

January 8, 2023
Baptism of the Lord

Prayer of Preparation

O God, you who promise to make all things new: does that include me? Will you make me new? Cleanse me from top to toe, renew my heart...revise my mind...revive my worth.

*For I am poured out, emptied, ready to be filled; but with what?
Fill me with your gracious self, O God. Be you in me.*

(source: Donald Smith)

Gathering Music

Arise, Shine, For Your Light Has Come

Arise, Shine, for your light has come.
And the glory of the Lord is risen. The glory of the Lord has come
The glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

Take Me to the Water. GTG #480

Take me to the water. Take me to the water. Take me to the water to be
baptized.

I love Jesus. I love Jesus. I love Jesus, yes, I do.
He's my Savior. He's my Savior. He's my Savior, yes, he is.
Glory hallelujah. Glory hallelujah. Glory hallelujah to be baptized.

Gathering in the Presence of God

**Stand in Body and Spirit*

Welcome

John Rotach, DPNC

Praise Call to Worship

Psalm 100

Liturgical Dance: Pam Jusino

1 As the wind song through the trees, as the stirring of the breeze,
so it is with the Spirit of God, as the heart made strangely warm,
as the voice within the storm, so it is with the Spirit of God.

Never seen, ever known where this wind has blown
bringing life, bringing power to the world, as the dancing tongues of fire,
as the soul's most deep desire, so it is with the Spirit of God.

2 As the rainbow after rain, as the hope that's born again,
so it is with the Spirit of God, as the green in the spring,
as a kite on a string, so it is with the Spirit of God,
making worlds that are new, making peace come true,
bringing gifts, bringing love to the world, as the rising of the yeast,
as the wine at the feast, so it is with the Spirit of God.

Preparing for the Word

Call to Confession (responsively)

Liturgist

Baptized to begin lives of faith,

**We would witness to all you do in our communities, in our midst,
in our world.**

Baptized to serve,

**We would speak up for the voiceless, we would bring justice to
those who have none.**

Baptized to speak,

We would heal, and not hurt; we would bless, and not curse.

Baptized to do what is right,

We would not play favorites but treat each as your Beloved. Help
us to live together in that grace as we silently confess our individual
wrongdoings to you now...

Time of silent reflection and confession.

Prayer of Confession (*Unison*)
(*Source: Scott Bullock*)

Liturgist

Faithful God, Creator of all, who hovered over the deep at the beginning, who spoke light into darkness, who split the heavens open and descended upon the Son of God in the waters of the Jordan, who created us in his image, who declared that each one of us is fearfully and wonderfully made; *we have forgotten*. We have forgotten who we are. Our identity as beloved children has been obscured by a multitude of wrong-doing and wrong-thinking. We have exchanged the truth for a lie. Nevertheless, *you* have not forgotten us, and for that, we thank you. Cleanse us by the power of your Spirit so that we may once again walk in the understanding of that truth.

Words of Compassion

Pastor Eddie

***Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen, Amen.

We Hear God's Word

Prayer of Illumination

Liturgist

May there be one voice we hear today — the voice of truth and grace. Holy God, Word made flesh, let us come to this word open to being surprised.
Amen!

Hebrew Scriptures

Isaiah 42:1-9

Liturgist

Source: The New Revised Standard Version

1Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. 2He will not cry or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street; 3a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. 4He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. 5Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: 6I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, 7to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. 8I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. 9See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

This is the Word of God

Response: Thanks be to God!

Anthem

As I Went Down in the River to Pray

Refrain:

As I went down in the river to pray, studying about that good old way
and who shall wear the robe and crown. Good Lord, show me the way!

O brothers let's go down, Let's go down, come on down
O sisters let's go down, down in the river to pray. (Refrain)

O mothers let's go down. Let's go down, come on down
O fathers let's go down, down in the river to pray (Refrain)

O sinners let's go down. Let's go down, come on down
O children let's go down, down in the river to pray

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 3:13-17

Pastor Eddie

Source: The New Revised Standard Version

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now;

for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.’ Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.’

This is the Word of God

Response: Thanks be to God!

Reflection

Beginnings

Pastor Eddie

Responding to God’s Word

***Affirmation of Faith**

Liturgist

Source Ephesians 4:4-6

There is one body and one Spirit, just as we were called to the one hope of our calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

Pastor Eddie

Invitation to the Offertory

Liturgist

Offertory

Shall We Gather at the River

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Creator, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Liturgist

God of the water that cleans us, the land that feeds us, and the air that allows us to breathe your Spirit in and out of us; you claim us in our baptism, but too few of us even remember our own baptism. And if we remember (or imagine) our baptism, we too rarely grasp its meaning and power. As we present our tithes and offering in worship and witness Christ's baptism once again, may we remember that in that water we were, like Christ, commissioned to go: to teach, preach, heal, and even to take up a cross. In Christ, we pray. Amen. (Matthew 3:13-17)

We Follow God's Word into the World

***Hymn**

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

GTG #744

1 Arise, your light has come! The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.

2 Arise, your light has come! Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.

3 Arise, your light has come! All you in sorrow born,
bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

4 Arise, your light has come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

***Benediction**

Pastor Eddie

Postlude

Sharing the Peace of Christ