

The Eucharist for the Feast of the Baptism of Christ

Sunday 8th January 2023



The Baptism of Jesus,
fresco, Orthodox Church of St John the Baptist,
Bethany-beyond-the-Jordan, Jordan.

ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF WANGARATTA PAROCHIAL DISTRICT OF WANGARATTA WEST & THE WARBYS

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THE GATHERING

Opening Hymn AHB 5/TIS 101 [tune, Omni Dei]

- 1. Come, you people, come adore him
God in Holy Trinity,
God the Father, Son and Spirit,
ever blessed unity.**
- 2. All your glory, God almighty,
to the Son and Spirit given,
ere upon the world's creation
dawned the newborn light of heaven:**
- 3. holy, holy, we adore you
one in power, in nature one;
God the Father, God the Spirit,
God the co-eternal Son.**
- 4. By your Son the wide creation
rose where chaos held its sway;
by the Spirit, God Almighty
swept eternal night away.**
- 5. Son, the Father's love revealing,
Son, through whom the Spirit came,
blessed Godhead, endless glory
be to your exalted name!**

Hymn from the Russian Church
tr. John Brownlie 1859–1925 alt.

Words of welcome or introduction may be said.

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.

Let us pray.

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:**

**cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**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.**

**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. Amen.**

The Collect

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

Eternal Father,
at the baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan
you proclaimed him your beloved Son,
and anointed him with the Holy Spirit:
grant that all who are baptised into his name
may keep the covenant they have made,
and boldly confess him as Lord and Saviour;
who with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns,
one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah [42.1–9]

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the Lord,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
I am the Lord, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.
Hear the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

Psalm 29

Response: The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven:
ascribe to the Lord glory and might.

Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name:
O worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness.

The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters:
the God of glory thunders, the Lord upon the great waters.
The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation:
the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.

The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar-trees:
the Lord breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.
He makes them skip like a calf:
Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild ox.

The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

The voice of the Lord divides the lightning-flash:
the voice of the Lord whirls the sands of the desert,
the Lord whirls the desert of Kadesh.
The voice of the Lord rends the terebinth trees,
and strips bare the forests:
in his temple all cry 'Glory.'

The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

The Lord sits enthroned above the water-flood:
the Lord sits enthroned as a king for ever.
The Lord will give strength to his people:
the Lord will give to his people the blessing of peace.

The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

A reading from The Acts of the Apostles [10.34–43]

Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

Hear the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn TiS 250 [tune, St Magnus AHB 196]

- 1. Christ, when for us you were baptised,
God's Spirit on you came,
as peaceful as a dove, and yet
as urgent as a aflame.**
- 2. God called you his beloved Son,
called you his servant true:
sent you his kingdom to proclaim,
his holy will to do.**
- 3. Straightway and steadfast until death
you then obeyed his call,
freely as Son of Man to serve
and give your life for all.**
- 4. Baptise us with your Spirit, Lord,
your cross on us be signed,
that likewise in God's service we
may perfect freedom find.**

Francis Bland Tucker (1977) 1895-1984
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The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew [3.13–17]

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

For the Gospel of the Lord,
praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

Silence for reflection

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 from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come 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

God of glory, whose radiance shines from the face of Christ,
give your children such assurance of your mercy
and such knowledge of your grace,
that, believing all you promise, and receiving all you give,
they may be transformed ever more closely
by your Spirit into the image of Jesus, your Son.
Father of life,

make known your glory.

God of light, whose life shines beyond all things,
give us and all your Church
the will to follow Christ and to bear his peace,
that the light of Christ may bring confidence to the world,
and faithfulness to all who look to you in hope.
Father of life,

make known your glory.

God of power, whose word gives life to heaven and earth,
pour your abundant gifts on all your creation,
that the blind may see, the fallen may be raised,
and your people find tongues to confess
your promises of a broken world made new.
Father of life,
make known your glory.

Standing at the font, the priest says

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 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.

Cleanse us, Lord, from all our sins:

Wash us, and we shall be whiter than snow.

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

Cleanse us, Lord, from all our sins:

Wash us, and we shall be whiter than snow.

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.

Cleanse us, Lord, from all our sins:

Wash us, and we shall be whiter than snow.

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

Cleanse us, Lord, from all our sins:

Wash us, and we shall be whiter than snow.

We have been slow to forgive,
and have failed to remember
your repeated forgiveness of our sins.
Cleanse us, Lord, from all our sins:

Wash us, and we shall be whiter than snow.

The holy water may be sprinkled over the people, after which is said

‘Come’, say the Spirit and the Bride,
‘Come forward, you who are thirsty,
receive the water of life, free gift to all who desire it.’

May almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you your sins,
and bring you to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREETING OF 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.

