



St. Martin's Episcopal Church
Bridgewater, New Jersey



An Abbreviated Celebration of the Holy Eucharist
with Spiritual Communion
January 10, 2021

The Feast of the Baptism of Jesus

Opening Hymn: Christ when for us you were baptized

*1 Christ, when for us you were baptized, God's Spirit on you came,
as peaceful as a dove, and yet as urgent as a flame.*

*2 God called you, "My beloved Son"; you are God's servant true,
sent to proclaim the reign of heaven, God's holy will do to.*

*3 Straightway and steadfast until death you then obeyed the call
to serve with free and willing heart, to give your life for all.*

*4 Baptize us with your Spirit, Lord; your cross on us be signed,
that likewise in God's service we may perfect freedom find.*

Priest: + Blessed be the One, Holy and Living God.

All: *Glory to God forever and ever.*

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 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people/ *Thanks be to God*

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.

Alleluia Verse

Priest: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased. Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel

The Holy Gospel of our + Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

All: 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." Mark 1:4-11

The Gospel of the Lord./ *All: Praise to you, O Christ.*

The Homily

The Rev. Dr. Robert Laws

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into

heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the + resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Intercessor: God of love, you revealed Jesus to be your Beloved Son in the waters of the Jordan River. Reveal your grace in us who have become your sons and daughters in the waters of baptism as serve the world in your name, and as we pray for the needs of our community and the world, saying, Lord hear our prayer.

Intercessor: For peace in the world and for the salvation of all, we pray to you O God of love, *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Intercessor: For your holy catholic church, that it may persevere in faith and hope, we pray to you O God of love, *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Intercessor: For the poor and the unemployed, the homeless, prisoners and refugees, we pray to you O God of love, *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Intercessor: For the sick and all who suffer in body, mind or spirit, especially *(insert names here)*, we pray to you O God of love, *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Intercessor: For all who have died, especially *(insert names here)*, we pray to you O God of love, *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Intercessor: In the communion of the Ever-Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Martin of Tours, and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God. *To you, O Lord our God.*

Priest: O God, in Jesus Christ you make us and all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory. *Amen.*

Confession of Sin and Absolution

Priest: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All: 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.

Priest: 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*

The Peace and The Offertory Sentence

The Liturgy of the Altar

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

Lift up your hearts. *We lift them to the Lord.*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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, Gracious God, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord; 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. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we say:

***Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he + who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.***

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with the Ever-Blessed Virgin Mary, the apostles, martyrs, prophets, St. Martin, and all your saints, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. 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 Fraction

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; *Therefore let us keep the feast.*
Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.
Happy are they who are called to the Supper of the Lamb.

*You are encouraged to make an act of spiritual communion during this time when we are not
able to receive the Most Blessed Sacrament. You may use your own prayer, or the following:*

An Act of Spiritual Communion (prayed silently)

In union, dear Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where your
blessed Body and Blood are being offered, I desire to offer you praise and
thanksgiving. I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament. Since
I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into
my heart. I unite myself to you, and embrace you with all the affections of my
soul. Let me never be separated from you. Let me live and die in your love.
Amen. Lord Jesus, come dwell in my heart.

Post Communion Prayer

*Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing
us with your grace. Now send us forth a people forgiven and renewed; that we
may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our
Savior. Amen.*

Blessing

Closing Hymn: *Earth has many a noble city*

*1. Earth has many a noble city; Bethlehem, thou dost all excel:
out of thee the Lord from heaven came to rule his Israel.*

*2. Fairer than the sun at morning was the star that told his birth,
to the world its God announcing seen in fleshly form on earth.*

*3. Eastern sages at his cradle make oblations rich and rare;
see them give, in deep devotion, gold and frankincense and myrrh.*

*4 Sacred gifts of mystic meaning: incense doth their God disclose,
gold the King of kings proclaimeth, myrrh his sepulcher foreshows.*

*5 Jesus, whom the Gentiles worshiped at thy glad epiphany,
unto thee, with God the Father and the Spirit, glory be.*

Dismissal