

# The First Sunday after the Epiphany

## The Baptism of Our Lord

January 10, 2021

Liturgy of the Word and Holy Baptism – Rite II  
9:00 and 11:00 a.m.



### Welcome!

*We are delighted to have you join us for worship today! Everything you need to follow along with the service is contained in this bulletin.*

*The flowers at the altar are given to the glory of God  
and in thanksgiving for the baptism of my granddaughter, McKee Ezell Smith, and in memory of her great grandparents,  
Dr. David S. McKee and Mr. and Mrs. Cecil A. Pool, and her grandfather, Mr. Charles C. Smith, by Mary Kathryn Smith.*

**Voluntary** Canzona in G

Franz Tunder

### Welcome and Announcements

*All sing the*

**Opening Hymn** – Thy strong word did cleave the darkness (*Ton-y-botel*)

Thy strong word did cleave the darkness; at thy speaking it was done.

For created light we thank thee, while thine ordered seasons run.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise to thee who light dost send! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia without end!

Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness, dark as night and deep as death,  
broke the light of thy salvation, breathed thine own life-giving breath.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise to thee who light dost send! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia without end!

Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous; bright with thine own holiness,  
glorious now, we press toward glory, and our lives our hope confess.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise to thee who light dost send! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia without end!

God the Father, light-creator, to thee laud and honor be;  
to thee, Light from Light begotten, praise be sung eternally.

Holy Spirit, light-revealer, glory, glory be to thee; mortals, angels, now and ever Praise the holy Trinity!

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## THE WORD OF GOD

### Opening Acclamation

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

*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 Father of all.**

### Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* 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.**

**First 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.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm** – 29 *Anglican chant sung by the choir*

Chant: George Macfarren

- 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.

**Second Lesson** – Acts 19:1-7

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.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*All sing the*

**Sequence Hymn** – Christ, when for us you were baptized (*Caithness*)

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.

God called you his beloved Son, called you his servant true,  
sent you his kingdom to proclaim, his holy will to do.

Straightway and steadfast until death you then obeyed his call  
Freely as Son of Man to serve and give your life for all.

Baptize us with your Spirit, Lord, your cross on us be signed,  
That, likewise in God’s service we may perfect freedom find.

*Words by F. Bland Tucker © The Church Pension Fund; music from The Psalms of David in Prose and Meeter, 1655 © Public Domain.*

## Holy Gospel – Mark 1:4-11

*Clergy* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

*People* **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."

*Clergy* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Sermon** – The Rev. Tom Murray

**Offertory Anthem** – Brightest and best

Richard Shephard

*Brightest and best of the sons 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. 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. Shall we not yield Him, in costly devotion odors of Edom and offerings divine, gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean, myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine? Vainly we offer each ample oblation, vainly with gifts would His favor secure. Richer by far is the heart's adoration; dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.* – Text: Reginald Heber

## HOLY BAPTISM

### Presentation and Examination of the Candidates

*Celebrant* The Candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

*Parents and Godparents* I present McKee Ezell Smith to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

*Celebrant* Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

*Parents and Godparents* I will, with God's help.

*Celebrant* Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

*Parents and Godparents* I will, with God's help.

*Then the Celebrant asks the following questions of the parents and godparents who speak on behalf of the infants and younger children*

*Question* Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

*Answer* I renounce them.

*Question* Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

*Answer* I renounce them.

*Question* Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

*Answer* I renounce them.

*Question* Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

*Answer* I do.

*Question* Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

*Answer* I do.

*Question* Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

*Answer* I do.

*After all have been presented, the Celebrant addresses the congregation, saying*

*Celebrant* Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support this child in her life in Christ?

*People* **We will.**

*Celebrant* Let us join with this child who is committing herself to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

## The Baptismal Covenant

*Celebrant* Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

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

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

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

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

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Celebrant* Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Celebrant* Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

*People* **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.**

## Prayers for the Candidates

*Celebrant* Let us now pray for this child who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

*Leader* Deliver her, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Open her heart to your grace and truth.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Fill her with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Keep her in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Teach her to love others in the power of the Spirit.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Send her into the world in witness to your love.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Bring her to the fullness of your peace and glory.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Celebrant* 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 for ever.

*People* **Amen.**

## Thanksgiving over the Water

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant* We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life. We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water*

*Celebrant* Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever.

*People* **Amen.**

## The Baptism

*Celebrant* McKee Ezell, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*People* **Amen.**

*Celebrant* McKee, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever.

*People* **Amen.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon this child your servant the forgiveness of sin, and have raised her to the new life of grace. Sustain her, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give her an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works.

*People* **Amen.**

*Celebrant* Let us welcome the newly baptized.

*Celebrant and People* **We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.**

## The Peace

*Celebrant* The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

## Lord's Prayer

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

**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.**

## Prayers of the People – Form VI

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. For all people in their daily life and work;

**For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

For this community, the nation, and the world;

**For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

For the just and proper use of your creation;

**For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

**For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

**For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

For all bishops and other ministers;

**For all who serve God in his Church.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. *Silence – The People may add their own petitions.*

Hear us, Lord;

**For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. *Silence – The People may add their own thanksgivings.*

We will exalt you, O God our King;

**And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. *Silence – The People may add their own petitions.*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

**Who put their trust in you.**

Almighty and ever living God, whose steadfast love is with us in times of trouble; Guide this nation and its people during this time of uncertainty and fear; give wisdom and mercy to our leaders as they seek to protect the health and welfare of your people; strengthen our resolve to love and serve one another and keep this nation under your care. **Amen.**

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*All sing the*

**Closing Hymn – O love how deep** (*Deus tuorum militum*)

O love, how deep, how broad, how high, how passing thought and fantasy,  
that God, the Son of God, should take our mortal form for mortals' sake!

For us baptized, for us he bore his holy fast and hungered sore;  
for us temptations sharp he knew; for us the tempter overthrew.

For us he rose from death again; for us he went on high to reign;  
for us he sent his Spirit here to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

All glory to our Lord and God for love so deep, so high, so broad;  
the Trinity whom we adore forever and forevermore.

*Words Latin, 15<sup>th</sup> century, trans. Benjamin Webb; music Antiphoner, 1753, harm. Basil Harwood; both © Public Domain..*

**Blessing**

**Dismissal**

*Clergy* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Voluntary** Prelude in G minor

Franz Tunder

**Baptized into the Body of Christ**

McKee Ezell Smith – Parents: Jordan and Robb Smith

**Music Notes**

Today is the first Sunday after the Epiphany, also known as the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord, and this is often a day when we baptize some of our own church members. In the sequence hymn and the final hymn, we sing specifically about Christ's baptism, while the opening hymn reflects the reading from Genesis about the creation of light. The anthem reminds us again of Epiphany: the light and the star.

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