

**The First Sunday after the Epiphany
The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

St. John's Episcopal Church, Ithaca NY

January 12, 2025 Year C

10:30 am

* indicates please stand

Prelude Adagio (Sonata in E minor)

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

***Processional Hymn** On Jordan's Bank (*Winchester New*)

Hymnal #76

***Opening Acclamation**

BCP 355

***Collect For Purity**

***Gloria**

Hymnal #S-278

Collect of the Day

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

Isaiah 43:1-7

Thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 29

Sung by the choir

Afferte Domino

1 Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, *
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders; *
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his Name; *
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

- 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.

The Epistle Reading

Acts 8:14–17

When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Gradual** The Sinless One to Jordan Came (*Solemnis Haec*)

Hymnal #120 vv. 1–3

***The Gospel Reading**

Luke 3:15–17, 21–22

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
Glory be to thee, O Lord.

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John 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. His 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."

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to thee, O Christ.

***Sequence** The Sinless One to Jordan Came (*Solemnis Haec*)

Hymnal #120 vv. 4–6

The Sermon

The Rev. Kit Tobin

***The Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin
Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the
Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living
and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the
giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the
Son.
With the Father and the Son he is
worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and
apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the
forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. *Amen.*

***The Prayers of the People**

Through Christ we are anointed with the Holy Spirit in baptism. May the same Spirit inspire us as we offer our prayers, responding, "Hear us, God of Glory."

+ For an overflowing gift of generosity, that we may reflect God's abundant care for all of creation, lifting others out of systemic poverty, increasing the mission work of our churches, and reaping the joy of a philanthropic life; let us pray.

Hear us, God of Glory.

+ For the courage to walk through the tranquil and turbulent waters of life, knowing that in our baptism we died with Christ in darkness and joined him in the risen light; let us pray.

Hear us, God of Glory.

+ For our President, and all who exercise authority in the nations of the world, that they will faithfully establish justice on earth, and carry the torch of freedom and peace into all their deliberations; let us pray.

Hear us, God of Glory.

+ For the Church, that it may bear witness to Jesus' forgiveness and love, offering to those outside its walls the light that illumines all darkness and releases humanity from the grip of sin; let us pray.

Hear us, God of Glory.

+ That we may know our identity through the voice of God, who claims us as his beloved sons and daughters, and invites us to share in his earthly mission; let us pray.

Hear us, God of Glory.

+ In thanksgiving for the Body and Blood of Christ, a foretaste of that heavenly banquet upon which the faithful departed continually feast; let us pray.

Hear us, God of Glory.

In companionship with the Blessed Virgin Mary, and all the saints whose constant intercession strengthens our faith, let us continue our prayers.

Almighty God of mercy and compassion, you sent your Son Jesus to teach us the things that make for peace; help the leaders of this world to lay down their weapons of war. Help those who make decisions on behalf of the people of Israel and of Gaza to safeguard human life and flourishing and turn away from death and destruction. Help us living in the United States to use our liberty and safety to speak on behalf of those who live in deprivation and danger, and save us from denial and complicity in the evils we deplore, and as we labor, give comfort, strength, and safety to all of your children in the land we call Holy. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For the special needs and concerns of our congregation, and especially for:

Roger	Shirley	Cece	Miranda	Jane
Charles	Bev	Linda	Cathey	
Wes	Virginia	Howard	Joan	

For those celebrating the anniversary of their birth this week:
Virginia Fenton, Cassidy Richardson, Ceril Sandstrom

Confession Of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

***The Peace**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Announcements & Welcome

Offertory Sentence

Anthem If Ye Love Me

Thomas Tallis (1505–1585)

If ye love me, keep my commandments.
And I will pray the Father, And He shall give you another comforter,
That He may 'bide with you forever; E'en the sp'rit of truth.

***Presentation Hymn** Sing Praise to our Creator (*Christus, der ist mein leben*) **Hymnal #295**

***The Great Thanksgiving**

Expanded Language Prayer A

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts

People: We lift them to the Lord

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

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant: *continuing:* Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Holy, holy, holy (*Sanctus*)

Hymnal #S-128

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and when we had fallen into sin and became subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, Sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and maker of all.

Jesus stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, He gave it to them, and said "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died

Christ is risen

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in Christ.

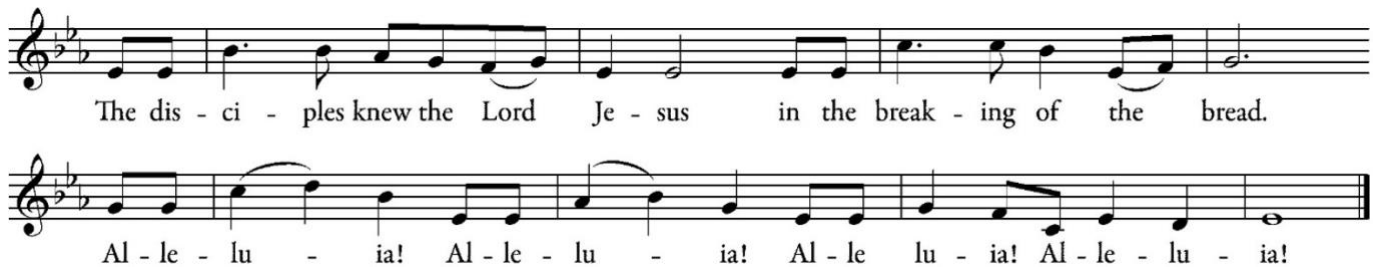
Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day, bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Fraction Anthem

Michael McCarthy (b. 1955)



The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus in the break - ing of the bread.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The Communion of the People

All people are invited to the Lord's Table.

