



St George's Anglican Church | Malvern

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

7 January 2018

SENTENCE

God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; and he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. *Acts 10.38*

Collect of the Day

Spirit of energy and change,
by whose power Jesus was anointed
to be the hope of the nations:
be poured out also upon us
without reserve or distinction,
that we may have confidence and strength
to implant your justice on the earth. **Amen.**

A Reading from the book of Genesis

The story of the creation of light, from the first of the two accounts of creation in Genesis. This links with John's Gospel speaking of the Word made flesh, "What has come into being in him was life and the life was the light of all people."

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.
Genesis 1:1-5

Reader: Hear the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Psalm 29. APBA page 248

This psalm is a hymn to the God of the storm. Above the tumult of the storm, god reigns in majestic peace.

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Paul found believers in Ephesus who were ignorant of such Christian customs as baptism in Jesus' name. (Baptism in the name of the Trinity, now necessary for a baptism to be valid, came later. The other two necessity for baptism are water and a profession of faith by the candidate.) They were thus baptized and this resulted in various ecstatic phenomena as on the day of Pentecost, indicating that the same Holy Spirit as was poured out then was given in baptism.

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.
Acts 19:1-7

Reader May your word live in us

All And bear much fruit to your glory

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia.

The heavens opened and the voice of the Father was heard:
this is my Son, the Beloved; the one on whom my favour rests.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Reader The Lord be with you

All And also with you

Reader The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

All Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

This is Mark's account of the ministry of John and the baptism of Jesus. In all that Mark proceeds to narrate about him, Jesus shows himself to be the Son and the servant of God. Thus Mark means us to read the baptism of Jesus as the first in a series of epiphanies, revealing to us, though not yet at the time to Jesus' contemporaries, the significance of the whole story that is to follow.

John the baptiser 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." *Mark 1.4-11*

Reader For the Gospel of the Lord
ALL Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Almighty God, who anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son: inspire us, your children, who are born again of water and the Spirit, to surrender our lives to your service, that we may rejoice to be called your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pray for the Faithful Departed

We remember before God, Colin Cave, John Gregory, Nola Watson, Stanley Owen, Gregory Edmund Campion Gibson, Cynthia McInnes, Florence Scott, Ross Rampling, and Elsie Frances Summons
whose anniversaries occur this week.

COMMEMORATIONS OF THE WEEK.

January 10 William Laud (1573-1645). Archbishop of Canterbury, one of the most learned and interesting figures of the Reformation period. He was martyred by the Puritans whose Calvinist theology he opposed right from his earliest days as President of St John's College, Oxford. Laud favoured many practices we still maintain the Anglican Church, such as the communion table being at the east end of the Church. Unfortunately he imposed his views with a heavy hand and when he had the power the Puritans arrested him and three years later tried him without regard to the demands of justice. He was beheaded on Tower Hill. In doctrinal matters he was broad-minded and conciliatory but he failed to judge the popular protestant mood in his defence of the Anglican Church.

January 13 Hilary of Potiers (c.315-368). Bishop and teacher and a strong defender of orthodoxy.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY Second Sunday After Epiphany

1 Samuel 3.1-10 Psalm 139.1-5,12-18 1 Corinthians 6.12-20
John 1.43-51

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