

January 10, 2021. Baptism of the Lord Sunday. Narrative Lectionary week 18 of year 3.

### GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

Prelude

Greeting

Unison Call to Worship

Psalm 51:6-17

And yes, you want truth in the most hidden places; you teach me wisdom in the most secret place.

Purify me with hyssop and I will be clean; wash me and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and celebration again; let the bones you crushed rejoice once more. Hide your face from my sins; wipe away my guilty deeds!

Create a clean heart for me, God: put a new, faithful spirit deep inside me. Please don't throw me out of your presence, please don't take your holy spirit away from me. Return the joy of your salvation to me and sustain me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach wrongdoers your ways, and sinners will come back to you.

Deliver me from violence, God, O God of my salvation, so that my tongue can sing of your righteousness. Lord, open my lips and my mouth will proclaim your praise.

You don't want sacrifices. If I gave an entirely burned offering, you wouldn't be pleased. A broken spirit is my sacrifice, God. You won't despise a heart, God, that is broken.

**Prayer of Confession**

All: Lord of Christmas Hope, we confess to you our despair. When we lack your hope we cling to idols that have only empty promises. Lord of Christmas Peace, we confess to you our anxiety. Help us to still our hearts and minds in the midst of natural fears. Lord of Christmas Joy, we confess to you our sorrow. Remind us of the beauty of life and your creation. Lord of Christmas Love, we confess to you our apathy. Inspire us to move forward with you as our guide along the way. We ask these things in the name of The Lord of Christmas, the incarnate Christ, the Word of God made flesh.

*Pause for Silent Reflection and Confession*

**Share the Peace of Christ with others**

Hymn # 247 "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright"

Offering

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

### PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Luke 3:1-22(CEB)

Kent Cornish

In the fifteenth year of the rule of the emperor Tiberius—when Pontius Pilate was governor over Judea and Herod was ruler over Galilee, his brother Philip was ruler over Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was ruler over Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas—God's word came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. John went throughout the region of the Jordan River, calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. This is just as it was written in the scroll of the words of Isaiah the prophet, A voice crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way for the Lord;  
make his paths straight.

Every valley will be filled,  
and every mountain and hill will be leveled.  
The crooked will be made straight  
and the rough places made smooth.  
All humanity will see God's salvation."

Then John said to the crowds who came to be baptized by him, "You children of snakes! Who warned you to escape from the angry judgment that is coming soon? Produce fruit that shows you have changed your hearts and lives. And don't even think about saying to yourselves, Abraham is our father. I tell you that God is able to raise up Abraham's children from these stones. The ax is already at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that doesn't produce good fruit will be chopped down and tossed into the fire."

The crowds asked him, "What then should we do?"

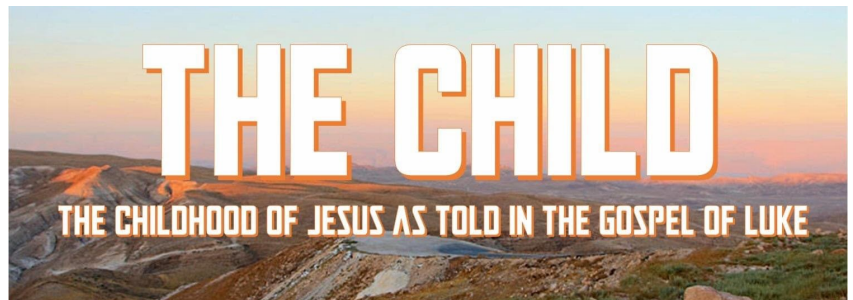
He answered, "Whoever has two shirts must share with the one who has none, and whoever has food must do the same."

Even tax collectors came to be baptized. They said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?"

He replied, "Collect no more than you are authorized to collect."

Soldiers asked, "What about us? What should we do?"

He answered, "Don't cheat or harass anyone, and be satisfied with your pay."



January 10, 2021. 3rd Sunday of Christmas. Narrative Lectionary week 18 of year 3.

The people were filled with expectation, and everyone wondered whether John might be the Christ. John replied to them all, "I baptize you with water, but the one who is more powerful than me is coming. I'm not worthy to loosen the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. The shovel he uses to sift the wheat from the husks is in his hands. He will clean out his threshing area and bring the wheat into his barn. But he will burn the husks with a fire that can't be put out." With many other words John appealed to them, proclaiming good news to the people.

But Herod the ruler had been criticized harshly by John because of Herodias, Herod's brother's wife, and because of all the evil he had done. He added this to the list of his evil deeds: he locked John up in prison.

Jesus' baptism

When everyone was being baptized, Jesus also was baptized. While he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit came down on him in bodily form like a dove. And there was a voice from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness."

Sermon

Robb McCoy

### RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

Hymn #242 "Love Came Down at Christmas"

#### Reaffirmation of Baptism

Do you reject the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?

According to the grace given to you, will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world?

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day, he rose again he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic (universal) church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Eternal Father,

When nothing existed but chaos, you swept across the dark waters and brought forth light. In the days of Noah you saved those on the ark through water. After the food you set in the clouds a rainbow.

When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt, you led them to freedom through the sea. Their children you brought through the Jordan to the land which you promised.

**Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of God's mercy each day.**

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a womb. He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit. He called his disciples to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection and to make disciples of all nations.

**Declare his works to the nations, his glory among all people.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit, and by this gift of water call to our remembrance the grace declared to us in our baptism. For you have washed away our sins, and you clothe us with righteousness throughout our lives, that dying and rising with Christ, we may share in his final victory.

**All my praise to you, Eternal Father, through your Son Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns forever. Amen.**

Remember your baptism, and be thankful.

Blessing

Postlude



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**WEEKLY GPS**  
**GROW**  
**PRAY**  
**STUDY**

**Coming Next:**

Jan. 17	Sermon in Nazareth	Luke 4:14-30
Jan. 24	Jesus Fishes for People	Luke 5:1-11
Jan. 31	Lord of the Sabbath	Luke 6:1-16
Feb. 7	Raising the Widow's Son	Luke 7: 1-17

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK: Luke 3:18**

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Malachi 3:1-4</b>	<b>Coming of the Messenger</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Acts 19:1-7</b>	<b>Baptism and the Holy Spirit</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Ephesians 4:1-7</b>	<b>One Baptism</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Luke 3:23-38</b>	<b>The Ancestors of Jesus</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Luke 4:1-4</b>	<b>Jesus in the Wilderness</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Luke 4:5-13</b>	<b>The Temptation of Jesus</b>

**CARING CONVERSATIONS or REFLECTIONS**

- **Thinking About This Week's Story:** While being baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River, God declared Jesus as a beloved Son. What is something that someone said to or about you? Did it make you happy, sad, or another emotion?
- **Getting Ready for Next Week's Story:** Jesus goes to his hometown and announces his mission to the people. Looking at what you did today, what "mission" could you use to describe it? What is a "mission" you can work toward tomorrow?