Eucharist will be distributed in the center aisle. Please come forward in a single line to receive.

You may either intinct your wafer or you may drink from the common chalice after consuming the wafer.

Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

Communion Music Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized (*Caithness*) **Hymnal #121**

When Jesus Went to Jordan's Stream (*Christ unser Herr*) **Hymnal #139**

Post Communion Prayer

*Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage*

*to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Blessing

***Recessional** O Love, How Deep (*Deo Gracias*)

Hymnal #449

Dismissal

Postlude Sortie

Noel Rawsthorne (1929–2019)

Liturgical Ministers: Josette Garrison, Daniella Ripperton, Sara VanLooy

Virtual Vergers: Sara VanLooy, Michael Roman

Today we welcome the Rev. Kit Tobin as celebrant and guest preacher.

*The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God in memory of Col. Richard Comstock
by Richard Comstock, Jr.*

St. John's extends a warm welcome to visitors!

May you experience the Lord's presence during worship. Please fill out a visitor card and place it in the offering plate and stay for coffee in the parish hall after the service.

**LARGE PRINT EDITIONS OF THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER ARE
AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX.**

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from
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Office email: office@stjohnsithaca.org

“Like” us on facebook @ Saint John's Episcopal Church

Office Hours Monday thru Thursday 10–3

Rector

Beverly Way, Senior Warden
Ilze Lemesis, Parish Administrator
Timothy E. Smith, Director of Music/Organist

Pamela Talbott, Junior Warden
Chuck Merrill, Weekday Sexton

If you need pastoral assistance, please call or text the Senior Warden at 607-232-4465.

If you would like to contribute to our ministries, you may make a secure donation at <https://stjohnsithaca.org/donate/>. Thank you!

Sign up for our weekly newsletter [The Fledgling](#) by contacting the church office.

Please Join Us for Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall immediately following the service. Masks are optional when you are not actively eating or drinking.

Forward Day by Day for **November, December, and January** is available on the table in the rear of the church.

Flowers: If you wish to give candles or Sunday flowers in memory of a loved one, please call the church office (607-273-6532).

The First Sunday after the Epiphany
The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ

January 12, 2025 Year C

Hymns

On Jordan's Bank (*Winchester New*)
Hymnal #76

1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.

2 Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
and let each heart prepare a home
where such a mighty guest may come.

3 For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge, and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away
like flowers that wither and decay.

4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.

5 All praise, eternal Son, to thee,
whose advent doth thy people free;
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Spirit evermore.

The Sinless One to Jordan Came
(*Solemnis Haec*)
Hymnal #120

1 The sinless one to Jordan came
To share our fallen nature's blame;
God's righteousness he thus fulfilled
And chose the path his Father willed.

2 Uprising from the waters there,
The voice from heaven did witness bear
That he, the Son of God, had come
To lead his scattered people home.

3 Above him see the heavenly Dove,
The sign of God the Father's love,

Now by the Holy Spirit shed
Upon the Son's anointed head.

4 How blest that mission then begun
To heal and save a race undone;
Straight to the wilderness he goes
To wrestle with his people's foes.

5 Dear Lord, let those baptized from sin
Go forth with you, a world to win,
And send the Holy Spirit's power
To shield them in temptation's hour.

6 On you shall all your people feed
And know you are the Bread indeed,
Who gives eternal life to those
That with you died, and with you rose.

Words: From *English Praise*. By permission of Oxford University Press.

Sing Praise to our Creator
(*Christus, der ist mein leben*)
Hymnal #295

1 Sing praise to our Creator, O you of
Adam's race—
God's children by adoption, baptized into his
grace.

2 To Jesus Christ give glory, God's coeternal
Son;
as members of his Body we live in Him as
one.

3 And praise the Holy Spirit poured forth
upon the earth;
who sanctifies and guides us, made strong in
our rebirth.

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Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized
(Caithness)
Hymnal #121

1 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.

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

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

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

When Jesus Went to Jordan's Stream
(Christ unser Herr)
Hymnal #139

1 When Jesus went to Jordan's stream his
Father's will obeying, and was baptized by
John, there came a voice from heaven saying,
"This is my dear beloved Son upon whom
rests my favor." And till God's will is fully
done he will not bend or waver, for he is
Christ the Savior.

2 The Holy Spirit then was shown, a dove on
him descending; the Triune God is thus
made known in Christ as love unending. He
taught, he healed, he raised the dead, yet, in
his great endeavor to save us, his own blood
was shed; but death could hold him never.
He rose, and lives forever.

3 He came by water and by blood to heal our
lost condition; he cleanses, reconciles to
God, and gives the Great Commission. Then
let us not heed worldly lies nor rest upon our
merit, but trust in Christ who will baptize
with water and the Spirit that we may life
inherit.

O Love, How Deep (*Deo Gracias*)
Hymnal #449

1 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!

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

3 For us he prayed; for us he taught;
for us his daily works he wrought:
by words and signs and actions, thus
still seeking not himself, but us.

4 For us to wicked hands betrayed,
scourged, mocked, in purple robe arrayed,
he bore the shameful cross and death;
for us gave up his dying breath.

5 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.

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