

## **First Sunday after the Epiphany, January 10, 2021**

**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: Genesis 1:1-5 read from the God's Word Translation**

1 In the beginning God created heaven and earth.

2 The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep water. The Spirit of God was hovering over the water.

3 Then God said, "Let there be light!" So there was light. 4 God saw the light was good. So God separated the light from the darkness. 5 God named the light day, and the darkness he named night. There was evening, then morning—the first day.

### **Hear what the spirit is saying to God's People**

### **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 19:1-7 read from the Holman Christian Standard Bible**

19 While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul traveled through the interior regions and came to Ephesus. He found some disciples 2 and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"

"No," they told him, "we haven't even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

3 "Then what baptism were you baptized with?" he asked them.

"With John's baptism," they replied.

4 Paul said, "John baptized with a baptism of repentance, telling the people that they should believe in the One who would come after him, that is, in Jesus."

5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began to speak in other languages and to prophesy. 7 Now there were about 12 men in all.

**Hear what the spirit is saying to God's People**

## **Gospel: Mark 1:4-11 read from the International Children's Bible**

4 John was baptizing people in the desert. He preached a baptism of changed hearts and lives for the forgiveness of sins. 5 All the people from Judea and Jerusalem were going out to John. They told about the sins they had done. Then they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. 6 John wore clothes made from camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. 7 This is what John preached to the people: "There is one coming later who is greater than I. I am not good enough even to kneel down and untie his sandals. 8 I baptize you with water. But the one who is coming will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

9 At that time Jesus came from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to the place where John was. John baptized Jesus in the Jordan River. 10 When Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven open. The Holy Spirit came down on him like a dove. 11 A voice came from heaven and said: "You are my Son and I love you. I am very pleased with you."

## **The Gospel of the Lord**

**The Closing Prayer: On January 16 we celebrate the lives of Richard Meux Benson, and Charles Gore, Bishop. Read from *A Great Cloud of Witnesses*.**

Richard Meux Benson and Charles Gore are remembered for their role in the revival of Anglican monasticism in the nineteenth century.

Richard Meux Benson, the principal founder of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist, was born on July 6, 1824, in London. As a student at Christ Church, Oxford, he came under the influence of Edward Bouverie Pusey, who became his spiritual mentor and lifelong friend.

In 1849 Benson was ordained a priest and became rector of Cowley, a village neighboring Oxford. In 1866, together with two other priests, he founded the Society of Saint John the Evangelist (SSJE), "a small body to realize and intensify the gifts and energies belonging to the whole Church." SSJE became the first permanent religious community for men in the Church of England since the Reformation, styled as a missionary order patterned on St.

Vincent de Paul's Company of Mission Priests. Benson wrote the original SSJE Rule and served as Superior until 1890. Under his leadership, other SSJE houses were founded in Boston, Bombay, Cape Town, and elsewhere. In his writing and person, Benson is remembered as someone with an abiding love for God, the quality of which drew others into deeper lives of commitment to God.

Benson died on January 14, 1915, in England.

Charles Gore was born in 1853 in Wimbledon and educated at Oxford. He was ordained in 1876 and served in positions at Cuddesdon College and Pusey House, Oxford, both of which were focused upon theological education and the formation of clergy. While at Pusey House, Gore founded the Community of the Resurrection, a community for men that sought to combine the rich traditions of the religious life with a lively concern for the demands of ministry in the modern world.

Gore, a prolific writer, was a principal leader of liberal Anglo-Catholicism in late nineteenth and early twentieth century Anglicanism. He was concerned to make available to the Church the critical scholarship of the age, particularly with respect to the Bible, as reflected in *Lux Mundi*, the collection of essays he edited in 1889. A second but no less important concern was to prick the conscience of the church and plead for its engagement in the work of social justice for all. Between 1902 and 1919, Gore served successively as bishop of the dioceses of Worcester, Birmingham, and Oxford.

Gore died in London on January 17, 1932.

**Let us pray:** Gracious God, you have inspired a rich variety of ministries in your Church: We give you thanks for Richard Meux Benson and Charles Gore, instruments in the revival of Anglican monasticism. Grant that we, following their example, may call for perennial renewal in your Church through conscious union with Christ, witnessing to the social justice that is a mark of the reign of our Savior Jesus, who is the light of the world; and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**