

## **First Sunday after the Epiphany Sunday, January 13, 2019**

**The Collect:** 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.**

### **Old Testament: Isaiah 43:1-7 read from the New Revised Standard Version Bible Anglicised**

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he 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 Saviour. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honoured, 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.'

### **The Word of the Lord**

#### **Psalm 29 read from The Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer**

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.

### **Epistle: Acts 8:14-17 read from the Revised Standard Version Bible**

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samar'ia had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit; for it had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

### **The Word of the Lord**

### **Gospel: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 read from the God's Word Bible**

People's hopes were rising as they all wondered whether John was the Messiah. John replied to all of them, "I baptize you with water. But the one who is more powerful than I is coming. I am not worthy to untie his sandal straps. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing shovel is in his hand to clean up his threshing floor. He will gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn the husks in a fire that can never be put out."

When all the people were baptized, Jesus, too, was baptized. While he was praying, heaven opened, and the Holy Spirit came down to him in the form of a dove. A voice from heaven said, "You are my Son, whom I love. I am pleased with you."

### **The Gospel of the Lord**

**The Closing Prayer: On January 13th we celebrate the life of Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers.  
Read from *A Great Cloud of Witnesses*.**

Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, was a prolific writer on Scripture and doctrine, an orator, and a poet to whom some of the earliest Latin hymns have been attributed. Augustine called him “the illustrious doctor of the Churches.” Jerome considered him “the trumpet of the Latins against the Arians.

Hilary was born in Poitiers, in Gaul, about 315, into a pagan family of wealth and power. In his writings, he described the stages of the spiritual journey that led him to the Christian faith. He was baptized when he was about thirty.

In 350, Hilary was made bishop of Poitiers. Although he demurred, he was finally persuaded by the people's acclamation. He proved to be a bishop of skill and courage. His orthodoxy was shown when, in 355, the Emperor Constantius ordered all bishops to sign a condemnation of Athanasium, under pain of exile. Hilary wrote to Constantius, for peace and unity. His plea accomplished nothing, and, when he dissociated himself from three Arian bishops in the West, Constantius ordered Julian to exile him to Phrygia. There he remained for three years, without complaining, writing scriptural commentaries and his principal work, “*On the Trinity*”.

Hilary was then invited by a party of “semi-Arians,” who hoped for his support, to a Council at Seleucia in Asia, largely attended by Arians' but with remarkable courage, in the midst of a hostile gathering, Hilary defended the Council of Nicaea and the Trinity, giving no aid to the “semi-Arians.” He wrote again to Constantius, offering to debate Saturninus, the Western bishop largely responsible for his exile. The Arians feared the results of such an encounter and persuaded Constantius to return Hilary to Poitiers.

In 360, Hilary was welcomed back to his see with great demonstrations of joy and affection. He continued his battle against Arianism, but he never neglected the needs of his people. Angry in controversy with heretical bishops, he was always a loving and compassionate pastor to his diocese. He died in Poitiers in 367. Among his disciples was Martin, later Bishop of Tours, whom Hilary encouraged in his endeavors to promote the monastic life.

The hymn "Hail this day's joyful return" (The Hymnal 1982 numbers 223 & 224) is attributed to Hilary.

**Let us pray:** O Lord our God, you raised up your servant Hilary to be a champion of the catholic faith: Keep us steadfast in that true faith which we professed at our baptism, that we may rejoice in having you for our Father, and may abide in your Son, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit; who live and reign for ever and ever. **Amen.**