

**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.

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.**