

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.

LOOK

Christmas has come and gone and we are now in the season of Epiphany. Here are two definitions of the word “epiphany”:

- 1. an appearance or manifestation, especially of a deity.*
- 2. a sudden, intuitive perception of or insight into the reality or essential meaning of something, usually initiated by some simple, homely, or commonplace occurrence or experience.*

1. How have you experienced a spiritual insight through a simple, commonplace experience?
2. If you attended church this Sunday you probably picked up an epiphany star with a word on the back. How do you feel about the word you chose? Do you think it will be helpful in your spiritual journey this year?

BOOK *Matthew 3:13-17*

Everybody is getting baptized by John, and Jesus wants to have this experience too.

1. Why does Jesus begin his public ministry with baptism? What is meant by “it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness”?
2. Why is John reluctant to baptize Jesus?
3. How and why does God use his voice in this account of Jesus’ baptism?

TOOK

Epiphanies can come anytime and anywhere; in the form of heaven opening and God speaking, through sacraments like baptism, in quiet moments of prayer and reflection or even in a boisterous group of people agreeing to disagree.

1. If you attended the “revival” with our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, how did he use his voice to help you understand your purpose as a Christian more fully?
2. Baptism is a call to ministry. How will you use your voice to spread the gospel message this year? What role will listening play in the revival?