



Celebrate

Baptism of Our Lord
January 13, 2019

The Baptism of Our Lord cannot help but recall our own and all baptismal blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as daughters and sons, 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 the beloved Son of God in bread and wine.

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.**

First Reading

Isaiah 43:1-7

Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring them 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.

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.
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; refrain, Ps. 29:3



Ascribe to the ¹LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glo-¹ry and strength.
²Ascribe to the LORD the glory ¹due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beau-¹ty of holiness.
³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of ¹glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the ¹mighty waters.
⁴The voice of the LORD is a pow-¹erful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a ¹voice of splendor. **R**
⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the ¹cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the ce-¹dars of Lebanon;
⁶the LORD makes Lebanon skip ¹like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a ¹young wild ox.
⁷The voice ¹of the LORD
bursts forth in ¹lightning flashes.
⁸The voice of the LORD ¹shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilder-¹ness of Kadesh. **R**
⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe
and strips the ¹forests bare.
And in the temple of the LORD all are ¹crying, "Glory!"
¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned a-¹bove the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king for-¹evermore.
¹¹O LORD, give strength ¹to your people;
give them, O LORD, the bless-¹ings of peace. **R**

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.

Now 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.

As 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.

United as one body in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Pour out your Spirit upon us and enliven us for mission. Draw us together in love that we may be one. Lead us in the way of your beloved Son. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For the earth. Sustain oceans and seas, rivers and lakes, marshes and wetlands. Watch over dormant plants and hibernating animals as they rest in your care. Renew your creation and protect all creatures from harm. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For the nations. Inspire leaders to work for the common good. Grant courage to those who put themselves at risk to protect others. Turn us away from violence and teach us to live in peace. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For those in need. Protect children and vulnerable adults who depend on others to provide for their daily care. Uphold those who struggle with depression. Console the grieving and heal the sick (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For this assembly. Bless the newly baptized. Renew your children in the covenant of baptism. Empower us by your loving Spirit to serve our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died (*especially*). Hold us safe in your arms of mercy and bring us with them into your promise of life eternal. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Receive our prayers and fill us with the radiance of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Preparing for Next Week

Monday Psalm 106:1-12. **Tuesday** (commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, martyr, 1968) 1 John 5:13-21. **Wednesday** Numbers 27:1-11. **Thursday** (commemoration of Antony of Egypt, renewer of the church, c. 356, and Pachomius, renewer of the church, 346) Psalm 36:5-10. **Friday** (Confession of Peter, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins) Matthew 16:13-19. **Saturday** (commemoration of Henry, Bishop of Uppsala, martyr, 1156) Jeremiah 4:1-4. **Second Sunday after Epiphany** Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11.

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