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

All may exchange a COVID Safe sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn AHB 418. [tune, Picardy]

- 1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded,
for with blessing in his hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
our full homage to demand.**
- 2. King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
in the body and the blood;
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heavenly food.**

3. Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth
from the realms of endless day,
that the powers of hell may vanish
as the darkness clears away.
4. At his feet the six-winged seraph,
cherubim, with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry:
**Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Lord Most High!**

Words: Liturgy of St. James;
trans. by Gerard Moultrie

The gifts of the people are gathered and presented.

The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

This prayer is said

God of life and freedom,
we celebrate the revelation of Jesus
as the Christ who makes all creation new.
Accept all we offer you this day
and make us new in him,
who is Lord for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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 saying/singing:

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

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

And now, Father, we pray that we who receive these your gifts
of bread and wine according to our Saviour's word
may be partakers of his body and blood. ✠

For on the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;
and when he had given thanks to you, his almighty Father,
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying
"Take, eat. This is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me." ✠

After supper, he took the cup and again giving you thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying,
"Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant
which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ✠

**Christ has died;
Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.**

We offer our prayer and praise, Father,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
through Jesus Christ our Lord:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

The priest breaks the consecrated bread.

We break the bread of life, to share in the body of Christ.
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 is said or sung

**Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world: grant us your peace.**

The Priest gives the invitation to receive communion.

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

Communion Meditation AHB 408

1. Lord, in the strength of grace,
with a glad heart and true,
myself, my residue of days,
I consecrate to you.
2. Your ransomed servant, I
restore to you your own;
and from this moment, live or die
to serve my God alone.

Charles Wesley 1707–88 alt.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Gracious God, lover of all,
by this sacrament you make us one family in Christ your Son,
one in the sharing of his body and blood,
one in the communion of his Spirit.
Help us to grow in love for one another
and come to the full maturity of the Body of Christ.

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood
of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Notices

Closing Hymn—AHB 170ii./TiS 231 [tune, Camberwell]

- 1. At the Name of Jesus every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess him King of glory now;
this the Father's pleasure that we call him Lord,
who from the beginning was the mighty Word.**
- 2. Humbled for a season, to receive a Name
from the lips of sinners unto whom he came,
faithfully he bore it spotless to the last,
brought it back victorious, when from death he passed.**
- 3. In your hearts enthrone him; there let him make new
all that is not holy, all that is not true:
He is God the Saviour, he is Christ the Lord,
ever to be worshipped, trusted and adored.**
- 4. When this same Lord Jesus shall appear again
in his Father's glory, there with him to reign,
then may we adore him, all before him bow,
as our hearts confess him King of Glory now.**

Caroline Maria Noel 1817-77 alt

Blessing

May God who in Christ gives us a spring of water
welling up to eternal life,
perfect in you the image of his glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

We have come to Christ, the living water.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

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Introduction to the Season

In the western churches, the Epiphany ('manifestation') became an occasion to celebrate one element in the story of Christ's birth, the visit of the far-travelled magi, understood as the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. Matthew's account speaks simply of "wise men from the east"; later tradition fixed their number at three, made them kings, and recalled their resonant names – Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. In this perspective, Epiphanytide is an apt season to pray for the worldwide mission of the Church. The feast of the Conversion of St Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, appropriately falls in the Epiphany season. In the eastern churches, the Epiphany is, rather, the celebration of Christ's baptism at the hands of John, when the heavens were opened, and a voice from heaven declared Jesus to be God's beloved son. The miracle of Cana in Galilee, where Jesus "first manifested his glory", follows immediately:

Manifest at Jordan's stream,
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;
And at Cana wedding-guest
In thy Godhead manifest (*Christopher Wordsworth*)

The arrangement of the first Sundays of Epiphany in the Revised Common Lectionary deliberately draws out these aspects.

The season of joyful celebration which begins at Christmas now continues through the successive Sundays of Epiphany, and the festal cycle ends only with the Feast of the Presentation, or Candlemas, forty days after Christmas Day. The child who has been manifested to the Magi at his birth is now recognised by Simeon and Anna, when he comes to be presented in the Temple according to the Law of Israel. He is both "a light to lighten the Gentiles," and "the glory of God's people Israel."

But the redemption he will bring must be won through suffering; the Incarnation is directed to the Passion; and Simeon's final words move our attention away from the celebration of Christmas and towards the mysteries of Easter.

Epiphany, meaning 'appearance' or 'manifestation', is a Christian feast intended to celebrate the "shining forth" or revelation of God to mankind in human form, in the person of Jesus. Some Christians commemorate the visitation of the Magi to the child Jesus on this day, while others use the day to commemorate the baptism of Jesus as an adult. It is also called **Theophany**, especially by those commemorating Christ's baptism.



'The Baptism of Jesus'
Rosalind Hore
In St Edmund's Tyseley, UK

The Baptism of Jesus
Daniel Bonnell (b 1955)

