



A Celebration for The Baptism of our Lord (First Sunday after the Epiphany)

Sentence

The Holy Spirit descended on Jesus in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.' (Luke 3:22)

Opening Prayer or Collect

Year ABC

Eternal God,
at the baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan
you proclaimed him your beloved Son,
and anointed him with the Holy Spirit:
grant that all who are baptised into his name
may keep the covenant they have made,
and boldly confess him as Lord and Saviour;
who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns,
one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

or

Loving God, your Son came to seek the lost,
and was baptised with sinners:
grant that we, who have been baptised in his name,
may reach out in love to those in need
with the mercy of Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

or

Spirit of energy and change,
in whose power Jesus was anointed
to be the hope of the nations:
be poured out also upon us without reserve or distinction,
that we may have confidence and strength
to implant your justice on the earth;
through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Readings for the Baptism of our Lord (Epiphany 1) (Year C)

Old Testament: Isaiah 43.1-7

A Reading from prophet Isaiah, Chapter 43 beginning at verse 1

But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.

I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

Because you are precious in my sight,
and honoured, and I love you,

I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.

Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;
I will say to the north, 'Give them up',
and to the south, 'Do not withhold';
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—
everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.'

Hear the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 29 APBA p 248

- 1 Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven:
ascribe to the Lord glory and might.
- 2 Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name:
O worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness.
- 3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters:
the God of glory thunders,
the Lord upon the great waters.
- 4 The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation:
the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.
- 5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar-trees:
the Lord breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.
- 6 He makes them skip like a calf:
Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild ox.
- 7 The voice of the Lord divides the lightning-flash:
the voice of the Lord whirls the sands of the desert,
the Lord whirls the desert of Kadesh.
- 8 The voice of the Lord rends the terebinth trees,
and strips bare the forests:
in his temple all cry 'Glory.'

- 9 The Lord sits enthroned above the water-flood:
the Lord sits enthroned as a king for ever.
- 10 The Lord will give strength to his people:
the Lord will give to his people the blessing of peace.
and your righteousness to the son of a king,

New Testament: Acts of the Apostles 8:14-17

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 8 beginning at the Verse 14.

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Hear the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Gospel: Luke 3:15-22

A Reading from the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke, Chapter 3, beginning at verse 15

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

For the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