

**Church of the Divine Love**

**THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

**THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD**

**JANUARY 8, 2023 10:15 AM**

**HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II**

THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for the New Year – on insert

Processional Hymn #76 – **On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry**

Opening Acclamation page 355

Collect for Purity page 355

Gloria page 356

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Isaiah 42:1-9**

Psalm 29

Second Lesson: **Acts 10:34-43**

Gradual Hymn#121 – **Christ, when for us you were baptized**

Gospel: **Matthew3:13-17**

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze

Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, FormVI page 392

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn #370 – **I bind unto myself today**

Doxology (sung)

The Great Thanksgiving:	
Eucharistic Prayer D	page 372
Sanctus (S-130 in hymnal)	page 373
The Lord's Prayer	page 364
The Breaking of the Bread, Anthem & Prayer	page 337
The Communion of the People	
Communion Hymn #294 – <b>Baptized in water</b>	
Post Communion Prayer	page 365
Prayer for Peace – on insert	
Prayer of St. Francis	page 833
Dismissal Hymn #616 – <b>Hail to the Lord's Anointed</b>	
Dismissal	

### **Sermon Sunday January 8, 2023**

Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17.

#### **Sisters and brothers in Christ,**

Have you ever had days when life caught you off guard and took you completely by surprise? Has life ever given you what you could neither plan for nor foresee, something unexpected? Have you ever had your plans disrupted? When have you felt like more was being asked of you than you had to give? Has life ever left you feeling confused and lost? It just didn't make sense. Have you ever had a situation you wanted to say no to, something you didn't want to do or have to deal with?

We all have those kinds of stories. There's not a one of us here that has escaped that. I think that's exactly where John the Baptist is in today's gospel. Jesus has come from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. It's something John never expected or foresaw. He didn't plan on this. "I need to be baptized by you," he says to Jesus, "and do you come to me"? Baptizing Jesus does not fit John's expectations of who Jesus is and what he will do. What about the ax, the winnowing fork, the unquenchable fire? The order and structure of John's world are being turned upside down. Jesus is the "more powerful" one and John is "not worthy to carry his sandals". Jesus is supposed to increase and John decrease (John 3:30). Everything about this moment is contrary to what John believes, wants, and expects. And we've all been there. We know what that's like. When has that happened to you? And what do you do when it happens? What do you do when your prayer is not answered, the budget doesn't work out, expectations are not met? What do you do when your plan doesn't come together, a

relationship ends, or life is interrupted? What do you do when it's a hard day and you just want to say no and run away?

Today's gospel sets before us two choices. We can either resist, forbid, and try to prevent what is coming to us, which is what John wants to do. Or we can permit it and "let it be," which is what Jesus tells John to do. "Let it be so now," Jesus says to John. "Then he consented." What if that's to be our way too? What if Jesus is saying to us, "Let it be so now?" What if we too are being asked to consent? The consent to which Jesus calls us isn't simply about giving up, acquiescing, approving, or agreeing. It's about a way of life. It's about Jesus' way of life. It doesn't mean we have to like or want what is happening. It does, however, mean that we face it and deal with it. Consent means we show up to our life and be present to whatever is before us and whatever is coming to us, even if it is difficult, painful, or the last thing we wanted. Consent isn't about being in control or having all the answers. It means we don't turn back or run away from what is in front of us. We don't have to do everything that is set before us but neither can we resist doing what is ours. Consent doesn't mean passively accepting whatever happens. It means actively giving ourselves to the circumstances, relationships, and people before us. It's an act of risk and vulnerability. And it's a profession of faith, hope, and love. It means staying open and remaining receptive to whatever in that moment is being asked of us in the name of God.

That's how Jesus lived his life. His life was a continual yes to the world, to you, and to me. He lived a life of consent. He consented to bring good news to the poor; He consented to welcome the outsider and foreigner; He consented to hospitality for the hungry and thirsty; He consented to forgiveness for the women caught in adultery; He consented to raise stinky Lazarus into the fragrance of new life; He consented to intimacy when Mary anointed and kissed his feet; He consented to compassion and healing for the blind, deaf, and lame; He consented to abundance when the wine ran out; He consented to be a servant of all and wash dirty feet; He consented to peace and nonviolence in a world of swords; He consented to speak truth to power; He consented to struggle with God and himself in the Garden of Gethsemane; He consented to courage and perseverance as he took up and carried his cross; He consented to reconcile with Peter after being denied by him three times; He consented to humility when soldiers mocked and beat him; He consented to life in the face of death.

