

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD - FEAST

Year C

ENTRANCE HYMN (tune: On Jordan's Bank)

1. When Jesus comes to be baptized,
He leaves the hidden years behind,
The years of safety and of peace.
To bear the sins of all mankind.
2. The Spirit of the Lord comes down,
Anoints the Christ to suffering,
To preach the word, to free the bound,
And to the mourner, comfort bring.
3. He will not quench the dying flame,
And what is bruised he will not break,
But heal the wound injustice dealt,
And out of death his triumph make.
4. Our everlasting Father, praise,
With Christ, his well-beloved Son,
Who with the Spirit reigns serene,
Untroubled Trinity in One.



GLORIA

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

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11
The glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind 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 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 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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 103: 1-2. 3-4. 24-25. 27-30. R) v. 1

R. Bless the Lord, my soul!

Lord God, how great you are.

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.)
5. 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.)
6. 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.)
7. 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 the letter of St. Paul to Titus 2:11-14. 3: 4-7

He saved us by the cleansing water of re-birth and by renewing us with 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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Lk 3:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

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 baptize 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 baptize 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.

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, (*All bow*) 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 HYMN

1. Sing of God made manifest
when at Jordan John confessed,
"I should be baptized by you,
but your bidding I will do."
Then from heaven a double sign--
dove-like Spirit, voice divine--
hailed the true Anointed One:
"This is my beloved Son."
2. Sing of God made manifest
when Christ came as wedding-guest
and at Cana gave a sign,
turning water into wine;
further still was love revealed
as he taught, forgave, and healed,
bringing light and life to all
who would listen to God's call.
3. Sing of God made manifest
on the cloud-capped mountain's crest,
where the Law and Prophets waned
so that Christ alone remained:
glimpse of glory, pledge of grace,
given as Jesus set his face
toward the waiting cross and grave,
sign of hope that God would save.

COMMUNION HYMNS

(Tune: Jesus the very thought of thee)

1. Christ, when for us you were baptized,
God's Spirit on you came,
as peaceful as a dove, and yet
as urgent as a flame,
2. God called you, 'My beloved Son'
you are God's servant true,
sent to proclaim the reign of heaven,
God's holy will to do
3. Straightway and steadfast until death
you then obeyed the call
to serve with free and willing heart,
to give your life for all.
4. Baptize us with your Spirit, Lord;
your cross on us be signed,
that likewise in God's service we
may perfect freedom find.

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1. There is a river that flows from God above;
there is a fountain that's filled with his great love.
*Come to the waters, there is a great supply;
there is a river that shall never run dry.*
2. Wash me with the water, and then I shall be clean;
white as the new snow, if you remove my sin.
3. Plunged in the water, the tomb of our rebirth,
so may we rise up to share in Christ's new life.
4. All who are thirsty, now hear God as he calls;
come to the Lord's side, His life pours out for all.

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1. Word of God, renew your people,
*make us now your living sign.
Recreate us for your purpose
in this place and in this time.*
2. Word of peace and Word of justice, make us ...
3. With your cross of love upon us, make us....
4. To the waters lead your people, make us
5. Risen Saviour with us always, make us ...
6. Holy Spirit, raise your people..make us...

RECESSIONAL HYMN

1. Joy to the world, the Lord has come
Let earth receive her king.
Let every heart prepare Him room.
And heaven and nature sing (x2)
And heaven and heaven and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth the Saviour reigns!
Let men their songs employ.
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy (x2)
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love (x2)
And wonders, wonders, of His love.