



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 A)

Old Testament: Isaiah 42.1-9

A Reading from the prophet Isaiah, Chapter 42 beginning at verse 1

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street;

a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.
Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
I am the LORD, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.
See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

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 10:34-38

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 10 beginning at the Verse 34.

Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ —he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Hear the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

A Reading from the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew, Chapter 3, beginning at verse 13

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptised by him. John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptised by you, and do you come to me?”

But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.” Then he consented.

And when Jesus had been baptised, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.

And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

For the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