

Baptism of the Lord c

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.**

Today we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus. Jesus, the Sinless One, joined the queue of sinners, and was baptised by his cousin, John, in the waters of the Jordan. He did so in order that he might free us from the power of sin. Let us pause to call to mind our sins, and our need for purification and liberation.

Lord, you were sent to heal the contrite of heart. Lord, have mercy.

Lord, you came to call sinners to repentance. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, you plead for us at the right hand of the Father. Lord, have mercy.



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.

Let us pray:

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, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11

"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 God 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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 28

**Response: Bless the Lord, my soul!
Lord God, how great you are!**

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/.**

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 servants. **R/.**

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/.**

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/.**

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

A reading from St Paul's letter to Titus

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

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.

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

GOSPEL

The Lord be with you.

Luke 3:15-16:21-22

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

While Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened.

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.

The Apostles' Creed

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

Offertory:

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offering:

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.**

Preface:

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For in the waters of the Jordan
you revealed with signs and wonders a new Baptism,
so that through the voice that came down from heaven
we might come to believe in your Word dwelling among us,
and by the Spirit's descending in the likeness of a dove
we might know that Christ your Servant
has been anointed with the oil of gladness
and sent to bring the good news to the poor.
And so, with the Powers of heaven,
we worship you constantly on earth,
and before your majesty without end we acclaim:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The mystery of faith. **Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.**

Communion Antiphon:

Behold the One of whom John said:

I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

Communion Reflection

Lord Jesus, touch our eyes so that we may see
the signs of your presence in our lives and in the world.
Touch our ears so that we may hear your word.
Touch our tongues so that we may profess our faith.
Touch our hands so that we may give and receive.
Touch our feet so that we may walk in your paths.
Touch our minds so that we may understand your ways.
Touch our wills so that they may be in tune with your will.
Touch our hearts so that we may bring your love
to our brothers and sisters,
to the praise and glory of God. Amen

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.**

Final Blessing

The Lord be with you.

May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Go forth, the Mass is ended.

And with your spirit.

Amen.

Thanks be to God.