

The First Sunday after the Epiphany: January 9, 2022

Collect: We ask that all who are baptized into Jesus's name may be strengthened to keep the covenant they have made and acknowledge Jesus as Lord and Savior. *Amen.*

The First Lesson

Isaiah 43:1-7

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 Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. 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. 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."

Psalm 29

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

The Second Lesson

Acts 8:14-17

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The Gospel

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 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. 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.” Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, 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.”

Prayers of the People:

The Lord shall give us the blessings of strength and peace. Beloved of God, let us pray, “Walk with us through the waters, O God; *walk with us through the fire.*”

Deliver your Church, O God, from fear. Strengthen those you have redeemed by your presence. Give us all the courage to keep our baptismal promise.
Walk with us through the waters, O God; ***Walk with us through the fire.***

O God, you have blessed us to be members of your household. Strengthen the unity of the Church serving you in the east, west, north, and south. We pray for your Church, especially for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Jennifer, our Bishop; Mauricio, Bishop of Brasilia; for Debbie our priest, for the Executive Council of the Diocese of Indianapolis, the Anglican Church of Chile, for the clergy and people of St. Peters, Lebanon, and for St. Andre’s in Mithon.
Walk with us through the waters, O God; ***Walk with us through the fire.***

Your power, O God, is evident in the mysteries of our universe. By water and your Holy Spirit you have made us a new people. We give you thanks and praise.
Walk with us through the waters, O God; ***Walk with us through the fire.***

Break down the walls of division in our city and our nation. Bring us together as one human family, formed and made by your great hands. We pray for Joseph, our President, Kamala, our Vice President, Representatives, members of Congress, the Courts, Eric our Governor, our mayors, and all those in positions of authority who have been charged to serve all the people.
Walk with us through the waters, O God; ***Walk with us through the fire.***

Heal and comfort your beloved children, O God. Be with the needy in their trials. May they know that they are precious in your sight.
Walk with us through the waters, O God; ***Walk with us through the fire.***

Heavenly Parent, you have accepted us as your children. You have made us heirs with Christ. In your great mercy, receive us, and all who have died, into glory everlasting.
Walk with us through the waters, O God; ***Walk with us through the fire.***

Be present with the faith community of St. Alban’s. Guide our leaders to make good decisions for our future, to create a place of ministry that is broader than we can imagine, with community partners who will impact the neighborhood around us in ways we cannot do alone.
Walk with us through the waters, O God; ***Walk with us through the fire.***