



Rector's Message

Today's Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, leads us to Jesus who was baptized in the river Jordan. The Father recognizes him as his beloved Son and the Holy Spirit prepares him for his mission of service and sacrifice.

By accepting Baptism, Jesus made himself one with sinners, with outcasts and with those who experience any form of poverty, to bring them God's forgiveness and life. Through his Baptism, Jesus aligns himself fully with our humanity. He is a 'high priest' able to save others with compassion, because he lives a fully human life.

Through Baptism, Jesus accepted the difficult mission the Father placed before him. Jesus' baptism would not only be with water, but ultimately would involve a baptism into suffering and death on our behalf.

Through baptism, we have become one with Christ. We are given the grace and strength we need to walk the way of Jesus. Like him, each of us is asked to accept a mission to be a good servant of God in the care of others. God bless you and have a great week.

Michael+

St. John's Anglican Church
Lunenburg, Nova Scotia

Rector: Archdeacon Michael H. Mitchell

*To all who mourn or need comfort,
To all who are weary and need rest,
To all who seek friendship,
To all who desire to grow in relationship with God
To all who yearn to pray,
To all who need a Saviour, And to all whoever will worship,
This Church of St. John's opens wide its doors
and in the name of Christ our Lord, says - WELCOME.*

LAY MINISTERS TODAY
Lay Readers: 8:30 am Barbara Eisenhauer
Lectors: 8:30 am Susan Foote, Carolyn Hogg

NEXT SUNDAY JANUARY 15TH
Lay Readers: 8:30 am Barbara Eisenhauer
10:30 am Susan MacMillan, Sharon Green
Lectors: 8:30 am Ed Jordan, Sandra Jordan
10:30am Rose Conrad, Heather Eisenhauer; Server: Aisling Curtin
Sidespersons: 10:30 am Betty & Elroy Creaser

There will be **NO** regular church service at 10:30am this morning. Instead there is a combined Anglican-Lutheran Service being held at Zion Lutheran Church beginning at 11am. All are welcome.

The Holy Eucharist

Book of Common Prayer, beginning on page 67

The Collect of the Day

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit, keep your children, born of water and the Spirit, faithful to their calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

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. ISAIAH 42:1-9
The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALM REFRAIN

The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

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 splendour. R

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. R

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!" 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 PSALM 29

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS

Peter began to speak to the Gentiles: "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." ACTS 10:34-43
The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Reader The Lord be with you. People And with thy spirit.

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

People Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Then 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 fulfil 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." MATTHEW 3:13-17
The Gospel of Christ. Praise be to thee, O Christ.

NOTICE

ANNUAL REPORTS

It is time once again to start preparation of Committee Reports for our Annual Report. We are asking that all reports be emailed to Mary at the Parish Office no later than January 20th - that is less than 2 weeks away. Perhaps you could start working at your report this weekend, just to get it done and off your plate. Many thanks to all.