

Lessons for January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – Baptism of our Lord

The First Lesson – Isaiah 43:1-7

<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. <sup>4</sup> Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. <sup>5</sup> Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; <sup>6</sup> 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 -- <sup>7</sup> everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made." (NRSV)

Psalm 29 (NRSV)

<sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.  
<sup>2</sup> Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name;  
worship the LORD in holy splendor.  
<sup>3</sup> The voice of the LORD is over the waters;  
the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over mighty waters.  
<sup>4</sup> The voice of the LORD is powerful;  
the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.  
<sup>5</sup> The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;  
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.  
<sup>6</sup> He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Sirion like a young wild ox.  
<sup>7</sup> The voice of the LORD  
flashes forth flames of fire.  
<sup>8</sup> The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;  
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.  
<sup>9</sup> The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare;  
and in his temple all say, "Glory!"  
<sup>10</sup> The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;  
the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.  
<sup>11</sup> May the LORD give strength to his people!  
May the LORD bless his people with peace! (NRSV)

The Second Lesson – Acts 8:14-17

**14** Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. **15** The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive

the Holy Spirit **16** (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). **17** Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. (NRSV)

The Gospel – Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

**15** As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, **16** John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. **17** His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." **21** Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, **22** and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." (NRSV)

Lessons for January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – Second Sunday after Epiphany

The First Lesson – Isaiah 62:1-5

**1** For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. **2** The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. **3** You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. **4** You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the LORD delights in you, and your land shall be married. **5** For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you. (NRSV)

Psalm 36:5-10

**5** Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens,  
your faithfulness to the clouds.  
**6** Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your judgments are like the great deep;  
you save humans and animals alike, O LORD.  
**7** How precious is your steadfast love, O God!  
All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.  
**8** They feast on the abundance of your house,  
and you give them drink from the river of your delights.  
**9** For with you is the fountain of life;  
in your light we see light.  
**10** O continue your steadfast love to those who know you,  
and your salvation to the upright of heart! (NRSV)

The Second Lesson – 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

**1** Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. **2** You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. **3** Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit. **4** Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; **5** and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; **6** and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. **7** To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. **8** To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, **9** to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, **10** to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. **11** All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. (NRSV)

The Gospel – John 2:1-11

**1** On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. **2** Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. **3** When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." **4** And Jesus said to her, "**Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.**" **5** His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." **6** Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. **7** Jesus said to them, "**Fill the jars with water.**" And they filled them up to the brim. **8** He said to them, "**Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.**" So they took it. **9** When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom **10** and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." **11** Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him. (NRSV)

Lessons for January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – Third Sunday after Epiphany

The First Lesson – Nehemiah 8:1-3, 4-6, 8-10

**1** all the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. **2** Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. **3** He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. **5** And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. **6** Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. **8** So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. **9** And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. **10** Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength." (NRSV)

Psalm 19

- 1** The heavens are telling the glory of God;  
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
- 2** Day to day pours forth speech,  
and night to night declares knowledge.
- 3** There is no speech, nor are there words;  
their voice is not heard;
- 4** yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.  
In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,
- 5** which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,  
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.
- 6** Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them;  
and nothing is hid from its heat.
- 7** The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;  
the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;
- 8** the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;  
the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;
- 9** the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever;  
the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.
- 10** More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;  
sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.
- 11** Moreover by them is your servant warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.

**12** But who can detect their errors?

Clear me from hidden faults.

**13** Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

**14** Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer. (NRSV)

#### The Second Lesson – 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

**12** For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. **13** For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. **14** Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. **15** If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body.

**16** And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. **17** If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? **18** But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. **19** If all were a single member, where would the body be? **20** As it is, there are many members, yet one body. **21** The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." **22** On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, **23** and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; **24** whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, **25** that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. **26** If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. **27** Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. **28** And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. **29** Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? **30** Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?

**31** But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. (NRSV)

#### The Gospel – Luke 4:14-21

**14** Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. **15** He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. **16** When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, **17** and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: **18** "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, **19** to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." **20** And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The

eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. **21** Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." (NRSV)

Lessons for January 31st, 2010 – Forth Sunday after Epiphany

The First Lesson – Jeremiah 1:4-10

**4** Now the word of the LORD came to me saying, **5** "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." **6** Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." **7** But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a boy'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. **8** Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD." **9** Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me, "Now I have put my words in your mouth. **10** See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant." (NRSV)

Psalm 71:1-6

**1** In you, O LORD, I take refuge;  
let me never be put to shame.  
**2** In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;  
incline your ear to me and save me.  
**3** Be to me a rock of refuge,  
a strong fortress, to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.  
**4** Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked,  
from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.  
**5** For you, O Lord, are my hope,  
my trust, O LORD, from my youth.  
**6** Upon you I have leaned from my birth;  
it was you who took me from my mother's womb. My praise is continually of you. (NRSV)

The Second Lesson – 1 Corinthians 13

**1** If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. **2** And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. **3** If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. **4** Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant **5** or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; **6** it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. **7** It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. **8** Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. **9** For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; **10** but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. **11** When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. **12** For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know

only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. **13** And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love. (NRSV)

The Gospel – Luke 4:21-30

**21** Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." **22** All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" **23** He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" **24** And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. **25** But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; **26** yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. **27** There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." **28** When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. **29** They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. **30** But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way. (NRSV)