

## Baptism of the Lord

### Opening Prayer

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### Or

God of glory, in the Baptism of your beloved Son you revealed the anointing of the Spirit and foretold the baptism that is to come. Let us not fear the closeness of your judgement but rather, by good and faithful discipleship, let us prepare on earth the foundations of your heavenly kingdom, so that when, on that last day, your voice will shake the universe, we may stand with joy to welcome the One who is to come and bless us with peace; Jesus Christ, whose reign is for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### First Reading

*Isaiah 40:1-5.9-11*

'Console my people, console them,' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

*This is the word of the Lord.*

### Responsorial Psalm

*Psalm 103*

**R: Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are.**

Lord God, how great you are,  
Clothed in majesty and glory,  
Wrapped in light as in a robe!  
You stretch out the heavens like a tent. **R**

Above the rains you build your dwelling.  
You make the clouds your chariot,  
You walk on the wings of the wind,  
You make the winds your messengers  
And flashing fire your servants. **R**

How many are your works, O Lord!  
In wisdom you have made them all.  
The earth is full of your riches.  
There is the sea, vast and wide,  
With its moving swarms past counting,  
Living things great and small. **R**

All of these look to you  
To give them their food in due season.  
You give it, they gather it up:  
You open your hand, they have their fill. **R**

You take back your spirit, they die,  
Returning to the dust from which they came.  
You send forth your spirit, they are created;  
And you renew the face of the earth. **R**

### Second Reading

*Titus: 2:11-14. 3:4-7*

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

*This is the word of the Lord.*

### Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Someone is coming, said John, someone greater than I. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

**Alleluia!**

### Gospel

*Luke 3:15-16 21-22*

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove, And a voice came from the heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests with you.'

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

### Prayer over the Gifts

Gracious God, we come with bread and wine, with thanksgiving and praise, to the table you prepare for your baptized people. Through your Holy Spirit, let us enter here into the fellowship of Christ and into the movement of his self-offering, for he is alive, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### Prayer after Communion

God, our provider, let us walk in the strength of this food as children of your light, so that both in title and truth we may truly be your beloved sons and daughters. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

