

Baptism of Jesus Lectionary Readings for January 7, 2007

Baptism of the Lord Lectionary: Isaiah 43:1-7

But now thus says the LORD who created you, O Jacob, God 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."

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

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."

Palisades Presbyterian Church

Palisades, New York 10964

January 7, 2007



*We are a Christian
community welcoming all
as we seek to grow in faith
and serve others.*

Reflection:

In China we use the word baptism a lot; it's a very revolutionary word.

Joan Chen

Palisades Presbyterian Church
The Palisades Presbyterian Church Welcomes You

Baptism of Jesus Sunday
January 7, 2007



Prelude

Church Bell

Introit *Beside Thy Cradle Here I Stand* **J. S. Bach, Christmas Oratorio**

Call to Worship (Adapted from this morning's *Introit*)

Leader: Beside thy cradle, here we stand,

All: As real as when others did 2,000 years ago.

Leader: Accept us and our gifts today, as you did from those who first came;

All: Accept our mind, our heart, our soul, our strength and every part that thou requirest.

Leader: And bring to us a willing hand for the gifts you offer us,

All: And the strength and wisdom to carry the Good News to all - still going strong, after all these years!

Leader: So let us raise our voices in worship and song,

All: as beside thy cradle, here we stand. Amen.

Communion of the People All are welcome at this table.

Prayer after Communion:

In Unison...

O God, through this bread and this cup, you have made us one with you and with each other. May the unity we find at this table be a gift that we carry out into your suffering, divided world. Help us to find strength in knowing that you, the God of peace, will always be with us. Amen.

Offering our Gifts and Tithes

* **Hymn #592** Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

* **Prayer of Dedication**

Offering our Joys and Concerns for Prayer

The Prayer of Jesus

* **Hymn #540** *God Be With You Till We Meet Again*

Charge and Benediction

Choral Response

Postlude

**All that are able please stand.*

Dying on the cross, he saves us from death, having vanquished it forever. Risen from the dead, Jesus gives us new life. Living with you, God as we know you, he prays for us.

Remembering your mighty acts in Jesus the Christ, we take from your creation this bread and this wine and joyfully celebrate his dying, rising, and his eternal presence among us.

With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you, to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service. Great is the mystery of faith:

People:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Leader:

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon these your gifts of bread and fruit of the vine, that this meal may be for us a communion in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Make us one with him and one with all who share this feast. Unite us in faith, encourage us in hope, and inspire us in steadfast love, so that we may serve as your faithful disciples all the days of our lives. We ask these things through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, and in the unity of the Holy Spirit, knowing all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

People: Amen

Blessing of the Bread & Cup:

On the night of his arrest, Jesus took the bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying: "Take and eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, he took the cup, saying, "This is the cup of the new covenant, sealed in my blood, shed for you and for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup we proclaim the saving death of the risen Jesus, until he comes again.

Hymn 391: *Take My Life

Prayer of Confession (In Unison)

In the waters of baptism, O God,
you have cleansed us and claimed us.
Forgive us when we resist your grace
and those times when we forget your presence.
Too often, we follow our own paths;
too often, they have led us away from you.
Help us to live into our baptisms,
to trust that all we need is in you.
For you have called us as your own,
loving us without limit.
Wash us with your love again,
so that with present hearts we may go forward in the way of Jesus.
Amen.

Silent Confession

Choral Response

Declaration of Forgiveness:

We have asked for your forgiveness, Wonderful Counselor,
and we know it has been received. Amen

*** Hymn #322** Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me;
 Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.
 Melt me, mold me, Fill me, use me.
 Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.

Offering to One Another of a Sign of Peace

Announcements

Minute for Mission *The Midnight Run* Mercy Garland

Children's Message John Guzewich

Prayer for Illumination

- 1st Reading** Isaiah 43: 1-7
- Anthem** *Brother James Air* Arranged by Gordon Jacob
- 2nd Reading** The Gospel of Luke 3:15 – 17, 21-22
- Sermon** *The Revolution of Baptism*
- * Hymn #32** *An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare*

Celebration of Communion - All Are Welcome at the Table!

Communion The Invitation to Jesus' Table

Leader: Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God!

People: **They will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at table in the kindom of God.**

Leader: According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at the table with his disciples, he took the bread, and blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.

People: **Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him.**

Leader This is the that same table.

People: **All are invited those to share this feast which God has prepared.**

Great Thanksgiving:

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord, Our God

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader:

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give thanks and praise to the One who is with us always. It is especially joyful to celebrate our gratitude on this Sunday as we celebrate the baptism of Jesus and one another.

Through the words of the prophets, the Spirit of God promised us a Redeemer, giving us hope for the day when justice would roll down like waters in a mighty stream. We rejoice now, for in Jesus Christ that day of rushing winds and waters is upon us and carrying us on toward our mission.

In thanksgiving and anticipation we praise you, and we join our voices with the choirs of angels, the prophets, the apostles, and the saints. We gather here in this sanctuary with the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name in the great mystery of your presence.

People Sing Hosanna!

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest.

Leader:

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus the Christ. Born of Mary, Jesus shares his life with us. Eating with sinners, he welcomes and knows us. Guiding his children, he leads us and reminds us to as he has taught us to do. Visiting the sick, he heals us in ways beyond the physical limitations of these bodies of ours.