

January 10, 2021
1st Sunday after Epiphany
Baptism of the Lord

PRELUDES

Siciliano
Teach Me How to Pray

Dominico Scarlatti
James Southbridge

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 29:3, 9)

L: The voice of the Lord is over the waters,

P: And in the temple God's people say: **Glory!**

WELCOMING SONG #475

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Nettleton

(verse one)

Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!

(verse two)

Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

(verse three)

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

CALL TO CONFESSION (from Luke 3:4): 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life, making us part of the body of Christ. We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves, divided from others. We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges, allow the past to hold us captive, and show reluctance to welcome one another. Have mercy on us and free us from sin. Fulfill the promise of our baptism so that we may rise to new life and live together in grace.

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (from Luke 3:22b)

"And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved, with you I am well pleased.'" In the name of Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

SONG OF RESPONSE #137*He Came Down***He Came Down**

He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
 he came down that we may have love; hallelujah forevermore.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us so that we may receive your grace and live as your beloved children. Give us ears to hear and hearts to follow your living Word. AMEN.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING – Luke 3:1-14

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’” ⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” ¹⁰And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” ¹¹In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

ANTHEM*In the Bleak Midwinter*

Holst

Soloist: Marilyn Rodenhausen

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING – Luke 3:15-22

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John 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. ¹⁷His 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.” ¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. ¹⁹But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother’s wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, ²⁰added to them all by shutting up John in prison. ²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and 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.”

SERMON*“What Then Should We Do?”*

Rev. John Wahl

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Morning Reverie

Gerald Peterson

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SENDING SONG #177

I Will Come to You

You Are Mine

(verse one)

I will come to you in the silence; I will lift you from all your fear.
You will hear my voice; I claim you as my choice. Be still and know I am here.

(verse two)

I am hope for all who are hopeless; I am eyes for all who long to see.
In the shadows of the night, I will be your light. Come and rest in me.

(refrain)

Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine.

(verse three)

I am strength for all the despairing, healing for the ones who dwell in shame.
All the blind will see; the lame will all run free, and all will know my name.

(refrain)

Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine.

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Give Praise to God

George Frideric Handel