

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 40:1-5, 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
'Console my people, console them'
says your God.
'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem
and call to her
that her time of service is ended,
that her sin is atoned for,
that she has received from the hand of the Lord
double punishment for all her crimes.'
A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness
a way for the Lord.
Make a straight highway for our God
across the desert.
Let every valley be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low.
Let every cliff become a plain,
and the ridges a valley;
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
and all mankind shall see it;
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'
Go up on a high mountain,
joyful messenger to Zion.
Shout with a loud voice,
joyful messenger to Jerusalem.
Shout without fear,
say to the towns of Judah,
'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power,
his arm subduing all things to him.
The prize of his victory is with him,
his trophies all go before him.
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,
gathering lambs in his arms,
holding them against his breast
and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-30

Response:

Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are.

1. Lord God, how great you are,
clothed in majesty and glory,
wrapped in light as in a robe!
You stretch out the heavens like a tent. (R.)
2. Above the rains you build your dwelling.
You make the clouds your chariot,
you walk on the wings of the wind,
you make the winds your messengers
and flashing fire your servant. (R.)
3. How many are your works, O Lord!
In wisdom you have made them all.
The earth is full of your riches.
There is the sea, vast and wide,
with its moving swarms past counting,
living things great and small. (R.)
4. All of these look to you
to give them their food in due season.
You give it, they gather it up:
you open your hand, they have their fill. (R.)
5. You take back your spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth. (R.)

SECOND READING

Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus
God's grace has been revealed, and it has
made salvation possible for the whole human
race and taught us that what we have to do
is to give up everything that does not lead to
God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be
self-restrained and live good and religious lives
here in this present world, while we are waiting
in hope for the blessing which will come with
the Appearing of the glory of our great God and
saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for
us in order to set us free from all wickedness
and to purify a people so that it could be his
very own and would have no ambition except to
do good.

When the kindness and love of God our
saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not
because he was concerned with any righteous
actions we might have done ourselves; it was
for no reason except his own compassion that
he saved us, by means of the cleansing water
of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy
Spirit which he has so generously poured over
us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did
this so that we should be justified by his grace,
to become heirs looking forward to inheriting
eternal life.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Someone is coming, said
John, someone greater than I.
He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and
with fire. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Luke

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the
people, who were beginning to think that John
might be the Christ, so John declared before
them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone
is coming, someone who is more powerful than
I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his
sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit
and fire. Now when all the people had been
baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism
was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy
Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a
dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are
my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

(all bow during the next two lines)

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the
Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
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.

Sunday Message

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

THE WORD

Year C • 12 January 2025 • Colour: White • Psalter Week 1



SACRAMENT OF CONNECTION

LK 3:15-16.21-22

The Baptism of the Lord marks the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus. St Luke tells us that after his baptism in the Jordan, the Holy Spirit descends on Jesus and a voice from heaven reveals that he is the favoured one of God. Now he is anointed for ministry.

Jesus' baptism marks the start of his public life just as our baptism marks the start of our new life as his brothers and sisters. If we have been baptised as infants, it was our parents and godparents who took on the responsibility of nurturing our relationship with God until such time as we were mature enough to live our Christian faith for ourselves. Adult baptism, on the other hand, is a decision taken by the individual for him or her self. By asking to be baptised they have already discerned that they want to follow Christ.

But baptism is not the end of the journey. As in the case of Jesus, it simply marks the beginning. Washed with water and anointed with oils, we are prepared for the journey ahead. Jesus asked to be baptised not only as an example to us but so that he also would be given the strength to follow his true calling. It is encouraging for us to know that Jesus, the human being, knew his need of God. ■

DO

You won't remember the day of your baptism (unless you were baptised as an adult), but take some time to think about that day and its significance. What does it mean to you now?

LEARN

Through our baptism we have become consecrated to Christ, part of a royal priesthood, a holy nation

Through baptism, we are one family, brothers and sisters of Christ and of each other

Our baptism impels us to play a full and active part in the life of the Church

SAY

"I thank you, Lord, for the gift of faith and for being part of your Church. Help me to serve you faithfully every day."

PRAY

Think of your local church, of all who have been baptised there. Think of the members of your own family. Pray for them and for all the baptised throughout the world.

REFLECT

We can understand baptism as the sacrament of connection. First, it connects us with Jesus.

Through baptism, we become Jesus' sisters and brothers, intimately united with him. Being connected with Jesus is like being connected to a life source, a sure guiding force. Simply put, he shows us how to live, illumines the path for us to follow.

If we want to know about love, what true love is - we need only look to Jesus. If we want to know about justice and concern for the common good, we look to Jesus. If we want to know about healthy relationships, what they're like, how to foster them, we look to Jesus. If we want to know about forgiveness, its necessity, its awesome liberating power, we look to Jesus. If we want to find true happiness in this world and salvation in the next, we look to Jesus. If we want to know how to live life well, to live with integrity and moral purpose, we look to Jesus. In good times and in bad, we look to Jesus, who always guides our path, who never lets us down - our comforter, our shield, our hope, our rock, our salvation.

Second, baptism connects us with each other. We become sisters and brothers, members of one family. We know the saying, "Blood is thicker than water," and we know what it means. Family comes first. Our blood relatives - grandparents, parents, children, siblings, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins - these are the people who mean most to us, the people we treasure above all others. We'd go to any lengths to protect our family. Blood is thicker than water.

Except that, for Christians, it's the other way around. Water is thicker than blood. The water of baptism is thicker than blood. For through baptism, we become part of a new family, a much larger family, the community of believers, the communion of saints. Baptism connects us intimately with each other.

This means we're responsible for each other. The book of Genesis tells us that God created humanity in God's own image, that every person, every single, solitary, human being, is a reflection of God's very self. All are equal in God's eyes because all are

made in God's likeness. We must see each other the way God sees us, and relate to each other as family, as one.

But just as our blood family isn't perfect, we know our Christian family isn't perfect either, that we're a long way from being that community of justice, love and peace we are called to be, that our church leadership and institution have also shown themselves to be far from perfect.

Our baptism commits us as members of one family to lives of love and service: to see suffering and try to ease it, see injustice and try to end it, see hunger and try to feed it, see brokenness and try to heal it, see racism and try to defeat it, see war and try to stop it, see any situation where love is lacking and try to fill it, see the example of Jesus and try to follow it.

If we live like this, faithful to our baptismal promises, then on judgement day God will say to us as God said of Jesus at his baptism: "Here is my beloved who makes me proud." ■