

READINGS FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 2022

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

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, 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 FIRST LESSON – ISAIAH 43:1-7

Judah has complained that God has deserted them, his people, in the destruction of Jerusalem and in their exile. God asks, through the prophet, “Who among you ... will attend and listen for the time to come?”

A Reading from the Word of God, written in the Book of the prophet Isaiah, Chapter 43, beginning at the first verse.

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.

When 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.

For 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.

Because 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.

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

I 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--

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

The Word of the Lord

The people: *Thanks be to God.*

PSALM 29

The majesty of God is described in the likeness of a tunderstorm; the Lord is mighty over land and sea.

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.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son:*
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now:*
and shall be forever. **Amen.**

THE SECOND READING: ACTS 8: 14-17

Philip, one of the seven chosen to ensure the welfare of widows, has proclaimed the good news in Samaria. Many have listened to what he has to say; some have been healed. Many have been baptised.

A Reading from the Word of God, written in the Book of Acts, Chapter 8, beginning at the fourteenth verse.

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

The Word of the Lord

The people: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL LUKE 3:15-17, 21-22

People flock to John the Baptist, responding to his urging to start new, ethical lives – as a way of preparing for Jesus. John has condemned those who seek his baptism with no intention of reforming their ways. Failure to respond to his call to repentance can lead to condemnation at the end of time.

Gospeler: The Lord be with you

All: And also with you

Gospeler: A Reading from the Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

All: Glory to Christ Our Saviour.

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John 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. His 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." Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and 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."

This is the Gospel of Christ

The people: Praise to Christ our Lord.

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NRSV