

Grace Episcopal Church

The First Sunday after Epiphany:
The Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ
January 12, 2025
The Holy Eucharist: Rite II
10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

Trumpet in Dialogue - L. N. Clerambault

PROCESSION HYMN #116

"I come," the great Redeemer cries



- 1 "I come," the great Re-deem er cries, "to do thy will, O Lord!"
- 2 "Thus it be-comes us to ful-fill all right-eous-ness," he said.
- 3 Hark, a glad voice! The Fa ther speaks from heaven's ex alt ed height:
- 4 The Sa vior Je sus, well be loved! His Name we will pro fess, 5 No more we'll count our selves our own but his in bonds of love.
- - 1 At Jor-dan's stream, be hold! He seals the sure pro phet ic word.
 - 2 Then, faith ful to the Lord's com-mands, through Jor-dan's flood was led.
 - 3 "This is my Son, my well-be-loved, in whom I take de-light."
 - 4 like him de sir ous to ful fill God's will in right-eous ness.
 - 5 Oh, may such bonds for ev er draw our souls to things a bove!

355 OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GLORIA (Sung by all)



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THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

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.**

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 43:1-7

Lector A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

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 (responsively, by whole verse)

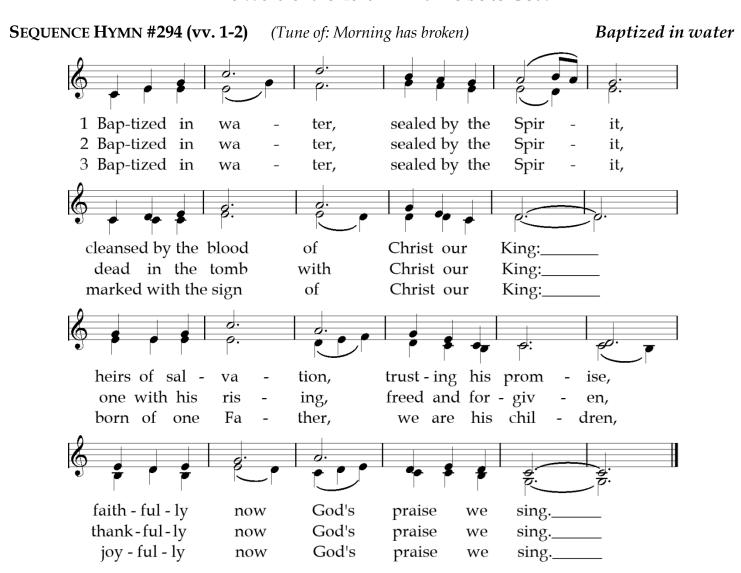
- ¹ Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- ² Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his Name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.
- ³ The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
- ⁴ The voice of the LORD 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.

Lector A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

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.



THE GOSPEL Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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 People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SEQUENCE HYMN #294 (v. 3)

Baptized in water

THE HOMILY

The Reverend Edward Kelaher

358 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.

392 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (FORM VI)

The Leader and People pray responsively

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work; For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world; we pray for Joe our President, Josh our Governor, Jason our Mayor, and John and Tommy our Councilmen; For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation; For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble; For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God; For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Sean our Presiding Bishop, Samuel and Jennifer our Bishops; and Ed our Priest; and all other bishops and ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. Silence

We pray for all who are traveling, especially **Cameron** Klass, **Julia** Klass, and **Josey** Parker and those with special needs:

Lou Adkins, Mark Adkins, Amanda Amon, Ella Asebes, Paul Batson, Sissy Bolstad, Alice Brandon & family, Susan Branscomb, Lynne Broch, Gayle Burke, Seraphina Byers, Jean Campbell, Lynne Cleckley, John Clippard, Joan Clodfelter, Tom Cook, Morgan Curia, Dan DiRenzo, Susan Dixon, Kim Dube, Renee Ewbank, Charlotte Froehlich, Jenny Gallen, Shana Garland, James Giles, Earnest Graham, Jane Grimes, Jim Hackney, George Hanna, Rob Hare, Kristen Harris, Nancy Hinkle, Chris Hodges, Brittany Hudson, Nancy Hutchins, Alisa Johnson, Vickie & Mike Johnson, Andrew Jones, David Jones, Brian Kent, Cara Lee, Warren MacKinstry, Liz Marr, A.C. Marshall, Debbie Mason, Kate McKenzie, Charles McNeair, Dan & Fran Moore, Howard Palmer, Walker Peoples, Thomas Pierce, Gabby Plott, Jacklyn Rojas, Melissa Routh, Christine Ryals, Lucas Sanabria, Lynn Santolla, Suzy Sheets, Patty Short, Talmadge Silversides, Morgan Simmons, Clyde Smith, Martha Ellen Smith, Sharon Smith, Sean Sullivan, Jackie Touchton, Brenda Tyndall, Perry Grimes Van Dyke, Flynn Williams, Mary Williams, Paul Wylie, and Charlotte Young.

"Are there others?"

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. Silence

The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King; And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. *Silence The People may add their own petitions*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them; *Who put their trust in you.*

The celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins. Silence

Celebrant and People

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;

In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of our Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant 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.

