

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

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.

## 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 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 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...

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING Isaiah 55:1-11

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah.**

Thus says the Lord:

Oh! come to the water all you who are thirsty:

though you have no money, come!

Buy corn without money, and eat,  
and, at no cost, wine and milk.

Why spend money on what is not bread,  
your wages on what fails to satisfy?

Listen, listen to me, and you will have good things to eat  
and rich food to enjoy.

Pay attention, come to me: listen, and your soul will live.

With you I will make an everlasting covenant  
out of the favours promised to David.

See, I have made of you a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and a master of the nations.

See, you will summon a nation you never knew,  
those unknown will come hurrying to you,

for the sake of the Lord your God,  
of the Holy One of Israel who will glorify you.  
Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,  
call to him while he is still near.

Let the wicked man abandon his way,  
the evil man his thoughts.

Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him,  
to our God who is rich in forgiving;

for my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
my ways not your ways - it is the Lord who speaks.

Yes, the heavens are as high above earth  
as my ways are above your ways,  
my thoughts above your thoughts.

Yes, as the rain and the snow come down from the  
heavens and do not return without watering the earth,  
making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for  
the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that  
goes from my mouth does not return to me empty,  
without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it  
was sent to do.

**The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM Is.12:2-6

**R. With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation.**

1. Truly God is my salvation,  
I trust, I shall not fear.

For the Lord is my strength, my song,  
he became my saviour.

With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation. [R]

2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!  
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples,  
declare the greatness of his name. [R]

3. Sing a psalm to the Lord  
for he has done glorious deeds,  
make them known to all the earth!  
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. [R]

### SECOND READING 1 John 5:1-9

**A reading from the first letter of John.**

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ  
has been begotten by God;

and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves  
the child whom he begets.

We can be sure that we love God's children  
if we love God himself and do what he has

commanded us;

this is what loving God is -  
keeping his commandments;

and his commandments are not difficult,  
because anyone who has been begotten by God  
has already overcome the world;

this is the victory over the world - our faith.

Who can overcome the world?

Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God:  
Jesus Christ who came by water and blood,  
not with water only,

but with water and blood;  
with the Spirit as another witness -

since the Spirit is the truth -



# focus on sunday

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD 7th January 2024

Wherever there is water, there is life. Jesus' baptism in the Jordan marked the beginning of his life's work, his taking on the fullness of humanity. Our baptism is the source of our Christian vocation.



so that there are three witnesses,  
the Spirit, the water and the blood,  
and all three of them agree.  
We accept the testimony of human  
witnesses, but God's testimony  
is much greater, and this is God's  
testimony, given as evidence for  
his Son.

**The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

John saw Jesus coming towards  
him and said: This is the Lamb of  
God who takes away the sin of the  
world. Alleluia!

### GOSPEL Mark 1:7-11

**A reading from the holy Gospel  
according to Mark.**

In the course of his preaching John  
the Baptist said, 'Someone is  
following me, someone who is more  
powerful than I am, and I am not fit  
to kneel down and undo the strap  
of his sandals. I have baptised you  
with water, but he will baptise you  
with the Holy Spirit.'

It was at this time that Jesus came  
from Nazareth in Galilee and was  
baptised in the Jordan by John. No  
sooner had he come up out of the  
water than he saw the heavens torn  
apart and the Spirit, like a dove,  
descending on him. And a voice  
came from heaven, 'You are my  
Son, the Beloved; my favour rests  
on you.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

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

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*Pray brothers and sisters.....*

**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.**

### AFTER THE CONSECRATION

**The mystery of faith.**

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



A birth is a joy to parents. The first words of a child or grandchild or nephew or niece make a big difference to our lives. A new estate of houses and the beginning of a parish, a country. We mark beginnings with some sort of ritual or ceremony.

Jesus' baptism begins his mission and joins him into the religious life of his people.

Baptism for us is the beginning of faith. It introduces us into the prayer and sacraments for important times of life, joining us to the community within the area and the parish, with people we meet through the Church - friends, husband, or wife. It brings us into a meaning in life in the gospel of Jesus, and the big traditions of the Church, and faith in the afterlife; by baptism we are to care for the poor.

We are part of the church. Baptism not just a prayer but a joining into the church. Part of a community which with all its faults and failings has made a huge difference to the world. How much health care, education and other services in Ireland and abroad can we thank our church and the other churches for?

And knowing Jesus, a friend. The one who forgives. So that we can always move forward to a fuller life, more joy, and peace. As was said to him, is said to us - 'you are my beloved son and daughter.'

For baptism we pray in thanks --- glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always. Amen.

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