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Celebration of Holy Baptism

Holy Eucharist Rite II

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**Opening Acclamation**

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

***People*: And blessed be His Kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

*Celebrant:* There is one Body and one Spirit;

**People: There is one hope in God's call to us;**

*Celebrant*: One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

**People: One God and Father of all.**

**Collect of the Day**

*Celebrant*: Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in your steadfast faith and love, that through your grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness and minister your justice with compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen*.***

**The Old Testament**

**Ezekiel 17:22-24**

Thus says the Lord God:

I myself will take a sprig  
from the lofty top of a cedar;  
I will set it out.

I will break off a tender one  
from the topmost of its young twigs;

I myself will plant it  
on a high and lofty mountain.

On the mountain height of Israel  
I will plant it,

in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,  
and become a noble cedar.

Under it every kind of bird will live;  
in the shade of its branches will nest  
winged creatures of every kind.

All the trees of the field shall know  
that I am the Lord.

I bring low the high tree,  
I make high the low tree;

I dry up the green tree  
and make the dry tree flourish.

I the Lord have spoken;  
I will accomplish it.

*Reader*: The Word of the Lord

***People:* Thanks be to God**

**The Response**

**Psalm 92:1-4,11-14**

***Bonum est confiteri***

1 It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord, \*  
and to sing praises to your Name, O Most High;

2 To tell of your loving-kindness early in the morning \*  
and of your faithfulness in the night season;

3 On the psaltery, and on the lyre, \*  
and to the melody of the harp.

4 For you have made me glad by your acts, O Lord; \*  
and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.

11 The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, \*  
and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.

12 Those who are planted in the house of the Lord \*  
shall flourish in the courts of our God;

13 They shall still bear fruit in old age; \*  
they shall be green and succulent;

14 That they may show how upright the Lord is, \*  
my Rock, in whom there is no fault.

**The Epistle**

**2 Corinthians 5:6-10,14-17**

We are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord-- for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

*Reader:* The word of the Lord

***People:* Thanks be to God**

**The Gospel**

**Mark 4:26-34**

Jesus said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

*Celebrant*: The Gospel of the Lord.

***People:* Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Sermon** The Rev. Richard Sanders

**Presentation and Examination of the Candidates for Holy Baptism**

*Celebrant:* The Candidates for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

***Sponsor*:** I present Kate, Will and Evie to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

*Celebrant:* Do you desire to be baptized?

***Candidates*: I do.**

*Then the Celebrant asks the following questions of the Candidates:*

*Question:*Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

***Answer:* I renounce them.**

*Question:*Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

***Answer*: I renounce them.**

*Question:* Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

***Answer*: I renounce them.**

*Question*: Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

***Answer*: I do.**

*Question*: Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

***Answer*: I do.**

*Question*: Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

***Answer*: I do.**

**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 the 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.**

**Prayers for the Candidates**

**Celebrant: Let us now pray for these persons who are to receive the Sacrament of new birth**

*Leader*: Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

***People*: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader*: Open their hearts to your grace and truth.

***People*: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader*: Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

***People*: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader*: Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

***People*: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader*: Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.

***People*: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader*: Send them into the world in witness to your love.

***People*: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader*: Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.

***People*: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Celebrant***:** 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**.

**Thanksgiving over the Water**

*Celebrant***:** The Lord be with you.

***People*: And also with you.**

*Celebrant***:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*Celebrant*: We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water.

*Over it* the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation.

*Through it* you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise.

*In it* your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism.

*In it* we are buried with Christ in his death.

*By it* we share in his resurrection.

*Through it* we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.

Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**The Baptism**

*Pouring water on the head of each Candidate, the Celebrant states the name of the candidate and says:*

I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Making the sign of the cross on the forehead of each Candidate, the Celebrant says:*

You are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. Amen.

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these your servants the

forgiveness of sin and have raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works.***Amen.***

*Celebrant:* Let us welcome the newly baptized.

***Celebrant and People***: **We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.**

**The Peace**

**Greetings and Announcements**

Holy Communion

**Prayer A**

*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.**

*Celebrant:* It is right, and a good and a joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in Jesus Christ our Lord you have received us as your   
sons and daughters, made us citizens of your kingdom, and given us the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth.

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:

***Celebrant and People:***

***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.***

*Then the Celebrant continues:*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

***Celebrant and People:***

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*Celebrant:* We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.

Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.

***Celebrant and People: AMEN***.

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

***The Lord’s Prayer***

**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.**

*Celebrant:* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

***People****:* Therefore let us keep the feast.

*Celebrant:* The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

**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.**

*Celebrant:* May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His son, Jesus Christ; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

**Dismissal**

*Celebrant*: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

***People*: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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