

Morning Prayer

January 8, 2025

Opening Sentence

Officiant I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.

Isaiah 49:6b

The Invitatory and Psalter

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People ***And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.***

Officiant and People ***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.***

Officiant Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:
Come let us adore him.

Jubilate

Psalm 100

**Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands;
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.**

**Know this: The Lord himself is God;
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.**

**For the Lord is good;
his mercy is everlasting;
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.**

The Psalm Appointed *(appointed for the day)*

Psalm 119: 1-24

**Happy are they whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the Lord!**

**Happy are they who observe his decrees
and seek him with all their hearts!**

**Who never do any wrong,
but always walk in his ways.**

**You laid down your commandments,
that we should fully keep them.**

**Oh, that my ways were made so direct
that I might keep your statutes!**

**Then I should not be put to shame,
when I regard all your commandments.**

**I will thank you with an unfeigned heart,
when I have learned your righteous judgments.**

**I will keep your statutes;
do not utterly forsake me.**

**How shall a young man cleanse his way?
By keeping to your words.**

**With my whole heart I seek you;
let me not stray from your commandments.**

**I treasure your promise in my heart,
that I may not sin against you.**

**Blessed are you, O Lord;
instruct me in your statutes.**

**With my lips will I recite
all the judgments of your mouth.**

**I have taken greater delight in the way of your decrees
than in all manner of riches.**

**I will meditate on your commandments
and give attention to your ways.**

**My delight is in your statutes;
I will not forget your word.**

**Deal bountifully with your servant,
that I may live and keep your word.**

**Open my eyes, that I may see
the wonders of your law.**

**I am a stranger here on earth;
do not hide your commandments from me.**

**My soul is consumed at all times
with longing for your judgments.**

**You have rebuked the insolent;
cursed are they who stray from your commandments!**

Turn from me shame and rebuke,
for I have kept your decrees.

Even though rulers sit and plot against me,
I will meditate on your statutes.

For your decrees are my delight,
and they are my counselors.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Lessons

A Reading from the Book of Ephesians

Ephesians 2: 1-10

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else.

⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ by grace you have been saved ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God ⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Canticle 16

The Song of Zechariah

Benedictus Dominus Deus

ILuke 1: 68-79

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;
he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior,
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
that he would save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham,
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear,
**holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.**

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Gospel

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

Mark 1: 29-45

People ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

²⁹As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once.

³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. ³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

⁴⁰A leper came to him begging him, and kneeling he said to him, "If you choose, you can make me clean." ⁴¹Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, "I do choose. Be made clean!" ⁴²Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. ⁴³After sternly warning him he sent him away at once, ⁴⁴saying to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer for

your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them." ⁴⁵But he went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the word, so that Jesus could no longer go into a town openly, but stayed out in the country; and people came to him from every quarter.

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

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant and People

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

The Prayers

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

***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.***

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;
R. ***And grant us your salvation.***

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

R. **Let your people sing with joy.**

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

R. **For only in you can we live in safety.**

V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;

R. **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

V. Let your way be known upon earth;

R. **Your saving health among all nations.**

V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

R. **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;

R. **And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

The 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.**

Prayers of Intercession and Thanksgiving

Officiant Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers, which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Spiritual Communion

Let us pray together a prayer for Spiritual Communion:

Lord Jesus, we believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. We are grateful to know there are many ways to experience your presence, but in whatever way we do, we know you come into our hearts, minds and souls. Unite my heart with those of my family of faith and make us all one with you. May this spiritual communion strengthen my faith and grant me confidence in your loving care now and forever. Amen.

The General Thanksgiving

Officiant Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks

for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up ourselves to your service,
and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. **Amen.**

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Officiant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Bible Study

Gospel: Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

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."

Reflection on Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

The first three verses of this text takes us immediately back to Advent. On the Third Sunday of Advent in Year C, we hear these verses toward the end of the gospel reading. As John urges the people to "bear fruits worthy of repentance," they begin to wonder if he might be the Messiah. No, he assures them, I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with fire and the Spirit.

Today we also hear Luke's brief account of Jesus' baptism. After Jesus' baptism, the Holy Spirit is bestowed upon him by God: "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.'" We get the sense that this baptism—Jesus' baptism—is different. This is not simply John's baptism of repentance, this is God's own son, specially anointed with the Spirit. Now that he has been identified by the very voice of God, his public ministry will begin to unfold.

- Just as Jesus' baptism was the beginning of his public ministry, your baptism was the beginning of your life in Christ. What is the ministry of the baptized?
- How do you live into that ministry?