

hearts and lives. It was a baptism that told people about the one who was coming after him. This is the one in whom they were to believe. This one is Jesus.”⁵After they listened to Paul, they were baptized in

the name of the Lord Jesus.⁶When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in other languages and prophesying.⁷Altogether, there were about twelve people.

THE GOSPEL Mark 1:4-11

¹John was in the wilderness calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins.²Everyone in Judea and all the people of Jerusalem went out to the Jordan River and were being baptized by John as they confessed their sins.³John wore clothes made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey.⁴He announced, “One stronger than I am is coming after me. I’m not even worthy to bend

over and loosen the strap of his sandals.⁵I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

⁹About that time, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River.¹⁰While he was coming up out of the water, Jesus saw heaven splitting open and the Spirit, like a dove, coming down on him.¹¹And there was a voice from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness.”

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

January 7, 2018



THE LESSON Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise! Shine! Your light has come; the LORD’s glory has shone upon you.²Though darkness covers the earth and gloom the nations, the LORD will shine upon you; God’s glory will appear over you.³Nations will come to your light and kings to your dawning radiance.⁴Lift up your eyes and look all around: they are all gathered; they have come to you. Your sons will come from far

away, and your daughters on caregivers’ hips.⁵Then you will see and be radiant; your heart will tremble and open wide, because the sea’s abundance will be turned over to you; the nations’ wealth will come to you.⁶Countless camels will cover your land, young camels from Midian and Ephah. They will all come from Sheba, carrying gold and incense, proclaiming the LORD’s praises.

THE RESPONSE Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

God, give your judgments to the king. Give your righteousness to the king’s son.

²Let him judge your people with righteousness and your poor ones with justice.

³Let the mountains bring peace to the people; let the hills bring righteousness.

⁴Let the king bring justice to people who are poor; let him save the children of those who are needy, but let him crush oppressors!

⁵Let the king live as long as the sun, as long as the moon, generation to generation.

⁶Let him fall like rain upon fresh-cut grass, like showers that water the earth.

⁷Let the righteous flourish throughout their lives, and let peace prosper until the moon is no more.

¹⁰Let the kings of Tarshish and the islands bring tribute; let the kings of Sheba and Seba present gifts.

¹¹Let all the kings bow down before him; let all the nations serve him.

¹²Let it be so because he delivers the needy who cry out, the poor, and those who have no helper.

¹³He has compassion on the weak and the needy; he saves the lives of those who are in need.

¹⁴He redeems their lives from oppression and violence; their blood is precious in his eyes.

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THE EPISTLE Ephesians 3:1-12

This is why I, Paul, am a prisoner of Christ for you Gentiles.

²You've heard, of course, about the responsibility to distribute God's grace, which God gave to me for you, right? ³God showed me his secret plan in a revelation, as I mentioned briefly before (⁴when you read this, you'll understand my insight into the secret plan about Christ). ⁵Earlier generations didn't know this hidden plan that God has now revealed to his holy apostles and prophets through the Spirit. ⁶This plan is that the Gentiles would be coheirs and parts of the same body, and that they would share with the Jews in the promises of God in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

THE GOSPEL Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. ²They asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We've seen his star in the east, and we've come to honor him."

³When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. ⁴He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They said, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote: ⁶'You, Bethlehem, land of Judah, by no means are you least among the rulers of Judah, because from you will come one who governs, who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from

⁷I became a servant of the gospel because of the grace that God showed me through the exercise of his power.

⁸God gave his grace to me, the least of all God's people, to preach the good news about the immeasurable riches of Christ to the Gentiles. ⁹God sent me to reveal the secret plan that had been hidden since the beginning of time by God, who created everything. ¹⁰God's purpose is now to show the rulers and powers in the heavens the many different varieties of his wisdom through the church. ¹¹This was consistent with the plan he had from the beginning of time that he accomplished through Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹²In Christ we have bold and confident access to God through faith in him.

them the time when the star had first appeared. ³He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you've found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him." ⁵When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. ¹¹They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

BAPTISM OF THE LORD



THE LESSON Genesis 1:1-5

When God began to create the heavens and the earth—²the earth was without shape or form, it was dark over the deep sea, and God's wind swept over the waters—³God said, "Let there be light." And

so light appeared. ⁴God saw how good the light was. God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God named the light Day and the darkness Night.

There was evening and there was morning: the first day.

THE RESPONSE Psalm 29

You, divine beings! Give to the LORD—give to the LORD glory and power!

²Give to the LORD the glory due his name! Bow down to the LORD in holy splendor!

³The LORD's voice is over the waters; the glorious God thunders; the LORD is over the mighty waters.

⁴The LORD's voice is strong; the LORD's voice is majestic.

⁵The LORD's voice breaks cedar trees—

yes, the LORD shatters the cedars of Lebanon.

⁶He makes Lebanon jump around like a young bull, makes Sirion jump around like a young wild ox.

⁷The LORD's voice unleashes fiery flames;

⁸the LORD's voice shakes the wilderness—

yes, the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

⁹The LORD's voice convulses the oaks, strips the forests bare,

but in his temple everyone shouts, "Glory!"

¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned over the floodwaters; the LORD sits enthroned—king forever!

¹¹Let the LORD give strength to his people! Let the LORD bless his people with peace!

THE SECOND LESSON

Acts 19:1-7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul took a route through the interior and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you came to believe?"

They replied, "We've not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

³Then he said, "What baptism did you receive, then?"

They answered, "John's baptism."

⁴Paul explained, "John baptized with a baptism by which people showed they were changing their