

Service of Spiritual Communion for The Baptism of Christ



¶ *The Gathering*

Hymn

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Words: J S B Monsell (1811-1875) T. WAS LEBET

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Greeting

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.

**From the rising of the sun to its setting
your name is proclaimed in all the world.**

The Lord of glory be with you.

The Lord bless you.

Words of introduction may be said.

We sing,

**Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to God in the highest.**

Glory to God, in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks,

we praise you for your glory.

**Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to God in the highest.**

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

**Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to God in the highest.**

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.

**Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to God in the highest.**

The Collect

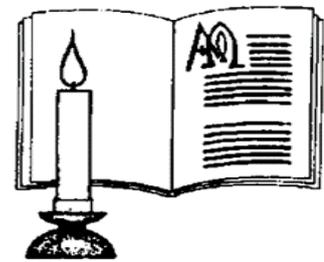
Let us pray that we may be faithful to our baptism.

Silence is kept.

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 by 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 for ever. **Amen.**

¶ *The Liturgy of the Word*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (43:1-7)



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.

Hymn

When Jesus comes to be baptized,
 he leaves the hidden years behind,
 the years of safety and of peace.
 to bear the sins of humankind.

The Spirit of the Lord comes down,
 anoints the Christ to suffering,
 to preach the word, to free the bound,
 and to the mourner, comfort bring.

He will not quench the dying flame,
 and what is bruised he will not break,
 but heal the wound injustice dealt,
 and out of death his triumph make.

Our everlasting Father praise,
 with Christ, his well-beloved Son,
 who with the Spirit reigns serene,
 eternal Trinity in One.

Words: Community of Stanbrook Abbey T. HERONGATE

Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia. This is my Son, the Beloved,
with whom I am well pleased.

Matthew 3.17

Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord. (3:15-17, 21-22)

In the wilderness John Proclaimed a baptism of repentance. 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, O Christ.

Sermon

¶ *Thanksgiving for Holy Baptism*

Water is poured into the font with these words,

God in Christ gives us water welling up for eternal life.

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

Lord, give us this water and we shall thirst no more.

The president stands before the water and says,

Praise God who made heaven and earth,
who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

Father, we give you thanks and praise
 for your gift of water in creation;
 for your Spirit, sweeping over the waters,
 bringing light and life;
 for your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
 baptized in the river Jordan.

We bless you for your new creation,
 brought to birth by water and the Spirit,
 and for your grace bestowed upon us your children,
 washing away our sins.

May your holy and life-giving Spirit
 move upon these waters.

Restore through them the beauty of your creation,
 and bring those who are baptized
 to new birth in the family of your Church.

Drown sin in the waters of judgement,
 anoint your children with power from on high,
 and make them one with Christ
 in the freedom of your kingdom.

For all might, majesty, dominion and power are yours,
 now and for ever.

Alleluia. Amen.

I saw water flowing from the threshold of the temple.

**Wherever the river flows
 everything will spring to life. Alleluia.**

On the banks of the river grow trees bearing every kind of fruit.
Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail.

Their fruit will serve for food,
their leaves for the healing of the nations.

**For the river of the water of life
flows from the throne of God and of the Lamb.**

*The Prayer over the Water is followed by this act of penitence and
dedication,*

God of truth,
you are faithful to the covenant you have made with us;
look in mercy on your people.

From all our sins, O Lord:

wash us, and we shall be clean.

We have broken the pledges of our baptism,
and failed to be your disciples.

From all our sins, O Lord:

wash us, and we shall be clean.

Though we are saved by Christ
and dead to sin through the deep waters of death,
we have not witnessed to his grace by our manner of life.

From all our sins, O Lord:

wash us, and we shall be clean.

We have shown indifference to those in need
and have been afraid to stand up for justice and truth.

From all our sins, O Lord:

wash us, and we shall be clean.

We have been slow to forgive, and have failed to remember
your repeated forgiveness of our sins.

From all our sins, O Lord:

wash us, and we shall be clean.

Today we rejoice and give thanks
because your Son humbled himself to be baptized in the Jordan.
Through the waters you have given us the mystery of baptism

for the remission of our sins.

From all our sins, O Lord:

wash us, and we shall be clean.

Through water and Spirit

you give us new life as the people of God,

and pour out upon us the gifts of your new covenant.

