

The First Sunday after Epiphany: The Baptism of Our Lord

January 11, 2026

THE HOLY EUCHARIST (RITE II)

10:00 am



The Church of the Holy Spirit (Episcopal)

Knowing • Loving • Serving
God + Neighbor

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The Word of God

The Prelude

Shall We Gather at the River

arr. Dale Wood

Please stand as you are able as the bell is rung.

The Opening Hymn LEVAS 141 Shall we gather at the river

Robert Lowry

Celebrant Blessed be God: Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever;**
Celebrant There is one Body and one Spirit;
People **There is one hope in God's call to us;**
Celebrant One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
People **One God and creator of all.**

The Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

God 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.**

Please be seated for the scripture appointed.

The Lessons

A reading from the prophet 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.

People The Word of the Lord.
 Thanks be to God.

Psalm 29 (*Prayed responsively by half verse*)

- 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.

A reading from the book of 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.”

People The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able for the sequence hymn and the reading of the gospel.

The Sequence Hymn 121 Christ, when for us you were baptized

Caithness

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

Matthew 3:13-17

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.”

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Patrick C. Ward

Please stand as you are able for the Baptismal Covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant

Celebrant
People

Do you believe in God the Father?
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Celebrant
People

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
**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.**

Celebrant
People

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
**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.**

Celebrant
People

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and
fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?
I will, with God's help.

Celebrant
People

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever
you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
I will, with God's help.

Celebrant
People

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good
News of God in Christ?
I will, with God's help.

Celebrant
People

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving
your neighbor as yourself?
I will, with God's help.

Celebrant
People

Will you cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect
the beauty and integrity of all creation?
I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?
People **I will, with God's help.**

The Celebrant says

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 forever. **Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

In the light of this season, we bring our prayers before God.

For the Holy Church of God throughout the world, that we may be witnesses of Christ's Gospel of love to all people.

Enlighten the Church, O God.

For Julia, our bishop, and for all who minister in and from the church, that they may proclaim with zeal and pastor with tenderness. In our Diocesan cycle of prayer we remember St. John & St. James Church, Roxbury; Ecclesia Ministries and common cathedral, Boston; Hospitality Homes; The Diocesan Staff and The Massachusetts Council of Churches. In our parish cycle of prayer we pray for all who have served on our nominating committee.

Enlighten our Ministers, O God.

For all persons in public authority, that they may be people of trust and serve the common good.

Enlighten our State, O God.

For ourselves, that we may take to heart the plight of those of us who are poor, those of us who are homeless and destitute, and all who suffer due to human greed.

Enlighten our Conscience, O God.

For those who live in fear for their lives, their families, and their homes, that their prayers for relief may be heard and their lives of dignity restored. We remember before you those regions of the world torn apart by war or civil unrest, Ukraine and Russia, Israel and Gaza, Nigeria, Venezuela, Sudan, South Sudan and Haiti.

Enlighten our World, O God.

For those among us who are sick and infirm, especially Dick Anderson, Robert Blanchet, Terese Brown, Sally Drew, Bill & Judy Gardiner, Joan Kirkby, Barbara & Philip Sousa, Dottie Walsh, Alex, Bob, Carole, Cathi, Charlie, Dave, John, Lauren, Linnea, Pat and those we now name silently or aloud, that they may be delivered from their pain and distress and restored to wholeness of life.

We name silently or aloud those for whom we pray.

Enlighten our Darkness, O God.

For all who have died, including Marion S. Atwater, and for those we now name, that they may know God's peace and perfect freedom in a kingdom that is forever.

We name silently or aloud those who have died.

Enlighten our Hopes, O God.

That God's light may shine in the hearts of all people, that our hearts may be turned to one another, and that your name may be glorified not only with our lips but in our lives.

Enlighten our Hearts, O God.

As you were manifested in a stable stall, as you were manifested at the Jordan, as you were manifested in the radiance of the transfiguration,

Enlighten our Lives and be manifested to the world through us.

The Concluding Collect

Almighty and Everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and on earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The Greeting and Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

Benedictus

Dan Forrest

Benedictus, Benedictus, blessed is our Lord.

Benedictus, Benedictus, welcome his incarnate Word.

Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, will come to raise salvation's horn,
God incarnate, Word made flesh, to a virgin shall be born.

Benedictus, Benedictus, blessed is our Lord.

