

Morning Prayer For Sunday 12th January 2025
The Sunday after the Epiphany: The Baptism of Christ

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Welcome & Introduction

We come together in the name of Christ to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive God's holy word, to seek the forgiveness of our sins, and to pray for the needs of the world, that by the power of the Holy Spirit, we may give ourselves to the service of God.

O Lord, open our lips,
and our mouth will proclaim your praise.

Let us worship the Lord.
All praise to his name

Blessed are you, Lord our God,
creator and redeemer of all;
to you be glory and praise for ever.
From the waters of chaos you drew forth the world
and in your great love fashioned us in your image.
Now, through the deep waters of death,
you have brought your people to new birth
by raising your Son to life in triumph.
May Christ your light ever dawn in our hearts
as we offer you our sacrifice of thanks and praise.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

Hymn: 196 O Worship The Lord In The Beauty Of Holiness

1 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name!

2 Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness,
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,
comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.

3 Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness
of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine:
truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.

4 These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,
he will accept for the name that is dear;
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.

5 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name!

Penitence

Because God was merciful,
he saved us through the water of rebirth
and the renewing power of the Holy Spirit. *Titus 3: 5*

Let us turn to the Lord and renew our faith in his promises
by confessing our sins in penitence.

O God, our loving Father in heaven, we confess that we have sinned against you; we have broken your commandments; we have often been selfish, and we have not loved you as we should. For these, and all our sins, forgive us, we pray: through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer for Pardon

May the God of love bring us back to himself, forgive us our sins,
and assure us of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Your word is a lantern to my feet
and a light upon our path. *c.f. Psalm 119:105*

O Lord, your word is everlasting:
it stands firm for ever in the heavens. *c.f. Psalm 119:89*

Let us then receive the word of the Lord.
so may the light of your presence shine into our hearts.

First Reading- Isaiah 43: 1-7

But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, ‘Give them up’, and to the south, ‘Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.’

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 29

- 1 Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven, ♦
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
- 2 Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name; ♦
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; ♦

the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

4 The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation; ♦

the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.

5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; ♦

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 splits the flash of lightning;

the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; ♦

the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

8 The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe

and strips the forests bare; ♦

in his temple all cry, 'Glory!'

9 The Lord sits enthroned above the water flood; ♦

the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore.

10 The Lord shall give strength to his people; ♦

the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit
As it was in the beginning is now and shall be forever. Amen

Second Reading: Acts 8: 14-17

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Hymn: 386 Spirit Of God Unseen As The Wind

Spirit of God, unseen as the wind,

gentle as is the dove;

teach us the truth and help us believe,

show us the Saviour's love.

1 You spoke to us long, long ago,
gave us the written word;
we read it still, needing its truth,
through it God's voice is heard.

2 Without your help we fail our Lord,
we cannot live his way;
we need your power, we need your strength,
following Christ each day.

Holy Gospel: Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke:

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Thought for the Day

Collect of the Word

Spirit of energy and change, in whose power Jesus was anointed to be the hope of the nations: be poured out also upon us without reserve or distinction, that we may have confidence and strength to implant your justice on the earth; through Jesus Christ.

Amen

Hymn: 294 Come Down O Love Divine

1 Come down, O Love divine,
seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

2 O let it freely burn,
till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

3 Let holy charity
mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing:
true lowliness of heart,
which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

4 And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace,
till we become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again 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 the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

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, baptizing 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 us and 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.**

The Collect of the Day

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 of water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, we are bold to pray:
Our Father, who art in heaven: hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn: 652 Lead Us Heavenly Father Lead Us

1 Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
for we have no help but thee;
yet possessing every blessing,
if our God our Father be.

2 Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us,
all our weakness thou dost know;
thou didst tread this earth before us,
thou didst feel its keenest woe;
self denying, death defying,
thou to Calvary didst go.

3 Spirit of our God, descending,
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
love with every passion blending,
pleasure that can never cloy;
thus provided, pardoned, guided,
nothing can our peace destroy.

A Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

For the love of our Father, the maker of all, the giver of all good things,

let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

For Jesus Christ our Saviour, who lived and worked among us,

let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

For his suffering and death on the cross and his resurrection to new life,

let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

For his rule over all things and his presence in the world,

let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

For the Holy Spirit, the giver of life, who teaches us and guides us,

let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

For the grace of the Spirit in the work of the Church and the life of the world,

let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

The Dismissal

We go into the world
**to walk in God's light, to rejoice in God's love and to reflect God's
glory. Amen.**

Prayer for Blessing

The almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless us and keep us. **Amen.**

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.