

Sunday, January 10, 2010
Baptism of Our Lord
Holy Communion

Worship Assistants

FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:1-7

A reading from _____.

Near the end of their exile in Babylon, God promises to bring Israel home. They need no longer fear, because the one who formed and created and called them by name now claims and redeems them.

But now thus says the LORD,

he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.

²When 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.

³For 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.

⁴Because 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.

⁵Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;

⁶I 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 —

⁷everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 29

Refrain: The voice of the LORD is upon the waters. (Ps. 29:3)

- ¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glo-ry and strength.
- ²**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**
- ³The 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. R**
- ⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- ⁶**the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**
- ⁷The voice of the LORD
bursts forth in lightning flashes.
- ⁸**The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wildness of Kadesh. R**
- ⁹The 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!"
- ¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**
- ¹¹O LORD, give strength to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace. R

SECOND READING: Acts 8:14–17

A reading from _____.

Peter and John are sent by the church to the Christians in Samaria, recently converted through the preaching of Philip, who receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.

¹⁴Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Luke 3:15–17, 21–22

The holy gospel according to _____.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The last of the prophets of Israel, John the Baptist points ahead to "the one mightier than I [who] is coming." Although John baptizes with water, Jesus will baptize with the Spirit and fire. John's action in Jesus' baptism is minor, hardly mentioned. God is the actor, causing the Spirit to descend upon Jesus and inaugurating his mission with the proclamation that he is the "beloved Son.

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John 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. ¹⁷His 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."

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and 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."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Filled with the power of the Holy Spirit through baptism, let us come before the throne of God to offer prayers for the needs of the church and world.

That your Holy Spirit would descend on your church and set church leaders and the baptized ablaze with the fire of your love for all the world, God of light,
show us your glory and hear us.

That you would inspire people everywhere to work together in order to provide fresh and clean water for all, God of light,
show us your glory and hear us.

That you would bless the nations with the gift of peace, so that all people may live in safety and security, God of light,
show us your glory and hear us.

We pray that you would make known your presence to all in need: especially those living in

danger, those who are victims of natural disasters, and those who are sick (*especially*). May they hear your voice calling them your daughters and sons, and may that voice cast out their fear. God of light,

show us your glory and hear us.

That you would energize our congregation to welcome the stranger and the outsider among us and to see your Spirit at work in them, God of light,

show us your glory and hear us.

We give you thanks for all whom you called by name, claimed as your own in baptism, and who have died in Christ. May their courage in adversity remind us of your constant presence. God of light,

show us your glory and hear us.

God of faithfulness, through the revelation of your Son we stand before you without fear and lift up to you all in need. In Jesus' name hear and answer our prayers according to your steadfast love.

Amen.

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