Jesus never turned away, backed down, or withheld his consent. He was present and showed up to whoever or whatever was before him. Every time Jesus consented, he stepped into the river of humanity and immersed himself in the waters of your life and my life. Consent is an act of solidarity, a standing with another. Jesus asked John to stand with him. Jesus stands with us. And he asks to stand with him in the river of humanity. That's how I want to live. I want to be a continual yes to the world and others. I want live a life of consent. Don't you? I want to look back on my life and say, I just dealt with it. What would that look like for you today? What would it mean for you to give consent to the people and circumstances before you? It might be in your marriage or parenting, at work, caring for another, speaking out and acting for justice, being present to another, working on your recovery, healing a relationship, or setting out in a new direction. The opportunities for consent come to us every day. Maybe you're being asked to consent to love, forgiveness, peace, compassion, welcome, courage, hope, beauty. What is being asked of you today?

God is always choosing to be on the side of humanity. It was a choice God made at our creation. The choice became clear, visible, and physical with the birth of Jesus. Today God in Jesus chooses to stand

with, among, and as one of us. God chooses to be for us. It is a matter of righteousness. How could the God who is righteousness make any other choice? As Jesus came up from the water the heavens opened, the Spirit of God descended like a dove, and a voice proclaimed, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." That is the father's recognition and acknowledgement that all righteousness has been fulfilled. That righteousness is the joining together of earth to heaven and heaven to earth. It is the joining together of divinity and humanity. It is the joining together of the created and the Creator. It is the affirmation that in Jesus God stands in solidarity with all humanity.

In baptism one life is immersed so deeply into another that they now stand as one. They live as one. They die as one. And they rise again as one. Jesus was baptized into the life of humanity and the created so that we might be baptized into the life of divinity and the Creator. That does not mean that life is no longer difficult or that explosions will never occur again. They will. There will be more explosions in our world, in your life, and in mine. It means, rather, that when the explosions happen, we can trust that God is on our side, present, standing with us, as one of us, among the rubble. It means that we can trust that God is for us and that God will offer a way forward. God always does.

The solidarity enacted at Jesus' baptism is the foundation for human solidarity that crosses boundaries of race, nationality, economics, and religions. It is the foundation from which the fractures in the human heart will be healed. Every one of us is called to live a life of solidarity, with God and each other. We can do that only because God did it first. It is the only way we will ever survive the explosions of life, the only way we can ever form new relationships and reconcile old ones, the only way in which righteousness will continue to be fulfilled. **Amen.**

1 EPIPHANY	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II	(also on zoom)
		COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS	

MONDAY	8:00 PM	AA MEETING
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WEDNESDAY	7:00 PM	AL-ANON MEETING
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THURSDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP
	8:00 PM	AA MEETING

SATURDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP
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2 EPIPHANY	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II	(also on zoom)
		COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS	

**PARISH ANNUAL MEETING – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH**

SUPPORT THE FOOD PANTRY – DROP OFF IN THE KITCHEN

	Today	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Jess Berbeck	Anthony Giordano
CoffeeHour	Nolans	Jess Berbeck

**PARISH PRAYER LIST**

Give to all who suffer the refreshing waters of your compassion and healing. Make them dwell in the safety of your care even in the midst of all that troubles them. Especially we remember before you:

Grace Schinella	Harriet Capers	Bob Curley
John Mulligan	Arlene Goodenough	Celeste
Chris Dickson	Kate Jones	Deb P.
Michael Echevarria	John Rocco	Gabriel
Barbara Stinson	Michael & Family	Warren
Charlotte H.	Bernie Walther	Anthony
Mo (Rachael)	Bill Conklin Sr.	Carolyn
Anthony Paribello	Barbara Curran	Del
Ciara	Robert Sweat	Aidan
Sally & Roger	Sophia	Carol K.

People of Haiti	Christopher & Family	Julia
Mary & Family	People of Ukraine	Tim
Nathan Treadwell	Vincent	Art
Margaret	Lourdes S.	Elodie

Help us speak words of encouragement and offer deeds of kindness to them.  
Bring us with them, into the unending joy of your kingdom. Amen

### Prayer for the New Year

God our Father, thank you for being the God who walks besides those who love Him in the Valley of the Shadow of

Death. I rejoice in the continued presence of the Holy Spirit

with me, so that I am never alone. Lord, I lift up a sincere request for happiness during this year of difficulty. Help me

find joy, that I may be strengthened spiritually, and happiness that I may continue to engage with those around

me with Christian love. Sometimes it can be hard to see Your hand moving when everything around me seems dark.

Help me find happiness so that I can see Your work, even if

I do not understand it fully right now. I know that You use all things for Your glory, and for my good. I ask that You keep my focus on You during this New Year. In the name of

Jesus Christ, I pray. Amen

Hymn to be sung during the consecration:

Father I adore you,

Lay my life before you,

How I love you.

Repeat twice with second verse starting with Jesus  
and third verse starting with Spirit.

Prayer for Peace

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn  
but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So  
mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that  
all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince  
of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominions  
and glory, now and for ever. Amen





