

## Baptism of the Lord Sunday after Epiphany



### About the Baptism of the Lord

As part of His preparation for His public ministry, Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist before spending forty days and forty nights in the desert. At His Baptism, a voice from heaven declared that He was the Son of God.

Just as the Epiphany is a feast of Christ manifesting (or revealing) Himself as the Messiah, so too, **the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord commemorates the revelation of Jesus as God's beloved Son, the Christ, anointed by the Spirit.**

### What can we learn from the Baptism of the Lord?

We hear in the Gospel reading for today's liturgy that Jesus was anointed by the Spirit as God's own beloved Son. We, too, at our Baptism are anointed with water and the Holy Spirit, and by our Baptism we receive the call to preach the Gospel to the world. At our Baptism we become God's adopted sons and daughters, and as we grow, we must show that we are God's children by the way we live our lives. Our participation in the liturgy and our service of God and neighbour outside the liturgy proclaims to the world that we are followers of Christ and that we show Him to the world by our kind deeds and actions.

We have also been blessed by the Lord with gifts, talents, knowledge and treasure and we must use these to make the world a better place.

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Collect

Almighty ever-living God,  
who, when Christ had been baptized in the River Jordan  
and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him,  
solemnly declared him your beloved Son,  
grant that your children by adoption,  
reborn of water and the Holy Spirit,  
may always be well pleasing to you.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel

Mark 1:7-11

**'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you'**

In the course of his preaching John the Baptist said:

**'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am,  
and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals.**

**I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'**

It was at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee  
and was baptised in the Jordan by John.

No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit,  
like a dove, descending on him.

And a voice came from heaven,

**'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'**

Antiphon

Jn 1: 32, 34

Behold the One of whom John said:

I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

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Hymn for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Hymn for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord  
Christ was baptized in the Jordan  
by the one whom God had sent  
to prepare hearts for His coming,  
and call people to repent  
of their sins for the Messiah  
in their midst was now present.  
Christ begotten and beloved.

After Jesus had been baptized,  
Heaven was opened above,  
and the Holy Spirit came down,  
upon Him just like a dove.  
God the Father then declared,  
"This is my Son whom I love."  
Christ begotten and beloved.

By the waters of the Jordan,  
Christ had chosen to reveal  
that He had received the power  
to forgive sins and to heal.  
We must all believe in Jesus  
and for Him be filled with zeal.  
Christ begotten and beloved.

Like Jesus, we have been baptized,  
by the Spirit filled with grace,  
**to become part of God's Kingdom**  
that transcends all time and place.  
**We are members of Christ's Body,**  
**we are held in Christ's embrace**  
Christ begotten and beloved.

Text: Chris deSilva and Alessio Loiacono  
Tune: Divinium Mysterium 87. 87. 877

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