

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

After the Lord was baptised, the heavens  
were opened,  
and the Spirit descended upon him like a  
dove,  
and the voice of the Father thundered:  
This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well  
pleased.

**GLORIA**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

**COLLECT**

Almighty ever-living God,  
who, when Christ had been baptised in the River  
Jordan  
and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him,  
solemnly declared him your beloved Son,  
grant that your children by adoption,  
reborn of water and the Holy Spirit,  
may always be well pleasing to you.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the  
Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**FIRST READING**

Is 42:1-4, 6-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.  
Thus says the Lord:  
Here is my servant whom I uphold,  
my chosen one in whom my soul delights.  
I have endowed him with my spirit  
that he may bring true justice to the nations.  
He does not cry out or shout aloud,  
or make his voice heard in the streets.  
He does not break the crushed reed,  
nor quench the wavering flame.  
Faithfully he brings true justice;  
he will neither waver, nor be crushed  
until true justice is established on earth,  
for the islands are awaiting his law.  
I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause  
of right;  
I have taken you by the hand and formed you;  
I have appointed you as covenant of the people  
and light of the nations,  
to open the eyes of the blind,  
to free captives from prison,  
and those who live in darkness from the  
dungeon.  
The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

Ps 28

Response:

**The Lord will bless his people with peace.**

- O give the Lord you sons of God,  
give the Lord glory and power;  
give the Lord the glory of his name.  
Adore the Lord in his holy court. (R.)
- The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,  
the Lord on the immensity of waters;  
the voice of the Lord, full of power,  
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. (R.)
- The God of glory thunders.  
In his temple they all cry: "Glory!"  
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;  
the Lord sits as king for ever. (R.)

**SECOND READING**

Ac 10:34-38

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.  
Peter addressed Cornelius and his household:  
"The truth I have now come to  
realise," he said "is that God does not have  
favourites, but that anybody of  
any nationality who fears God and does what is  
right is acceptable to him.  
"It is true, God sent his word to the people of  
Israel, and it was to them  
that the good news of peace was brought by  
Jesus Christ - but Jesus Christ  
is Lord of all men. You must have heard about  
the recent happenings in  
Judea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he  
began in Galilee, after John had  
been preaching baptism. God had anointed him  
with the Holy Spirit and with  
power, and because God was with him, Jesus  
went about doing good and curing  
all who had fallen into the power of the devil."  
The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia, alleluia! The heavens opened and the  
Father's voice resounded:  
"This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him."  
Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL**

Mt 3:13-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Matthew.  
Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be  
baptised by John. John tried to  
dissuade him. "It is I who need baptism from  
you," he said "and yet you come  
to me!" But Jesus replied, "Leave it like this for  
the time being; it is  
fitting that we should, in this way, do all that  
righteousness demands." At  
this, John gave in to him.  
As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up  
from the water, and suddenly the  
heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God  
descending like a dove and  
coming down on him. And a voice spoke from  
heaven, "This is my Son, the  
Beloved; my favour rests on him."  
The Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

**I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.**

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with  
the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
(all bow during the next three lines)  
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the  
Virgin Mary,  
and became man.  
For our sake he was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored  
and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
I believe in one, holy, catholic and  
apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness  
of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the  
dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Accept, O Lord, the offerings  
we have brought to honour the revealing of your  
beloved Son,  
so that the oblation of your faithful  
may be transformed into the sacrifice of him  
who willed in his compassion  
to wash away the sins of the world.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

**Behold the One of whom John said:  
I have seen and testified that this is the Son  
of God.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Nourished with these sacred gifts,  
we humbly entreat your mercy, O Lord,  
that, faithfully listening to your Only Begotten  
Son,  
we may be your children in name and in truth.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

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In this hour of farewell, or, better, of leave-  
taking, I repeat once more that what matters  
most in this life is: our blessed Jesus Christ,  
his holy Church, his Gospel, and in the Gospel  
above all else the Our Father according to the  
mind and heart of Jesus, and the truth and  
goodness of his Gospel, goodness which must  
be meek and kind, hardworking and patient,  
unconquerable and victorious.  
(St John XXIII: Spiritual Testament)

# Sunday Message

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

THE WORD

Year A • 11 January 2026 • Colour: White • Psalter Week 1



## THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

MATTHEW 3:13-17

This passage tells the story of Jesus being baptized by John in the River Jordan. At first, John doesn't want to do it — he feels unworthy. He knows Jesus is far greater than he is. But Jesus insists. He says, "Let it be so for now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfil all righteousness."

What does that mean? It means Jesus chooses to stand with us — with sinners, with the broken, with those in need of mercy — even though He Himself is without sin. His baptism is an act of humility and love. He doesn't need cleansing, but He enters the water to bless it for us all.

As Jesus rises from the water, something amazing happens. The heavens open, the Holy Spirit comes down like a dove, and the voice of the Father is heard: "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

This moment shows us the Holy Trinity — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — united in love. It also shows us our true identity in baptism: we are God's beloved sons and daughters. Just as the Father delights in Jesus, He delights in us too. The baptism of Jesus reminds us that God comes close, not to judge, but to save. ■

### REFLECT

**W**hy does Jesus come to be baptized? John the Baptist is confused — and so are we. Jesus is without sin. He doesn't need to repent. But He comes to the water anyway. Not to be cleansed, but to bless the waters of baptism for all who will follow.

This moment reveals something beautiful about Jesus. He doesn't stand apart from us — He steps into our mess. He chooses to stand with sinners, with the poor, with the broken. He begins His mission not with glory, but with humility. In His baptism, Jesus shows us the heart of God — a God who walks beside us.

And then, something holy happens. The heavens open. The Spirit descends like a dove. And the voice of the Father says: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

That voice is not just for Jesus. Through our baptism, it becomes a voice for us, too. God calls each of us His beloved. No matter our failures, our fears, our doubts — God looks on us with love.

So today, remember your baptism. You are not just someone in the crowd. You are known. You are loved. You are God's child. And like Jesus, you are called to live in that love, and to share it with the world. ■

### LEARN

Jesus' baptism shows us that God loves us deeply and wants to be close to us. It reminds us that through baptism, we become God's beloved children called to live in His love.

### SAY

**Heavenly Father,  
at Jesus' baptism, You declared Him  
Your beloved Son.  
Help me to hear Your voice calling  
me Your beloved too.  
Fill me with Your Spirit and guide  
me to live with faith and love every  
day.  
Amen.**

### DO

Take a moment today to remember your baptism — maybe bless yourself with water or say a prayer thanking God for making you His beloved child.

