

# *The Eucharist on the Festival of the Baptism of Christ*



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

*St George's, Taminick,  
St. Michael's, Wangaratta.  
St Paul's, Glenrowan.*

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024**



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*St. Michael's, Wangaratta. St Paul's, Glenrowan. St George's, Taminick.*  
Direct Debit: Parish of Wangaratta West & Warbys  
A/c No. 126778711. BSB 633 108

## GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

*Opening Hymn: AHB 216/TiS 291. tune, Stuttgart.*

1. **Earth has many a noble city—Bethlehem alone excels:  
from it came the Lord from heaven, came to rule his Israel.**
2. **Fairer than the sun at morning was the star that told his birth,  
to the world its God announcing,  
seen in human form on earth.**
3. **Eastern sages at his cradle make their offerings rich and rare;  
see them give in deep devotion  
gold and frankincense and myrrh:**
4. **sacred gifts of mystic meaning—frankincense God to disclose,  
gold the King of kings proclaiming,  
myrrh his sepulchre foreshows.**
5. **Jesus, whom the gentiles worshipped  
at your glad epiphany,  
now to you with God the Father and the Spirit glory be.**

Aurelius Clemens Prudentius 348–c. 413  
tr. Edward Caswall 1814–78 alt.

*The priest says the Invocation*

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

*Words of welcome or introduction and 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 be with you  
**and also with you.**

*Sentence*

God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; and he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

Acts 10.38

*The Prayer of Preparation*

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 Book Genesis [1. 1-5]**

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

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

## Psalm 29

Light type = Lectern side. **Bold type = other side.** *Italics = All*

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 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 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 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.*

## A Reading from The Acts of the Apostles [19. 1-7]

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, ‘Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?’ They replied, ‘No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.’ Then he said, ‘Into what then were you baptized?’ They answered, ‘Into John’s baptism.’ Paul said, ‘John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.’

On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—altogether there were about twelve of them.

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

*Gradual Hymn: TIS 250. tune, Jackson.*

- 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 flame.**
- 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 1895-1984  
© Church Pension Fund ECUSA

### **The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Mark [1. 4-11] Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

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

*Sermon*

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Most compassionate God, give us sufficient love and commitment to reach out with prayer and compassionate action to people both in and beyond the church:

To those of many races who on this Lord's Day are being baptized into the faith and family of Christ Jesus.

Lord of love, light and peace, **hear and use our prayer.**

To Christians baptized long ago, but whose first faith has been eroded by the secular acids of greed and cynicism.

Lord of love, light and peace, **hear and use our prayer.**

To the unbaptized whose first, urgent need is not words and rites, but food, medicine, employment and housing.

Lord of love, light and peace, **hear and use our prayer.**

To young people who are being drawn away from Christ by the glitter and dazzle of cunningly marketed pop culture.

Lord of love, light and peace, **hear and use our prayer.**

To embittered older folk who live so much in the past, and in church culture of earlier times, that they cannot see any good in the faith and practice of younger Christians.

Lord of love, light and peace, **hear and use our prayer.**

To all the insecure and wistful souls, who go looking for a better way of life but are exploited by false messiahs,

Lord of love, light and peace, **hear and use our prayer.**

Our prayers also reach out to those among us, who through sickness, grief, severe setback or cruel disappointment, are feeling the anguish of the bruised reed and flickering lamp. We particularly pray for those commended to our parish's prayers: Robert P. Nina C. Mark H. Melanie. Warren G. Wayne. Vi B. Kaye McK. Michael T. Josef.

Lord of love, light and peace, **hear and use our prayer.**

We give thanks for all who having been baptized, have kept the faith in this life and are now in your nearer presence. We remember this week: Bruce Anderson, Evelyn Cryer, Frank Rickards, Charles Thompson, Dot Dinsdale, Lucy Porter, Wilhelmina Tippet, Margaret Bewes, Eileen Ryan, Dorothy Hutchinson, Emily Wallace, and Patricia Anthony; whose Year's Mind occurs.

Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord.  
**And may light perpetual shine upon them.**

May God the Creator, the rock of our salvation,  
**who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit  
and forgiven all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
keep us faithful to our calling, now and for ever. Amen.**

*Please stand*

## THE RENEWAL OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

At your baptism you turned to Christ,  
repented of your sins, and renounced evil.  
Do you now renew your allegiance to Christ?

**I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Saviour and Lord.**

Let us now confess the faith into which we were baptised  
and in which we continue to live and grow.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in the God the Holy Spirit?

**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**

Will you continue in the apostle's teaching and fellowship,  
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

**With the help of God, I will.**

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and whenever you fall into sin, repent  
and return to the Lord?

**With the help of God, I will.**

Will you proclaim by word and example  
the Good News of God in Christ?

**With the help of God, I will.**

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people,  
loving your neighbour as yourself?

**With the help of God, I will.**

Will you recognize Christ's authority over human society,  
by prayer for the world and its leaders,  
by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?  
**With the help of God, I will.**

## 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.**

*We will be sprinkled with Holy Water  
in remembrance of our Baptism.*

*Offertory Hymn: 194 Together in Song. Tune, Puer Nobis Nascitur*

- 1. O love how deep, how broad, how high!  
it fills the heart with ecstasy  
that God, the Son of God, should take  
our mortal form for mortals' sake.**
- 2. He sent no angel to our race  
of higher or of lower place  
but wore the robe of human frame himself,  
and to this lost world came.**
- 3. For us he was baptized, and bore  
his holy fast, and hungered sore;  
for us temptations sharp he knew;  
for us the tempter overthrew.**
- 4. For us he prayed, for us he taught,  
for us his daily works he wrought,  
by words and signs and actions, thus  
still seeking not himself but us.**
- 5. For us to wicked hands betrayed,  
scourged, mocked, in purple robe arrayed,  
he bore the shameful cross and death;  
for us at length gave up his breath.**
- 6. For us he rose from death again,**



**for us he went on high to reign,  
for us he sent his Spirit here  
to guide, to strengthen and to cheer.**

- 7. To him whose boundless love has won  
salvation for us through his Son,  
to God the Father, glory be  
both now and through eternity.**

Attrib. Thomas Kempis 1379-1471  
tr. Benjamin Webb 1819-85 *alt.*

*This prayer may be said*

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 EUCHARISTIC 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." ✠

Therefore, according to his command,

**We remember his death on the cross.**

**We proclaim his resurrection to new life.**

**We await Christ's coming in glory.**

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.**

THE 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 as the bread is broken.*

**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.**

*Hymn after Communion: AHB 425/TiS 504. tune, Melcombe*

O Jesus, blessed Lord, to you  
my heartfelt thanks and praise are due;  
you have so lovingly bestowed  
on me your body and your blood.

Break forth, my soul, in joy, and say,  
‘What wealth has come to me today!  
My Saviour dwells within my soul  
and makes my wounded spirit whole.’

Thomas Hansen Kingo 1634–1703  
tr. Arthur James Mason 1851–1928 alt.

## THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*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;

**Most loving God,**

**you send us into the world you love.**

**Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage  
in the power of your Spirit. Amen.**

**Notices**

*Concluding Hymn: TiS 829. tune, AR HYD Y NOS. (168)*

1. **Go, my children, with my blessing,  
never alone;  
waking, sleeping, I am with you,  
you are my own;  
in my love's baptismal river  
I have made you mine for ever,  
go, my children, with my blessing  
you are my own.**
2. **Go, my children, sins forgiven,  
at peace and pure,  
here you learned how much I love you,  
what I can cure;  
here you heard my Son's dear story,  
here you touched him, saw his glory,  
go, my children, sins forgiven  
at peace and pure.**
3. **Go, my children, fed and nourished,  
closer to me;  
grow in love and love by serving,  
joyful and free.  
Here my Spirit's power filled you,  
here his tender comfort stilled you;  
go, my children, fed and nourished,  
joyful and free.**

Words: Jaroslav J. Vajda (1919–2008)  
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*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.**