

Year B; Baptism of the Lord
Liturgical Elements
Developed for January 7, 2024
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- Genesis 1:1-5
- Psalm 29
- Acts 19:1-7
- Mark 1:4-11

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from Psalm 29*)

One: Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

All: Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name; worship the LORD in holy splendor.

One: The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over mighty waters.

All: The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

One: The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.

All: The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness.

One: The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, "Glory!"

All: The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king for ever.

One: May the LORD give strength to his people!

All: May the LORD bless his people with peace! Let us worship God!

***CALL TO CONFESSION** (*from Mark 1*)

John the Baptist ministered in the wilderness dressed in camel's hair and a leather belt. His message was one calling for people to change their ways and to seek forgiveness. Let us now confess our sins, turn from sinful ways, and seek God's forgiveness.

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*from Mark 1*)

Gracious God, we have been baptized into your Spirit. The passing of waters upon us has symbolized our dying to ourselves and our rising to our Lord Jesus Christ. We do not always live into our baptism, however. That supposedly dead, selfish person within us breaks free. We live into our own desires over and above yours far too often. Forgive our sinfulness, O Lord. Help us to live into your ways, your law, and your Spirit. We pray this in the name of our Lord Jesus, who did live into those commitments perfectly. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (*from Mark 1*)

John's ministry also pointed to Jesus, who came that we might be forgiven and enjoy God's promise of eternal life. Repent, believe, trust in God, and know that you are forgiven. Friends, hear and believe this good news.

All: Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*from Mark 1*)

One God of three persons, you sent messengers ahead of Jesus to teach your ways, but, eventually, you sent your son, Jesus — both fully God and human. He came that we might know you, might change our ways, might be forgiven, and might have eternal life. Shortly, though, after he ascended to be with you, God the Father, you sent your Holy Spirit to guide your believers. Thank you for shepherding us in all ages and continuing to endure with us. In thanksgiving, we return these gifts for the work of your church on earth. Amen.

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