

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

After the Lord was baptized, 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.

PENITENTIAL ACT

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit:
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

You bring pardon and peace to the sinner: Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

You bring light to those in darkness:
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us...Amen.

THE GLORIA

Glorify 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.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty ever-living God, who, when Christ had been baptized 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....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Isaiah 42:1-4. 6-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord:
Here is my servant whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom my soul delights.
I have endowed him with my spirit
that he may bring true justice to the nations.
He does not cry out or shout aloud,
or make his voice heard in the streets.
He does not break the crushed reed,
nor quench the wavering flame.
Faithfully he brings true justice;
he will neither waver, nor be crushed
until true justice is established on earth,
for the islands are awaiting his law.

I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right;
I have taken you by the hand and formed you;
I have appointed you as covenant of the

people and light of the nations,
to open the eyes of the blind,
to free captives from prison,
and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 28:1 - 4. 9 - 10.

R. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

- O give the Lord you sons of God,
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Adore the Lord in his holy court. [R]
- The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,
the Lord on the immensity of waters;
the voice of the Lord, full of power,
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. [R]
- The God of glory thunders.
In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!'
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits as king for ever. [R]

SECOND READING Acts 10: 34 - 38

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.

'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ - but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! The heavens opened and the Father's voice resounded: 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 3: 13 - 17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. John tried to dissuade him. 'It is I who need baptism from you,' he said, 'and yet you come to me!' But Jesus replied, 'Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that righteousness demands.' At this, John gave in to him.

As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. And a voice spoke from heaven, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.'

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



focus on sunday

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD 8th January 2023

This is the feast of Jesus receiving from his Father the calling and mission which he followed through in his life, death and resurrection. We too are baptised into a similar relationship with God in Christ.



Nowadays we see baptism as welcoming a new person or infant into the Christian community. There was no Christian community for Jesus to be welcomed into when he was baptised by John in the river Jordan.

By his baptism Jesus identified with all who were in need of God's special outpouring of the Holy Spirit as foretold by the ancient prophets. The opening of the heavens, the voice, and the Spirit all confirmed that Jesus was God's presence in the world. He would treat people as if they were his Father in heaven.

His presence offered hope and healing to all who felt overwhelmed and overburdened. "Come to me all you who labour and are overburdened...." Matthew 11: 28. We who have been baptised by water and the Holy Spirit have become other Christs. We are God's presence in the world. Christ lives in us - Galatians 2: 20. "Christ has no body now on earth but yours - no hands, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes with which he looks out his compassion on the world. Yours are the feet with which he goes about doing good. Yours are the hands with which he blesses...." - Teresa of Avila.

Let's not underestimate the power we have to offer hope and help to others when they are down - a listening ear, a kind word, a welcome mat, a bit of humour.... Maybe we could go another step and offer the questioner a good reason for the faith we practise and the hope we have - 1 Peter 3:15.

Fr. Joe Walsh

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

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.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith.

Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.