**FIRST READING: Genesis 1: 1-5**

A reading from the book of Genesis

In the beginning, when God created the universe, the earth was formless and desolate. The raging ocean that covered everything was engulfed in total darkness, and the Spirit of God was moving over the water. Then God commanded, “Let there be light”—and light appeared. God was pleased with what he saw. Then he separated the light from the darkness, and he named the light “Day” and the darkness “Night.” Evening passed and morning came—that was the first day.

**Psalm 29**

**R The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;**

Praise the Lord, you heavenly beings; praise his glory and power. Praise the Lord's glorious name; bow down before the Holy One when he appears. **R**

The voice of the Lord is heard on the seas; the glorious God thunders, and his voice echoes over the ocean. The voice of the Lord is heard in all its might and majesty. **R**

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars, even the cedars of Lebanon. He makes the mountains of Lebanon jump like calves and makes Mount Hermon leap like a young bull. **R**

The voice of the Lord makes the lightning flash. His voice makes the desert shake; he shakes the desert of Kadesh. The Lord's voice shakes the oaks and strips the leaves from the trees while everyone in his Temple shouts, “Glory to God!” **R**

The Lord rules over the deep waters; he rules as king forever. The Lord gives strength to his people and blesses them with peace. **R**

**Second Reading: Acts 19: 1-7**

A reading from the book of the Acts of the Apostles

19 While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul travelled through the interior of the province and arrived in Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?” “We have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit,” they answered. “Well, then, what kind of baptism did you receive?” Paul asked. “The baptism of John,” they answered. Paul said, “The baptism of John was for those who turned from their sins; and he told the people of Israel to believe in the one who was coming after him—that is, in Jesus.” When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Paul placed his hands on them, and the Holy Spirit came upon them; they spoke in strange tongues and also proclaimed God's message. They were about twelve men in all.

**GOSPEL: Mark 1: 4-11**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

Glory to you O Lord.

So John appeared in the desert, baptizing and preaching. “Turn away from your sins and be baptized,” he told the people, “and God will forgive your sins.” Many people from the province of Judea and the city of Jerusalem went out to hear John. They confessed their sins, and he baptized them in the Jordan River. John wore clothes made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. He announced to the people, “The man who will come after me is much greater than I am. I am not good enough even to bend down and untie his sandals. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” The Baptism and Temptation of Jesus Not long afterward Jesus came from Nazareth in the province of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. As soon as Jesus came up out of the water, he saw heaven opening and the Spirit coming down on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my own dear Son. I am pleased with you.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.