

Sunday 7th January 2024

The Baptism of Christ

Reading 1: Genesis 1: 1 – 5

Reading 2: Acts 19:1 - 7

Gospel: Mark 1: 4 - 11

Proclamation:

The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us,
and we beheld His glory. Jn 1:14

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with us.

Grant us, Lord, who behold your glory,
to drink from the waters of the new creation
flowing from the river of life at your baptism.
Give us the wings of the Spirit,
that we may hasten to meet you at your coming,
and praise you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever.

All. Amen.

Psalm: 29

Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

² Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name;
worship the LORD in holy splendour.

³ The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the LORD, over mighty waters.

⁴ The voice of the LORD is powerful;
the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

⁶ He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.

⁷ The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.

⁸ The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

⁹ The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl,
and strips the forest bare;
and in his temple all say, 'Glory!'

¹⁰ The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king for ever.

¹¹ May the LORD give strength to his people!
May the LORD bless his people with peace!

Song: (*click link*) *Praise to the Lord the Almighty* <https://youtu.be/VGAaRtkovZQ>

Invitation to Confession

Because God was merciful,
he saved us through the water of re-birth
and the renewing power of the Holy Spirit.
But through sin we have fallen away.
Let us return to the Lord and renew our faith in His promises
by confessing our sins in penitence.

Confession:

Lord our God,
in our sin we have avoided your call.
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes away early.
Have mercy on us;
deliver us from judgement;
bind up our wounds and revive us;
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Absolution:

May the God of healing and forgiveness
draw us to Himself
and cleanse us from all our sins
that we may behold the glory of His Son,
the Word made flesh,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Reading1: Acts 19: 1 – 7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ² He said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?' They replied, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.' ³ Then he said, 'Into what then were you baptized?' They answered, 'Into John's baptism.' ⁴ Paul said, 'John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to

come after him, that is, in Jesus.’ ⁵ On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— ⁷ altogether there were about twelve of them.

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

Gospel: Mark 1: 4 – 11

And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptised by him in the River Jordan. ⁶ John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt round his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And this was his message: ‘After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I baptise you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.’

The baptism and testing of Jesus

⁹ At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven: ‘You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.’

This is the gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

Talk: Brenda Sheppard https://youtu.be/6O7j_mktidg

The Creed

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

Prayers of Intercession:

(Please add in names and circumstances known to you in the appropriate place)

Jesus calls us out of darkness into His marvellous light.
Washed clean by the waters of baptism,
let us pray that we may live the life to which He has called us.

Lord Jesus, eternal Word,
proclaimed as the Christ by John the forerunner,
hear us as we pray for all who proclaim your word.....
Lord of truth,
Hear our prayer

Lord Jesus, baptising with the Spirit and with fire,
strengthen us to withstand all the trials of our faith.....
Lord of truth,
Hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, bringing forgiveness to all who repent,
teach your church dependence on your grace.....
Lord of truth,
Hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, fulfilment of the promises of old,
give hope to all who suffer or are ignored.....
Lord of truth,
Hear our prayer

Lord Jesus, beloved Son of the Father,
anoint us with the gifts of your Holy Spirit.....
Lord of truth,
Hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, bringer of hope,
share with all the faithful the riches of eternal life.....
Lord of truth,
Hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ,
in you the Father makes all things new.
Transform the poverty of our nature
by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory. Amen.

Collect:

Eternal father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed Him to be your Son, anointing Him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us who are born again of water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name
Your kingdom come
Your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread
and forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil
For the kingdom the power and the glory
are yours now and forever. Amen.

*Usually, at this point in the service, we take up our offering;
let us pause for a moment to bring ourselves and all that we offer to God
and give Him thanks.*

Song: (click link) Spirit of Holiness <https://youtu.be/P-QNMJsks74>

Blessing:

Christ the Son of God, perfect in us the image of His glory
and gladden our hearts with the good news of His kingdom.....

...and the blessing of God almighty
Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be with us, and all those whom we love,
this day and always. Amen

*As we come to the end of this service we can fellowship with each other in Spirit, with tea, coffee
and biscuits, and continuing to pray for each other.*

Post something on the Facebook page to bless others.