Please stand if you are able

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Eternal Light - R. Schweizer

Presentation of Gifts

The offering is brought forward as the hymn is played.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS HYMN #112 (v. 4)

In the bleak midwinter

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

367 THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Eucharistic Prayer B)

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.

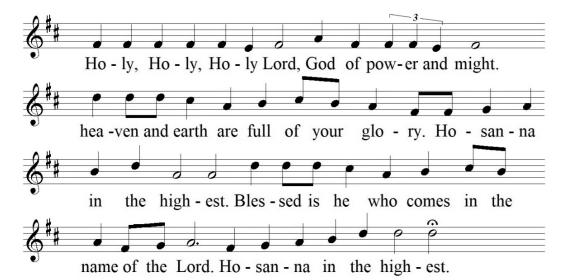
People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

SANCTUS (Sung by All)



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The people may stand or kneel

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord 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 he 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN**.

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

364 THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All baptized Christians are invited to come forward for Holy Communion at the Lord's Table. You may receive both the bread and wine, or only the bread or only the wine. Receiving Communion in one or both forms is sufficient sacramentally. If you prefer neither bread nor wine, you also are invited to come forward and to simply cross your arms over your chest as a sign for the minister to provide you with a holy blessing of the Lord.

During Holy Communion, if you are unable to receive communion at the altar rail, please notify an usher so that communion can be brought to you.

366 POST-COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

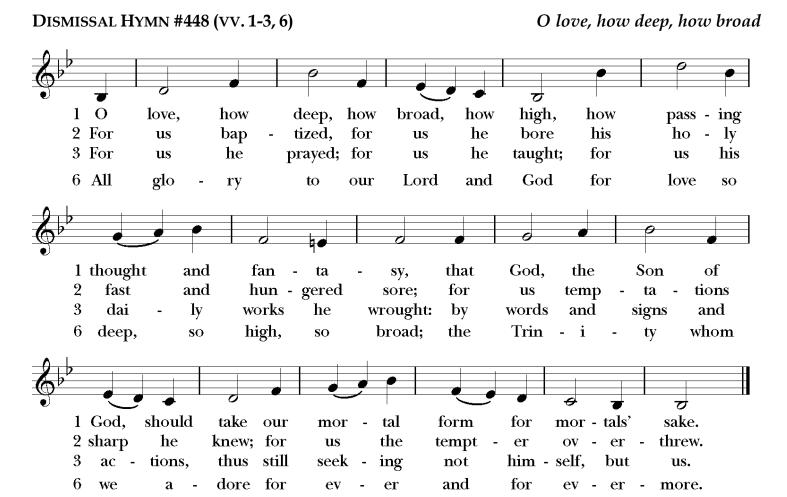
Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

Please stand if you are able

May God, who sent the Holy Spirit to rest upon the Only-Begotten at his baptism in the Jordan River, pour out that Spirit on you who have come to the waters of new birth; and the blessing of God almighty, † the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.



366 THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, alleluia! **People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

Toccata in E Minor – J. Pachelbel

The flowers on the altar today are given to the glory of God by Chris & Mike Hodges in honor of our Grace Church family.

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Kristi Allred **Intercessor:** Kristi Allred Lector:

Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Karl Bolstad **Ushers:** Richie Wiederhold

Staley Nance

Doug Hartzog Anderson Carter Frances Garner **Acolytes: Greeter:**

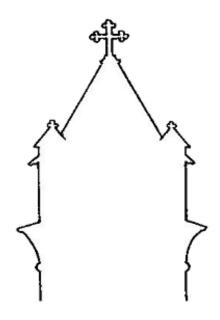
> **Tanner Sheets** Merritt Carter

WELCOME GUESTS AND NEWCOMERS!

We are delighted to have you worship with us today, and we would welcome the opportunity to get acquainted. Please sign the Guest Book in the narthex and join us immediately following the service in the Parish Hall (in the adjacent building) for refreshments and conversation.

Infants and young children are always welcome to worship with their families in the sanctuary. The restrooms are located in the rear hallway, and diaper-changing stations are provided in both rooms.

During Holy Communion, if you are unable to receive communion at the altar rail, please notify an usher so that communion can be brought to you.





GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

419 S. Main Street Lexington, North Carolina 27292-3234 phone: 336-249-7211

email: gracechurch@gracelexingtonnc.org www.gracelexingtonnc.org

The Reverend Edward T. Kelaher, Rector Bill Herndon, Organist and Choir Director Kathy Johnson, Christian Education Director Maureen Tincher, Parish Administrator John Taylor, Facilities Manager



THE VESTRY

2025
Wes Allred Sr. Warden
Thompson Miller Asst. Treasurer
Marjorie Parker Jr. Warden
Marilyn Taylor
Lynn Meeks Treasurer (Ex-Officio)

2025

2026
Karl Bolstad
Bright Carter
Sally Dodd Clerk
Henry Duquette Asst. Jr. Warden

2027
Dan Briggs
Melissa Helms
Mary Matthews
Leslie Sheets

The Vestry Person of the Month for January is Marilyn Taylor.