

Worship for The Baptism of Christ (First Sunday of Epiphany)

Sunday 12th January 2025

O Lord, open our lips

and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Your light springs up for the righteous

and all the peoples have seen your glory.

A candle may be lit and silence is kept.

Jesus has brought us out of darkness,

to live in his marvellous light.

Arise, shine; for your light has come

And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

This day Jesus is revealed as the Christ in the waters of baptism

Alleluia! Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

At our Lord's baptism in the river Jordan,

God showed himself to all who have eyes to see and ears to hear.

The Father spoke from heaven,

the Holy Spirit descended as a dove,

and Jesus was anointed with power from on high.

Here is the door of faith, through which we enter the kingdom of heaven.

As children of God, we are adopted as his sons and daughters,

and called to proclaim the wonders of him

who called us out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Prayer of Confession

The grace of God has dawned upon the world through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.

Jesus Christ came in poverty and humility to share our lives:

forgive our greed, selfishness and pride. Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Jesus Christ came with good news for all people:

forgive our fear, apathy and silence. Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Jesus Christ came in love to a world of suffering:

forgive our self-centredness and lack of compassion. Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The Absolution

May the God of all healing and forgiveness

draw *us* to himself, and cleanse *us* from all *our* sins

that *we* may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh,

Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CANTICLE – A Song of the New Jerusalem

- 1 Arise, shine out, for your light has come, ♦
the glory of the Lord is rising upon you.
- 2 Though night still covers the earth, ♦
and darkness the peoples;
- 3 Above you the Holy One arises, ♦
and above you God's glory appears.
- 4 The nations will come to your light, ♦
and kings to your dawning brightness.
- 5 Your gates will lie open continually, ♦
shut neither by day nor by night.
- 6 The sound of violence shall be heard no longer in your land, ♦
or ruin and devastation within your borders.
- 7 You will call your walls, Salvation, ♦
and your gates, Praise.
- 8 No more will the sun give you daylight, ♦
nor moonlight shine upon you;
- 9 But the Lord will be your everlasting light, ♦
your God will be your splendour.
- 10 For you shall be called the city of God, ♦
the dwelling of the Holy One of Israel. *Isaiah 60.1-3,11a,18-19,14b*

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen**

The Bible readings for the Baptism of Christ (Epiphany 1)

Isaiah 43:1-7 - *Isaiah's wonderful message of comfort proclaiming God's salvation*

Acts 8:14-17 – *Peter & John's mission to Samaria affirms that Jesus and his Spirit are for all people, even the 'despised' Samaritans, not just for the Jews*

Luke 3:15-22 – *John the Baptist's ministry of repentance and the baptism of Jesus when he receives the Holy Spirit and is affirmed as God's Son.*

A few moments of quiet for thought, thanksgiving & reflection.

When all the people were being baptised, Jesus was baptised too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened ²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.' *Luke 3:21-22*

Creed

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a servant,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

(cf Philippians 2.6-11)

Prayers *(we can add our own prayers at each section)*

Generous God, we thank you for the power of your Holy Spirit.

We ask that we and all Christian people may be strengthened to serve you better.

We thank you for the wisdom of your Holy Spirit. We ask you to make your Church wise to understand your will, and especially we pray for...

Lord, come to bless us. **Fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the peace of your Holy Spirit. We ask you to keep us confident of your love, wherever you call us, and we pray for...

Lord, come to bless us. **Fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the healing of your Holy Spirit. We ask you to bring reconciliation and wholeness, where there is division, sickness and sorrow, and we pray for...

Lord, come to bless us. **Fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the gifts of your Holy Spirit. We ask you to equip us for the work which you have given us, so that you reveal in our lives the love of Jesus...

Lord, come to bless us. **Fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the breath of your Holy Spirit, given by the risen Lord.

We ask you to keep the whole Church, living and departed, in the joy of eternal life.

Lord, come to bless us. **Fill us with your Spirit.**

Generous God,

you sent your Holy Spirit upon your Messiah at the River Jordan,
and upon the disciples in the upper room.

In your mercy fill us with your Spirit.

**Hear our prayers,
and make us one in heart and mind
to serve you with joy for ever. Amen**

The Collect for the Baptism of Christ

Eternal Father,
who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed him to be your Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer *(or traditional form, if you prefer)*

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name;
your kingdom come; your will be done;
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Lord of all time and eternity,
you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father
in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son:
by the power of your Spirit
complete the heavenly work of our rebirth
through the waters of the new creation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Blessing

May God, who in Christ
gives us a spring of water welling up to eternal life,
perfect in us the image of his glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be with us and all who we love
and pray for, now and always. **Amen.**