



ORDER OF SERVICE
Sunday, January 10, 2021 – 1st Sunday after Epiphany
St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Lebanon, OR 97355
Kay and Doug Young, Worship Leaders

A Greeting

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

Genesis 1:1-5

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.

- ✦ Hear what the spirit is saying to God's People
- ✦ Thanks be to God.

Psalm 29

- 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.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. **Amen.**

Second Lesson

Acts 19:1-7

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.

- ✦ Hear what the spirit is saying to God's People
- ✦ Thanks be to God.

The Gospel according to Mark 1:4-11

John the baptizer 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."

- ✦ This is the Gospel of the Lord
- ✦ Thanks be to God

Sermon "Unprecedented Times"

S. Kay Young

Mark calls his own writing the beginning of the Good News. Think about the scene in your mind ... John is out in the wilderness, baptizing a bunch of city dwellers who came searching, for what? He looks up and there is his cousin. Um. Me, Baptize You? And Jesus, fully acknowledging that this is strange says yes, let's do this. I'm one of you, I'm a son of Man.

Then the heavens are torn apart and the great voice of Yahweh declares that this is a Holy Moment.

We are becoming weary of hearing of trouble, even of hearing the need to respond as good people. We want to go back, back to a simpler time; if only there was a do-over. When I was a new teacher, an old hand said to me that he loves the first day of school because it's the only day you can NOT do over. There's excitement in the air. We remember first days. Look at the first readings.

In Genesis, we're at the very beginning of the world, and In Mark, at the very beginning of Jesus' ministry.

In the beginning a wind (or breath, or spirit) of God swept over the face of the waters

- At Jesus' baptism the spirit (or breath or wind) of God descended on Jesus as he is coming up out of the water.
- In the beginning God said, "Let there be light."
- At Jesus' baptism God said, "You are my Son, the Beloved."
- In the beginning "God saw that the light was good."
- At Jesus' baptism God was "well pleased."

We do well to renew our baptismal vows often. To ask ourselves what exactly we're doing; who are following. Not an earthly leader; not even a distant star. We follow the One whose very birth was unprecedented. God became man and dwelt among us. Jesus is not the one to follow if you cannot accept change. We can however revel in the feelings of the new life, new love. We can remember that Jesus was baptized in our complicated humanity, so we are baptized into God's love. I remember my acceptance into the Episcopal Church. Bishop Sandy Hampton took my head in his hands and said, Remember your Baptism." We all should. We should head down to the water and proceed with Love.

Prayers of the People for the 1st Sunday after Epiphany.

The response is "Lord, graciously hear us."

As we celebrate the baptism of Christ, let us offer prayers to God who calls us to pass from death to life.

By the baptism of the Son of God in the river Jordan.

Lord, hear us.

People Lord, graciously hear us.

For this parish community of St. Martin's Lebanon, that God would guide us with his truth, fill us with his love, and provide for us from his bounty.

Lord, hear us.

People Lord, graciously hear us.

For Michael our presiding bishop, Michael our Bishop, Diana our Bishop-elect, for the clergy and deacons and all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God.

Lord, hear us.

People Lord, graciously hear us.

For all who seek Christ, and for the conversion of the whole human race.

Lord, hear us.

People Lord, graciously hear us.

For mercy, peace, and justice throughout the world

Lord, hear us.

People Lord, graciously hear us.

For all those in danger and need: the sick and the suffering, the hungry and the oppressed, and those in prison.

Lord, hear us.
People Lord, graciously hear us.

For those who rest in the peace of Christ, and for all the departed, especially those on our prayer list and those we remember at this time.

Lord, hear us.
People Lord, graciously hear us.

For our deliverance from all affliction, strife, and need, remembering especially those on our prayer list and those we remember at this time.

Lord, hear us.
People Lord, graciously hear us.

Remembering the blessed Virgin Mary, St. Martin, and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

To you, O Lord.

Holy One of Israel, you breathed across the waters of creation: Accept the prayers we offer on this joyful feast, lead us by your Spirit through water and blood, and quench our thirst at the table of your Son. Glory to you for ever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

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.**

Prayer for St. Martin's

God of Love, open our eyes and ears to perceive you at work in creation, the church, and our parish. Fill our hearts with your love that we may reach out in love to others. Stir up our imagination with your Holy Spirit that we may find new ways to live into life with you. Give us a vision of your mission that we may share your love and your spirit in all the places where we work and play and worship you. In Jesus' holy name, **Amen**

Seasonal Blessings

Dismissal

