

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

**R. Glory to you, O Lord.**

*When Jesus had been baptised and had been praying, the heavens were opened and the Holy Spirit came upon him.*

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.

**R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES’ CREED

*Or the Nicene Creed may be said.*

**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.**

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:*

**R. Blessed be God for ever.**

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

**R. 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 OFFERINGS

P. 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.

**R. Amen.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. Lift up your hearts.

**R. We lift them up to the Lord.**

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**R. It is right and just.**

PREFACE OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

*After the Preface, we sing or say:*

**All: 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 MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.

**All: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.**

COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour’s command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven . . .**

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray . . .

**All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.**

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said . . .

**R. Amen.**

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

*All exchange a sign of peace*

LAMB OF GOD

**All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Jn 1:32, 34

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. 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.

**R. Amen.**

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

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

**R. Amen.**

P. Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

In the midst of the terror, loss, and grief of the exile, Isaiah spoke words of hope, consolation, and healing. The inhabitants of Jerusalem wondered whether God had abandoned them. Would their suffering extend into a dark and hopeless future? When all seemed lost a word of hope was proclaimed – a word that went to the heart of Jerusalem. They could now look forward to the return of the exiles, the rebuilding of the city, and a future in which they could rest assured that God was among them.

Late in the first century, the letter to Titus reflected on the ways that God had been true to that promise of presence and gentle care through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Cleansed by baptism, and renewed by the gift of the Holy Spirit Christians were now called to respond appropriately by the manner of their own lives. God had been gracious to them and now they were called to respond by living good and religious lives as they waited for his return.

The Gospel passage today informs us that the people looked at John the Baptist with the eyes of hope, filled with longing for religious reform and liberation from the power of Rome. Isaiah proclaimed to the people of Jerusalem: ‘Here is your God.’ When Jesus comes for baptism this word is now radically enfleshed in the person of Jesus himself. He will gather the weak and the wounded, the blind and the lame revealing God’s compassionate and gracious love.

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OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD / C

9 JANUARY 2022

THE CLEANSING WATERS OF RE-BIRTH. In Luke’s Gospel, the baptism of Jesus marks the end of the ministry of John the Baptist and the beginning of a new era, that of the saving ministry of Jesus. This feast, which occurs early in the new year, is a good time for us to resolve to begin a new era in our own lives. Putting the past behind us, let us commit ourselves to making a fresh start in our service and love of our brothers and sisters.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Mt 3:16-17

**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.**

GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**R. Amen.**

P. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**R. And with your spirit.**

PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries. P. Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and Prince of Peace: Lord have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

P. You are the Son of God and the Son of Mary: Christ have mercy.

**R. Christ, have mercy.**

P. You are the Word made Flesh, the splendour of the Father. Lord have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**R. Amen.**

GLORIA

*(is either said or sung)*

COLLECT

P. 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.

**R. Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isa 40:1-5, 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

*The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it.*



‘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 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.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

RESP PS Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-30. R. v. 1

**R. Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!**

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 servants. **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. *He saved us through the water of rebirth and renewal in the Holy Spirit.*

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.

**R. Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Lk 3:16

**Alleluia, alleluia! John said: He who is to come is mightier than I; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Alleluia!**