Benedictus, Benedictus, welcome his incarnate Word.

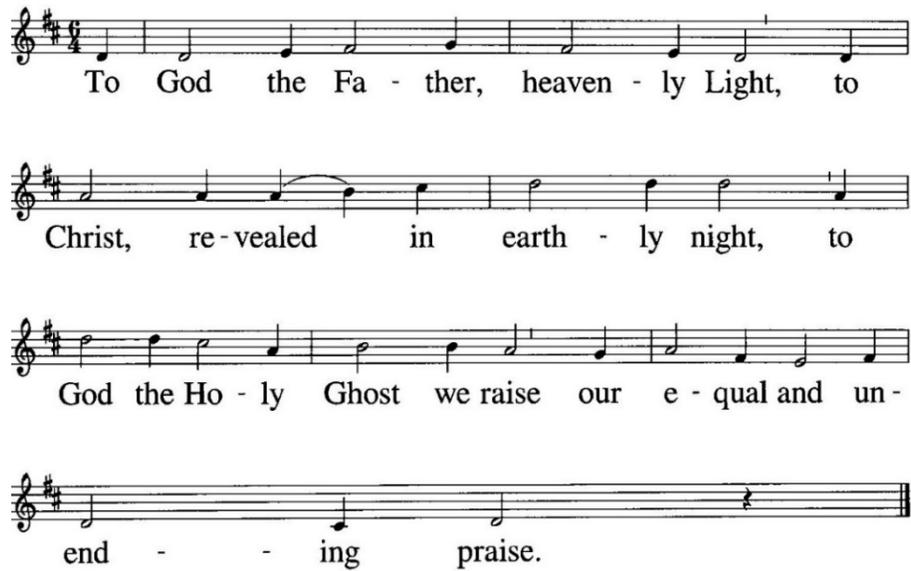
Christ brings light to sin's dark night, our dayspring from on high,
Saints and angels sing God's praise, all the earth and heavens reply.

Benedictus, Benedictus, blessed is our Lord.

Benedictus, Benedictus, welcome his incarnate Word.

Please stand as you are able as our offering is presented.

Hymn 124



To God the Fa - ther, heaven - ly Light, to
Christ, re - vealed in earth - ly night, to
God the Ho - ly Ghost we raise our e - qual and un -
end - - ing praise.

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord.

People **And of thine own have we given thee. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

Celebrant: 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 our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere 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 forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus S-128 Holy, holy, holy

Mathias

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.

You may remain standing, sit or kneel for the continuation of the Eucharistic prayer.

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,

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

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 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 Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, 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

This is the Body of Christ

John Bell



This is the bo-dy of Christ— bro-ken that we may be whole;— this cup, as



pro-mised by God, true to his word, cra-dles our Lord: food for the



good of the soul.

The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ lived, died and rose for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

We offer the following prayer each week in solidarity with those viewing from home.

The Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Holy Jesus, Redeemer of the World, we believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament of this altar. Even while some of us are unable to receive you in the elements of bread and wine, we invite you to enter our hearts and be our companion along the way. Waiting in hope, we know that you are present in every moment of our lives and will never leave us comfortless. For all good things come from you O Lord, and from that goodness, lead us to the love of others. For you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit now and forever. Amen.

All are welcome to receive the bread and/or the wine. You may stand or kneel to receive. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are also available; simply make your needs known to the person serving you. If you wish a blessing instead of the elements, cross your arms over your chest as the priest approaches you.

The Communion Hymns

Hymn 120 The sinless one to Jordan came

Solemnis haec festivitas

WLP Hymn 769 (green hymnal) I believe in God almighty

Arfon

Please stand as you are able.

The Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

Eternal God, by grace you accept us as living members of your Son Jesus Christ, and feed us with spiritual food in this sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace to do your work of reconciliation as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To Him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit may all creation sing hymns of thanks and praise. Amen.

The Epiphany Blessing

May Almighty God, who led the Magi by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light from Light, lead you also in your pilgrimage, to find the Lord. **Amen.**

May God, who sent the Holy Spirit to rest upon the Only-begotten at his baptism in the River Jordan, pour out that Spirit on you who have come to the waters of new birth. **Amen.**

May God, who turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana, transform your lives and make glad your hearts. **Amen.**

And may the blessing of God Almighty, who creates, redeems and sustains, be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

