REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling all life into being.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.

Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

At the river your Son, Jesus, was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,

We receive your promises and we are called to serve you. We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 6:1-8

This reading narrates Isaiah's vision of the Lord surrounded by angels. They sing "Holy, holy, holy," a song the church sings at the beginning of the great thanksgiving. This liturgical text invites the church and all creation to sing in praise of God's glory. That glory is God's mercy toward sinners.

¹In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory."

⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." ⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!" The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 29

¹Ascribe to the | LORD, you gods, / ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and strength.

²Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due God's name;

worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness.

³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of | glory thunders; the LORD is upon the | mighty waters.

⁴The voice of the LORD is a pow- | erful voice;

the voice of the LORD is a | voice of splendor.

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the | cedar trees; / the LORD breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon; ⁶the LORD makes Lebanon skip | like a calf, / and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox. ⁷The voice | of the LORD / bursts forth in | lightning flashes.

⁸The voice of the LORD| shakes the wilderness;

the LORD shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh.

⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the | forests bare.

And in the temple of the LORD all are | crying, "Glory!"

¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned a- | bove the flood;

the LORD sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.

¹¹O LORD, give strength | to your people; / give them, O LORD, the bless- | ings of peace.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-17

In describing the new life of faith, Paul refers to all three persons of the Trinity: the Spirit leads us to recognize that we are children of God the Father and joint heirs with Christ the Son. ¹²Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING: John 3:1-17

Jesus' miracles prompt Nicodemus to visit him in secrecy. Jesus tells him about being born of the Spirit and about the Son who has been sent by God to save.

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." The gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

- For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.
 - For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 - he suffered death and was buried.
 - On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
 - he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 - He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 - and his kingdom will have no end.
- We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 - who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 - who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
 - who has spoken through the prophets.
 - We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
 - We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
 - We look for the resurrection of the dead,
 - and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray... Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. You are our Creator and bless us with all that we have. We are thankful for many things in our lives. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need. Bless our time, our talents, and all the offerings we give back to you for your holy work, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

Pastor: Creator God, when you speak worlds happen, light blinks darkness away, life is born and nothingness is all gone. Speak to the void in each of us that we may be formed in your image, according to your likeness, for your holy purposes. You are always with us: **To the end of time.**

A brief silence.

- *Leader:* God of love and peace, fill us with the grace of Christ that the communion of the Holy Spirit may always be shared among us. You are always with us. **To the end of time.**
- *Leader:* Heavenly Father, our own Creator, with the Psalmist we wonder why you are so mindful of us, so in love with us, and have given us so much. Keep us from making you a very small God by doubting that you care about every detail of our lives.

You are always with us. To the end of time.

Leader: Lord Jesus, cure our doubting hearts and use us as your disciples.

You are always with us. To the end of time.

Leader: Jesus, all authority from heaven and earth has been given to you.

You command us to make disciples, baptize, teach and obey.

Give us the will to let your will be done. You are always with us. To the end of time.

Leader: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, God in three persons, blessed Trinity,

you make us, redeem us and love us. We can not ask for anything more.

You are always with us. To the end of time.

Pastor: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, continue to use us as your living saints. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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, forever and ever. Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

Beloved children of God, as we are sent from this place of worship,

know that the Father, Son +, and Holy Spirit will be with you always. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace and serve your neighbor. Thanks be to God!

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