

ICHTHUS

SUNDAY 9 JANUARY 2022

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Year C



Can you spot the font in church?



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.

COLLECT

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...

We say these words or sing a hymn as the priest approaches the altar.

We ask for God's help. Listen now to the priest as he offers this prayer.



DO YOU KNOW?

Luke's version of Jesus' baptism is slightly different from the other Gospels. Here, it is when Jesus is praying that the Holy Spirit comes down on his and the voice from heaven speaks. Luke is emphasising that when it is when we pray that we meet God. God the Father is with Jesus when he prays and will be with us too.



FIRST READING

ISAIAH 40:1-5. 9-11

Before mobile phones and computers it took a long time to share news. In Old Testament times, town criers shouted information and messengers ran with urgent news. Today, we hear the most important and urgent news - God is coming!

Isaiah wants to make it as easy as possible to share this good news. He urges everyone to make the roads as straight as possible and to shout from the highest mountain. Let's all get ready to welcome our powerful and loving God!

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN. Make God's path to our hearts as straight and as easy as possible.

The cantor or psalmist sings or says the psalm. Listen to the verses, and then respond by using these words.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 103

Bless the Lord, my soul!
Lord God, how great you are.



SECOND READING

TITUS 2:11-14; 3:4-7

God loves us very much and has given us a way to have meaningful, happy lives. We can all have a great relationship with God because of Jesus. Jesus has shown us how to put behind us anything that might lead

us away from God, and turn towards God by living a life of love. It is through our baptism we have been born into new life with Jesus and though our baptism we have been given the Holy Spirit to help us.

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN. Our baptism has given us a new life with Jesus.



We give a shout of praise to God, using these words taken from the Bible.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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



THINK

At the start of his public ministry Jesus himself goes to be baptised by his cousin John. Although Jesus has his new and important job sharing God's love to start, he stands with everyone else on the banks of the river Jordan waiting his turn. God's Son really is one of us, making it possible for us to be like him!



The Good News about Jesus is told to us by St Luke.

There is a hum of excitement. John the Baptist is amazing – perhaps he is the promised saviour, the Messiah? John sets everyone straight. No, he isn't the Messiah. Someone even more important is coming, someone so special that John is not good enough to undo his sandals. The Messiah won't

just baptise with water, he will baptise with the Holy Spirit and fire. After John has baptised everyone else, Jesus himself comes forward. While Jesus prays, the heavens open, the Holy Spirit comes down on him in the form of a dove and voice from heaven says, "This is my Son, the Beloved."

STAND to LISTEN

to the priest or deacon as he prepares to read the Gospel.

Before he reads the Gospel, what does the priest or deacon do to his forehead, his lips and his heart? Can you copy him?



PRAY

"You are my Son, the Beloved."

Take a moment to relax and breathe slowly, knowing that God is with you. Use your imagination. Hear God say your name. Hear God call you "Beloved" and feel God's love deep in your heart.



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Dear Lord, I would like to pray for anyone who is starting a new job or beginning a new term at school. Give us all energy and determination, so that we use our talents well. Lord, hear my prayer.

Listen to the reader as he or she encourages us to pray for situations and people in need. Here is a prayer you could say privately.



OFFERTORY PROCESSION

As we take our gifts of bread, wine and money to the altar, think about any time this week when you were unhappy and then think about all the happy times you enjoyed.

Say a little prayer offering these thoughts up to God.

Watch as the gifts are made ready and the priest washes his hands and prepares for the Eucharistic Prayer.



THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Today's special prayer thanks God for fulfilling all God's promises to us.

What can you give special thanks for today?

We listen to the prayer of praise and thanks to God.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

As the priest extends his hands, we say the prayer that Jesus taught us.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

You are invited to sing a Communion song or say this verse, which has been especially chosen for today's celebration.



MY PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Thank you, Jesus, for being the light in my life. Thank you for always being with me, guiding my way and keeping me safe in your love. Amen.



DO

Find out about the symbolism of a baptismal font and why they are often at the entrance of churches.



IXΘΥΣ

is the Greek word for "fish" and was used in the catacombs as a sign for early Christians. It is made up from the first letter of five Greek titles for the Lord:

- I (Jesus)
- X (Christos)
- Θ (Theou/God's)
- Υ (Uios/Son)
- Σ (Soter/Saviour)



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We take Jesus with us to carry on the work that he did on earth, until we meet again next Sunday.

Go in peace.

