

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - 7 JANUARY 2024 THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

HOLY BAPTISM AND COMMUNION

READINGS: GENESIS 1:1-5; PSALM 29; ACTS 19:1-7; MARK 1:4-11

WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT YOU ARE WITH US THIS MORNING! THIS BULLETIN WILL GUIDE YOU THROUGH OUR WORSHIP. YOU CAN FIND THE NUMBERED HYMNS IN THE BLUE HYMNAL. AT COMMUNION TIME ALL ARE INVITED TO COME FORWARD AND SHARE IN THE EUCHARIST. THE BREAD IS TAKEN IN THE PALM OF THE RIGHT HAND; IF RECEIVING THE WINE, EITHER DIP (INTINCT) THE BREAD OR SIP FROM THE CUP. YOUR FOLDED HANDS WILL SIGNAL THE PRIEST THAT YOU WOULD PREFER A BLESSING.

FLOWERS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD BY Nancy Bierley and family and in celebration of the baptism Nancy's great-grandson, George John Vens.

**Hymn 76, On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry**

THE WORD OF GOD

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

There is one Body and one Spirit; **There is one hope in God's call to us.**

One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism; **One God and Father of all.**

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.**

*all sing*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** 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 people are seated.*

A Reading from the Book of Genesis

In our opening lesson, we read the beginning of the story of creation brings forth light and separates that light from darkness.

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.**

*In Psalm 29, the majesty of God is described in the likeness of a thunderstorm: the Lord is mighty over land and sea.*

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. **R.** 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; **R.** 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. **R.**

A Reading from the Book of Acts

In our second reading, the apostle Paul continues to travel through Asia Minor carrying the good news of Jesus to Jew and Gentile alike.

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.**

**Ye watchers and ye holy ones, bright seraphs, cherubim and thrones, raise the glad strain, Alleluia!  
Cry, out dominions, principedoms, powers, virtues, archangels, angels' choirs: Alleluia! (5x)**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord, 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.**

Sermon -- The Rev. Michael L. Bradley, rector

Holy Baptism – George John Vens

## Holy Communion

### Offertory Hymn 135, Songs of Thankfulness and Praise, Jesus, Lord to Thee We Raise

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

God of hope, in your Holy Spirit you hovered over the face of the waters in creation . . . And so we gladly thank you, with saints and angels and archangels, and all the company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending praise:

*The celebrant continues with the Prayer of Consecration, Memorial Acclamation, and Great Amen.*

*After all have received, please stand and pray together:*

Gracious God; **We thank you for feeding us this day with the holy food of the Body and Blood of your Son, and for uniting us through him in the fellowship of your Holy Spirit. We thank you for the gift and heritage of children, and for the love and patience of parents entrusted with their care. Be with George Vens, newest member of your Church, as he begins his journey of faith in you. We pray that he may be an example of grace and hope to the world, in word and action, in justice and dignity, and in holiness of life. Sustain him all his days, hold him safely in the palm of your hand, and bring him at last to dwell forever with your saints in your heavenly home. All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord, pastor and shepherd of us all. Amen.**

The blessing of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Let us go forth to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### Hymn 119, As With Gladness Men Of Old Did The Guiding Star Behold

Our Mission: We share the light of Christ by loving and serving our neighbors in the world.

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