



First Sunday after the Epiphany The Liturgy of the Word – January 10, 2021

Opening Hymn

#118 Brightest and best of the stars, vs. 1 & 2

1 Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid,
star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant redeemer is laid.

2 Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining,
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
angels adore him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.

Opening Acclamation

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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.**

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.

The Collect of the Day

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

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 Lessons

The First Reading

Genesis 1:1-5

A Reading from the Book of Genesis.

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 Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 29

Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, *

ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his Name; *

worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters;

the God of glory thunders; *

the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; *

the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.

The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; *

the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, *

and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

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.

**The 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!"

**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; *
the LORD sits enthroned as King for evermore.**

The LORD shall give strength to his people; *
the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.

The Second Reading

Acts 19:1-7

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— altogether there were about twelve of them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn

#119 As with gladness men of old, vs. 1 & 5

1 As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to thee.

5 In the heavenly country bright, need they no created light;
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down:
there for ever may we sing alleluias to our King.

The Gospel

Mark 1:4-11

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Mark.

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."

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Philip LaBelle

The Baptismal Covenant

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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.**

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.**

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers ?

I will, with God's help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

I will, with God's help.

The Prayers of the People

Form III

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**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.**

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 Lord's Prayer

**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 Peace

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

Announcements

Don't miss the Youth Group virtual brunch today at **11am** via Zoom! For more information and/or the link, contact Melissa LaBelle at tobeslabelle@mac.com

St. Mark's 2021 Annual Meeting will convene virtually on Sunday, January 31, following the service. Please mark your calendars! More details to follow.

The lovely poinsettias that adorned the altar during the Christmas season are now available in the parish hall for the taking. Brighten your day (or someone else's!) by taking as many plants as you like. The parish house is open Monday – Thursday, 9AM – 1PM.

Missing our church potlucks? Let's meet for dinner on Zoom on **January 24th at 6PM.** You'll find the link in the weekly email.

YG Mission Trip 2021 Informational Meeting—Wednesday, January 13th at 7PM via Zoom. All youth group families are encouraged to attend. Those considering their first mission trip are strongly encouraged to attend. Check the weekly email for the link!

Join us for virtual coffee hour each week following the 10am service. Find the link in the weekly email or on our Facebook page.

Closing Hymn

#124 *What star is this, vs. 1 & 4*

1 What star is this, with beams so bright, more beautiful than the noonday light?
It shines to herald for the King, and Gentiles to his crib to bring.

4 O Jesus, while the star of grace impels us on to seek thy face,
let not our slothful hearts refuse the guidance of thy light to use.

Blessing**Dismissal**

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God.