



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Seeking to see and serve Christ in all persons

**The Baptism of Our Lord
January 7, 2024 • 10:30 AM
Holy Eucharist Rite II**

The service begins on page 355 of The Book of Common Prayer and is printed here in its entirety.

The Opening Voluntary

The Coventry Carol
arr. Rhett Barnwell

The Processional Hymn

On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry
Hymnal 76

The Liturgy of the Word

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

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

The People say together

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.

The Gloria

Hymnal S 280

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 First Reading ~ 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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

The Psalm ~ 29

Sung by the choir

- 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.

The Second Reading ~ 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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

The Sequence Hymn

Christ, when for us you were baptized
Hymnal 121

The Holy Gospel ~ Mark 1:4 - 11

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

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.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

The Sermon

The Rev. Canon C. John Thompson-Quartey

A period of silent prayer.

The Baptismal Covenant

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

People I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People I will, with God's help.

The Celebrant says

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. *Amen.*

The Prayers of the People — Form VI

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

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

Leader For this community, the nation, and the world;
People *For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.*

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

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

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

Leader For Michael, our Presiding Bishop; and Rob, our Bishop; and John,
our priest; and for all bishops and other ministers;
People *For all who serve God in his Church.*

For those celebrating birthdays this week, especially Nadine, Don, Kasey, Bo, Tammy, Katie, Mary, Delores, and Virginia.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation and all those on our prayer list.

Silence. The People may add their own petitions.

Leader Hear us, Lord;
People *For your mercy is great.*

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

Silence. The People may add their own thanksgivings.

Leader We will exalt you, O God our King;
People *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.

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

The Prayer In Times of Conflict [*prayed by all*]

O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*
{BCP page 824}

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

Leader 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 your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Absolution

Celebrant says

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.*

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

The Announcements

The Blessings and Thanksgivings

The Offertory Sentence

The Holy Communion

The Offertory Anthem

Down to the River to Pray, Spiritual
arr. Guy Stalnaker

The Presentation Hymn

We three king of Orient are
Hymnal 128

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 you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. 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:

The Sanctus

Hymnal S 129

The Celebrant continues:

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 he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 St. Paul and 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.

The Great Amen

S 146



And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

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.*

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

The Fraction Anthem

Hymnal S 154

Holy Communion is offered via the common cup for sipping or intinction (dipping the wafer into the wine). Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. A mobility impaired individual can receive communion at your seat by raising your hand.

Celebrant The gifts of God for the People of God.

The Communion Anthem

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree
Elizabeth Poston

The Communion Hymn

What child is this, who laid to rest
Hymnal 115

The Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for those Not Receiving the Blessed Sacrament

[Adapted from Saint Augustine's Prayer Book. For those not present in the Nave.]

Blessed Jesus, in union with the faithful of every place and people and nation, I join in offering the sacrifice of my praise and thanksgiving to you. I believe that you are truly present in the Bread that has been blessed, broken and given. Since I cannot now receive this holy sacrament, I pray that you will come spiritually into my heart. Abide with me, that I may embrace you entirely, and submit myself to your love and mercy. Let me never be separated from you, that in my waking and in my sleeping I may know the comfort of your presence. I ask this for the sake of your love. *Amen.*

The Blessing

The Closing Hymn

As with gladness men of old
Hymnal 119

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People Thanks be to God.

The Closing Voluntary

On Jordan's Bank

arr. James Engel

Remember in your Prayers

A Prayer to Start My Day (From The Daughters of the King): Lord, You have given me another day of life; let me celebrate this day, and let me use it according to Your plan. I praise You, Father, for my life and for the friends and family members who make it rich. Enable me to live each moment to the fullest as I give thanks for Your creation, for Your love, and for Your Son. Amen.

We pray for those with timely concerns: Ronnie People, Roger Hines, Elisabeth Stubbs, Bo Warren, Annie McDorman, Patricia Ravenell, Tommy Gibbs, Anthony Marino, Gloria Crook, Ernie Williams, Courtney McCulley, Andrew Davis, Frankey Henderson.

We pray for those with ongoing concerns: Greg Parsons, Annie Bulford, Kelsey Crow, Anne Murphy, Glenn L. Eaton, David Waldron, Larry Sams, Jim Myrick, Candy Waldron, Ashton Hughes, Lanie Mae Henderson, Lamar Toole, Elizabeth Briscoe, William 'Parker' Johnson, Christian Llosa.

We pray for the members of the Vestry: Marianne, Mark, Frankey, Marge, Mary Frances, Polly, Tony, Roy, Virginia and for the Staff: Canon John, Nicole, Rhett, Dawn, Geoff, Cole, Nicole, Kimberly.

We pray for members of the Rector Nominating Committee: Philip Hand, Lisa Beerman, Kasey Bulford, Brother Massenburg, Katie McBride-Newman, J.J. Thomasson, and Bill Tudor.