From all our sins, O Lord:

wash us, and we shall be clean.

Almighty God,

in our baptism you have consecrated us

to be temples of your Holy Spirit.

May we, whom you have counted worthy,

nurture your indwelling Spirit with a lively faith,

and worship you with upright lives;

through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The water may be sprinkled over the people, or they may come and sign themselves with the cross in it as the president says,

'Come,' say the Spirit and the Bride.

'Come forward, you who are thirsty,

receive the water of life,

the free gift to all who desire it.'

May almighty God have mercy on *us*,

forgive *us our* sins,

and bring *us* to everlasting life,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

¶ *The Liturgy of the Eucharist*

The Peace

God has made us one in Christ.

He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come, has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. Alleluia. *2 Cor. 1.22*

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Preparation of the Table Taking of the Bread and Wine



Hymn

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not,
as thou hast been thou for ever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided,
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.*

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Great is thy faithfulness

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Great is thy faithfulness

Words: Thomas Chisholm (1866-1960) T. FAITHFULNESS

Open the heavens, Lord our God, and send your transforming Spirit on us and on these gifts.

May we who are baptized into Christ be ready to share his cup of suffering and strengthened to serve him for ever.

Amen.

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

The Eucharistic Prayer

It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

You celebrated your new gift of baptism
in signs and wonders at the Jordan.

Your voice was heard from heaven
to awaken faith in the presence among us
of your Word made flesh.

Your Spirit was seen as a dove,
revealing Jesus as your servant,
and anointing him with the oil of gladness
to preach the good news to the poor.

Therefore, as we celebrate the union of earth and heaven,
we rejoice to echo the song of the angels in heaven
for ever praising you and singing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

*We recall the Last Supper,
and acclaim the mystery of our faith.*

Great is the mystery of faith,
**Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again:**

*The prayer continues and leads into the doxology,
to which we respond, **Amen***

The Lord's Prayer

Believing the promises of God,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us,

**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.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

**God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

The Agnus Dei may be used as the bread is broken.

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
Have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
Have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

**God here among us, light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

**Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits
you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have
borne for me.**

**Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you
to come spiritually into my heart.**

**O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I
know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow
you more nearly, day by day.**

Amen.



*Open to God's loving presence
around us and within us we keep
silence for our own act of spiritual
communion.*

**Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples,
 'I am with you always'.
 Be with me today, as I offer myself to you.
 Hear my prayers for others and for myself,
 and keep me in your care. Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

Lord of all time and eternity,
 you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father
 in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son:
 by the power of your Spirit
 complete the heavenly work of our rebirth
 through the waters of the new creation;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
**Eternal Father, we thank you for nourishing us,
 may our communion strengthen us in faith,
 build us up in hope, and make us grow in love;
 for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hymn

Tell all the world of Jesus,
 our Saviour, Lord and King;
 and let the whole creation
 of his salvation sing:
 proclaim his glorious greatness
 in nature and in grace;
 Creator and Redeemer,
 the Lord of time and space.

Tell all the world of Jesus,
 that everyone may find
 the joy of his forgiveness -
 true peace of heart and mind:
 proclaim his perfect goodness,
 his deep, unfailing care;
 his love so rich in mercy,
 a love beyond compare.

Tell all the world of Jesus,
 that everyone may know
 of his almighty triumph
 defeating every foe:
 proclaim his coming glory,
 when sin is overthrown
 and he shall reign in splendour -
 the King upon his throne!

James Edward Seddon (1915 - 1983)

T. THORNBURY

¶ *The Dismissal*

Acclamation

The Father's voice bears witness to the Son.

God has revealed himself to us.

The Son bows his head beneath the waters of baptism.

God has revealed himself to us.

The Spirit as a dove descends from heaven.

God has revealed himself to us.

Submitting to John's baptism, Christ delivers us from bondage.

God has revealed himself to us.

The Dismissal Gospel

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit." And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.'

John 1.32-34

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Blessing

May God the Father,
who led the wise men by the shining of a star
to find the Christ, the Light from Light,
lead you also in your pilgrimage to find the Lord.

Amen.

May God the Son,
who turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana,
transform your lives and make glad your hearts.

Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit,
who came upon the beloved Son
at his baptism in the river Jordan,
pour out his gifts on you
who have come to the waters of new birth.

Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

The Dismissal

We have come to Christ, the living water.
Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

