(TH 1982 #465)*

THE SECOND LESSON

Mark 1:4-11[12-13]

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.”

[And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.]

Other assigned readings: Acts 19:1-7

REFLECTION

by

Norm Wright

Eternal light shine in our hearts.

Amen.



The Gospel of Mark is perhaps my favorite gospel account that introduces us to Jesus. Apart from being from Nazareth of Galilee, Mark offers us no other information about Jesus’ past. Jesus simply shows up to be baptized in the Jordan river by John the Baptizer. In fact, we have more information about who John the Baptizer is than we do of Jesus at the start of Mark’s gospel.

This lack of information in Mark’s Gospel strikes me as being in line with God’s signature involvement in human affairs; the out-of-the-blue selection of someone no one would suspect. God chose a lot of average (and some unlikely) Joes and Marys throughout scripture to carry out God’s will.

For example, consider Abraham and Sarah who, in their seventies, were called to begin a journey to a promised land that their yet unborn offspring would inherit or a deceptive Jacob who steals his elder brother’s birthright or an arrogant dreamer, Joseph, who antagonizes his brothers with his prophetic dreams. Consider God’s choice of a murderer like Moses who is on the run for killing an Egyptian only to be called to return to Egypt and lead his people to the Promise Land or a young shepherd like David, thought to be a non-contender for the role of Israel’s king by his father Jesse.

In keeping with God’s signature move in human affairs, Mark places Jesus on the world stage simply as a person who shows up to be one of many who decide to turn things around in their lives by being baptized by John. This sparsity of information surrounding Jesus at the beginning of Mark’s gospel also serves as an invitation to get to know Jesus better as we follow his story through this gospel.

In Mark's gospel, a new day dawned when this previously unknown Jesus left the waters of John's baptism and found his life turned upside down by the immense revelation of being identified as God's beloved child and experiencing the pleasure of our Father descend on him as a renewing spirit.

When Jesus emerged from the waters of John's baptism, he found himself in new spiritual landscape. Being driven by that new spirit into the wilderness (scripture's universal metaphor for the world of our making) Jesus found himself equipped to deal with his own demons and, having dealt with them, found himself to be equipped to deal with ours.

* * * * *

There is a new day recognized in every baptism that takes place.

Like Jesus, baptism is our entry into our life-calling to be a child of God, no matter where we come from, what our circumstances are, or where this life's journey leads.

Like Jesus, we are sent into the wilderness of this world where we encounter our demons and those of others; those dark moments and places where we are tempted and feel threatened.

Like Jesus, we find strength through the Word of God instilled in us; that Word which sheds light on that darkness, which such darkness cannot overcome.

Like Jesus, we can find ourselves attended by angels, often unaware.

* * * * *

Heavenly Father, send your life-giving and life-sustaining light into our hearts that we may be guided by truth in the darkness of these times, and grant your holy angels to attend and protect us and our nation and the people of all the nations from forces of darkness that would tempt and threaten to disturb and disrupt, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN

*We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
Embraced by death he broke its fearful hold;
and our despair he turned to blazing joy.
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*We share by water in his saving death,
Reborn we share with him an Easter life
as living members of a living Christ.
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*The Father's splendor clothes the Son with life,
The Spirit's power shakes the Church of God.
Baptized we live with God the Three in One.
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*A new creation comes to life and grows
as Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood.
The universe restored and whole will sing:
Alleluia! Alleluia! AMEN.*

(John Brownlow Geyer, 1932)



THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of Love, we pray for the whole Church and our parish family. Guide your Church and this parish in the way of truth and love.

God of Healing, we pray for all those who are suffering from the effects of Covid-19. We pray for those in church family and those requesting our prayers: Bernard, Sue, Pat Christensen, Bev Ann, Pat Michels, Max, Hawk, Jolene, Darold, Somer, Ryan, and for those we hold in our hearts. On this Sunday we pray for Karen Whitehorse and Max Hawk. May all those in need experience the comfort and healing of your presence.

God of Joy, we pray for those celebrating birthdays: Syliva Crow (Jan. 16) May she find joy, happiness, and fulfillment in the coming year.

God our Protector, we pray for those affected by Covid-19; for healthcare workers around the world; for those who provide essential services, first responders, fire fighters, police. We pray for

the leaders of all nations, for all government officials every where, and for all those making decisions in times of crisis. Grant them protection and guide those in authority to make wise decisions.

God our Defender, we pray for the homeless and the jobless in our nation, and for those who have lost their homeland, their sense of security, and who find themselves dependent on the good will of others here at home and in strange lands; that their needs are met and grant them the comfort of your Holy Spirit.

God of Life, we pray for those who have died. May all the departed find life in you.

God of Mission, we pray for all bishops, priests, deacons, and all who serve your Church. Grant them guidance in their various ministries and guide us in our mission to enlarge the Family of Faith in our midst.

A PRAYER FOR OUR NATION

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

THE PRAYER FOR MISSION

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent you blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near; Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



**MAY THE LORD BLESS US AND KEEP US.
MAY THE LORD MAKE HIS FACE TO SHINE UPON US AND BE
GRACIOUS UNTO US.
MAY THE LORD LIFT UP HIS COUNTENANCE UPON US AND GIVE US
PEACE. AMEN**

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