

**Today's Readings**  
**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January**  
**2024**  
**Epiphany 1**

**THE COLLECT**

Heavenly Father,  
at the Jordan you revealed  
Jesus as your Son:  
may we recognize him as  
our Lord  
and know ourselves to be  
your beloved children;  
through Jesus Christ our  
Saviour.

**FIRST READING**

**Genesis 1.1-5**

In the beginning when God  
created the heavens and the  
earth, <sup>2</sup> the earth was a  
formless void and darkness  
covered the face of the deep,  
while a wind from God swept  
over the face of the  
waters. <sup>3</sup> Then God said, 'Let  
there be light'; and there was  
light. <sup>4</sup> And God saw that the  
light was good; and God  
separated the light from the  
darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the  
light Day, and the darkness  
he called Night. And there  
was evening and there was  
morning, the first day.

**SECOND READING**

**Acts 19.1-7**

While Apollos was in Corinth,  
Paul passed through the  
inland regions and came to  
Ephesus, where he found  
some disciples. <sup>2</sup> He said to  
them, 'Did you receive the  
Holy Spirit when you became  
believers?' They replied, 'No,  
we have not even heard that  
there is a Holy Spirit.' <sup>3</sup> Then  
he said, 'Into what then were  
you baptized?' They  
answered, 'Into John's  
baptism.' <sup>4</sup> Paul said, 'John  
baptized with the baptism of  
repentance, telling the people  
to believe in the one who was  
to come after him, that is, in  
Jesus.' <sup>5</sup> On hearing this,  
they were baptized in the  
name of the Lord  
Jesus. <sup>6</sup> When Paul had laid  
his hands on them, the Holy  
Spirit came upon them, and  
they spoke in tongues and  
prophesied— <sup>7</sup> altogether  
there were about twelve of  
them.

**THE GOSPEL**

**Mark 1.4-11**

John the baptizer appeared in  
the wilderness, proclaiming a  
baptism of repentance for the  
forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> And  
people from the whole

Judean countryside and all  
the people of Jerusalem were  
going out to him, and were  
baptized by him in the river  
Jordan, confessing their  
sins. <sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed  
with camel's hair, with a  
leather belt around his waist,  
and he ate locusts and wild  
honey. <sup>7</sup> He proclaimed, 'The  
one who is more powerful  
than I is coming after me; I  
am not worthy to stoop down  
and untie the thong of his  
sandals. <sup>8</sup> I have baptized  
you with water; but he will  
baptize you with the Holy  
Spirit.'

<sup>9</sup> In those days Jesus came  
from Nazareth of Galilee and  
was baptized by John in the  
Jordan. <sup>10</sup> And just as he was  
coming up out of the water,  
he saw the heavens torn  
apart and the Spirit  
descending like a dove on  
him. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came  
from heaven, 'You are my  
Son, the Beloved; with you I  
am well pleased.'

**PSALM 29**

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  
splendour.

<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 for ever.

<sup>11</sup> May the Lord give strength  
to his people!  
May the Lord bless his  
people with peace!

**POST COMMUNION  
PRAYER**

Lord of all time and eternity,  
you opened the heavens and  
revealed yourself as Father  
in the baptism of Jesus your  
beloved Son:  
by the power of your Spirit  
complete the heavenly work  
of our rebirth  
through the waters of the new  
creation;  
through Jesus Christ our  
Lord.  
and reign on earth as he  
reigns in heaven,  
now and for ever.