We pray for members of our armed services and their families: Phil Kearney, Kevin Bradley, Joe Clay, Tom Choate, Linda Boyce, Dariel Johnson, Sean McGraw, Steven Puckett, Bill Tudor, Jr., Scott Woodward, Luke White, Tommy White, Zach Simkins, Jacob Britt, Morgen Davis, Luke Eason, Michael Rafferty, David Norwood, Arron Essex, Adam Harrison, Sam Vermilyea, Charles Mathews, Cameron Everett, Lanier Sealy, Beau Massenburg, Ryan Whitfield, Stephen Malcom, Victoria Eversoll, Trey Bland.

We give thanks for the lives of those celebrating birthdays this week: Nadine Williams, Don Doggrell, Kasey Fabrizi, Bo Kersey, Tammy Hawes, Katie Turner, Mary Nieto,

Delores Parris, and Virginia Williams.

We pray for those who have died. Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them. Amen.

Service Participants

Vestry Person of the Week	Tony King
Vergers	Tony King & Brother Massenburg
Eucharistic Ministers	Bob & Heather Heaberlin
Acolytes	Liam Bulford (1st); India Camp (2nd); Jack Bulford (Banner); Elijah & James Edwards (Torchbearers)
Reader(s)	Mary Frances Honea & Elijah Edwards
Prayer Intercessors	Sherry Cook & Carolyn Groover
Ushers	Mike Scott, Mike Gallagher, Chris Howell, Amy Jones, Daryl Jones, Brother Massenburg, Michele Mattera, & Bill Stemberger
Altar Guild	Polly Hopkins & Wendy LeVan

Parish Notices

2024 Stewardship Campaign: There are 2024 Stewardship Campaign brochures and response cards available in the Narthex. To make sure that we receive your pledge and contributions, please drop off your pledge and contributions in the offering plate or drop off at Nicole's office. There is the QR code to go directly to the pledge campaign page in Realm.



2023 Giving: Please review your Realm profile to make sure your contact information and giving information are correct.

Christmas Cleanup: If you are available to stay today after church, especially if you are tall, the Flower Guild could use assistance with taking down and storing the Christmas decorations. Please see Louise Howard if you are interested.

Adult Formation: Want to go deeper in your prayer life in 2024? Ready to explore some new ideas about and practices of talking to and listening to God? Join Nicole Walters, Seminarian, for Adult Formation at 9:30 am each Sunday for 8 weeks of an exploration of Contemplative Prayer. We will discuss concepts from *Armchair Mystic (no book necessary)*.

Youth: There will be no EYC programming. Programming will resume Sunday, **January 14th**.

Blood Drive: The quarterly American Red Cross Blood Drive will be Monday, January 8th. You can schedule an appointment by using the QR code. Questions regarding the blood drive can be directed to Virginia Williams, vb_williams@yahoo.com.



Winter Preaching Series: Join us on Saturday, January 20th through Sunday January 21st for the Winter Preaching Series. This year's series will feature Rev. Chuck Poole. On Sunday, January 21st he will be speaking at St. Paul's during the 8:30 worship service. For the full schedule of events, visit the bulletin board outside of the Parish Hall or review your Friday newsletter. All are welcome!

Vestry Nominations: Nominations to fill three Vestry seats is now open. The nominations window closes after Sunday, January 21. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else, you can use the QR code or contact admin@stpaulsnewnan.org.



A Case for Love: Our society is more divided than ever. Many have moved into tribal corners, seeing the world from an “us versus them” point of view. The teachings and writings of Bishop Michael Curry, most well-known for his passionate sermon about “The Power of Love” at the royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, inspire **A CASE FOR LOVE**. This feature-length documentary examines the question of whether or not love, specifically—unselfish—love, is the solution to the extreme societal and political divide facing the world.

All are welcome to attend a screening at **AMC Phipps Plaza at 7p ET on January 23rd**, the only scheduled day A Case for Love will be in theaters. Reservations can be made using the QR code. Join Bishop Wright and others and let's pack the theater booked for the people and friends of The Diocese of Atlanta!



The Daughters of the King: Information pamphlets are available on the bulletin board outside of the parish hall for anyone interested in learning more about The Daughters of the King. We welcome any prospective members!

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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CLERGY AND Staff

Rev. Canon C. John Thompson-Quartey, Interim Rector; **Nicole Walters**, Seminarian; **Rhett Barnwell**, Organist/Choirmaster; **Dawn Harrison**, Music Associate; **Geoff Mattera**, Communications Director; **Cole Hankins**, Multimedia Associate; **Nicole Edwards**, Parish Administrator; **Kimberly Stokes**, Financial Administrator.

VESTRY

Marianne Lawhead, Senior Warden; **Mark LeVan**, Junior Warden; **Marge Bass**, Outreach; **Frankey Henderson**, Parish Life; **Mary Frances Honea**, Health & Healing; **Polly Hopkins**, Formation; **Tony King**, Worship; **Roy Reynolds**, Communications; **Virginia Williams**, Stewardship.