

Sunday, January 9, 2022

Baptism of Our Lord / Lectionary 1, Year C

Introduction

Today's festival rejoices in God's blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God's children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we "pass through the waters . . . the rivers . . . fire." On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God's Beloved, Jesus, in bread and wine.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
who creates us,
redeems us,
and calls us by name.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,
**we confess that we have sinned against you
and your beloved children.
We have turned our faces away from your glory
when it did not appear as we expected.
We have rejected your word
when it made us confront ourselves.
We have failed to show hospitality
to those you called us to welcome.
Accept our repentance for the things we have done
and the things we have left undone.
For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.
Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe
in the glory of your Son born among us,
and reflect your love for all creation.
Amen.**

Rejoice in this good news:

In ✠ Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven.

You are descendants of the Most High,
adopted into the household of Christ,
and inheritors of eternal life.

Live as freed and forgiven children of God.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. A voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, ¹ the Beloved,* with whom I ¹ am well pleased.” *Alleluia.* (*Matt. 3:17*)

Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 43:1-7

When you pass through the waters, do not fear, for I am with you

Psalm 29

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters. (*Ps. 29:3*)

Acts 8:14-17

Prayer and laying on of hands for the Holy Spirit

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

The baptism of Jesus with the descent of the Holy Spirit

First Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7

Near the end of Israel’s exile in Babylon, God promises to bring the people home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.

¹But 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.

²When 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.

³For I am the LORD your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,

Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

⁴Because you are precious in my sight,

and honored, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
⁵Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;
⁶I 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—
⁷everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

Psalm: Psalm 29

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters. (Ps. 29:3)

¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
²**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**
³The 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 a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor. R**
⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
⁶**the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**
⁷The voice of the LORD
bursts forth in lightning flashes.
⁸**The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. R**
⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.
And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"
¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**
¹¹O LORD, give strength to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace. **R**

Second Reading: Acts 8:14-17

Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.

¹⁴Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

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

The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved Son.

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John 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. ¹⁷His 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."

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and 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."

Prayers of Intercession

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

A brief silence.

By the Holy Spirit, you gather your church and send it out in mission to share the good news of Jesus. Inspire your faithful people to be fervent in prayer and service, that all people know they are precious in God's sight. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

You reveal your love and power through water and the Spirit. Guard rivers, seas, and all bodies of water from destruction and pollution. Secure access to clean water for all, and protect the land from drought and flood. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Establish among the nations the blessings of peace. Raise up leaders who will protect vulnerable people in their care. Strengthen advocates who risk reputation or retaliation for the sake of mercy and justice. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

You protect us through the fires and troubled waters of this life. Assure us that we will not be cut off from you by illness or despair, anxiety or pain, confusion or weakness. Comfort all who are in need (*especially*). God of grace,

hear our prayer.

We are joined in baptism to Christ and to one another. Bless those who are newly baptized and those who are preparing for baptism. Help us to be faithful in fellowship, worship, evangelism, service, and justice-seeking. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You created each of your saints for your glory. We give thanks for those you have called by name into your eternal embrace (*especially*). Comfort us in grief and release us from fear. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God,
Sovereign of the universe.
You offer us new beginnings
and guide us on our journey.
Lead us to your table,
nourish us with this heavenly food,
and prepare us to carry your love
to a hungry world,
in the name of Christ our light.

Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Come to God's table.
There is a place for you and enough for all.

Prayer after Communion

We give you thanks, gracious God,
for we have feasted on the abundance of your house.
Send us to bring good news
and to proclaim your favor to all,
strengthened with the richness of your grace
in your Son, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Blessing

God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness,
who rejoices over you,
and who calls you by name,
✠ bless your going out and your coming in,
today and forever.
Amen.

Dismissal

Go with Christ into a weary world.
Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.

Upcoming Commemorations

Adrian of Canterbury, teacher, died around 710 (TFF)

Sunday, January 9, 2022

African by birth, Adrian (or Hadrian) worked with Theodore, archbishop of Canterbury, in developing the church in England. He was director of a school at which church leaders were trained.

Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, martyr, died 1968

Saturday, January 15, 2022

An American prophet of justice among races and nations, King was an eloquent preacher, a leader of the nonviolent resistance to race-segregated society, and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Born on this date, he was assassinated on April 4, 1968.

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