

# The Eucharist

9 January 2022 ◆ THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke place the scene of the baptism of Jesus by John at the beginning of each gospel. It is not surprising, therefore, that the church would wish us to celebrate and contemplate this incident in the life of Jesus on the Sunday of the first week of Ordinary Time. Today's feast acts as a bridge between two liturgical seasons, bringing Christmastime to a close and introducing Ordinary Time. In each of the three gospels the scene has its own emphasis which both connects it with the other two and which also makes it unique.



*As Jesus was baptised, the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven.*

## FIRST READING

*(Isaiah 40:1-5.9-11)*

So-called 'Second Isaiah' chapters 40-55 of Isaiah presupposes the defeat of Babylon, in 538 B.C. by Cyrus King of Persia. Babylon in modern-day Iraq, was the place to where the Jews had been deported in 587 B.C. The return from Babylon is so central to Isaiah that it takes on the status of a second exodus. This reading expresses the joy of a new beginning.

## SECOND READING

*(Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7)*

Although the title of the letter to Titus bears the name of Paul, it is considered by many, if not most scholars, on the basis of its contents, to have been written after the death of the Apostle. At the same time, the thoughts and ideas of the letter are considered to reflect the worldview and spiritual view of Paul. Today's reading is chosen because of its reference to water, rebirth and renewal.

## GOSPEL

*(Luke 3:15-16.21-22)*

A contrast is made between John and Jesus. John says that he himself baptises, literally that he immerses his hearers in water, but that the one who is stronger than he is will immerse them in the Holy Spirit and in the fire. Luke's gospel has a special interest in the Holy Spirit. Another element of this scene that is important throughout the Gospel according to Luke is prayer. Jesus is a role model of a praying person for his followers. It was while he was praying that the voice from heaven addressed Jesus.

## THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

### Entrance Antiphon

*(Cf. Mt 3:16-17)*

**After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered:**

**This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.**

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

**Amen.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And with your spirit.**

### Penitential Act

Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

*A brief pause for silence follows.*

**I confess to almighty God**

**and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,**

*And, striking their breast, they say:*

**through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**Amen.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

### Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest, / and on earth peace to people of good will. / We praise you, / we bless you, / we adore you, / we glorify you, / we give you thanks for your great glory, / Lord God, heavenly King, / O God, almighty Father. / Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, / Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, / you take away the sins of the world, / have mercy on us; / you take away the sins of the world, / receive our prayer; / you are seated at the right hand of the Father, / have mercy on us. / 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.**

### Collect

Almighty ever-living God, who, when Christ had been baptised 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, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING

(Is 40:1-5.9-11)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

‘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 a 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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Ps 103:1-4.24-25.27-30)

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

1. 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**
2. 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**

3. 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**
4. 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**
5. 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

(Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus.

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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Cf. Lk 3:16)

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Someone is coming, said John, someone greater than I.**

**He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.**

**Alleluia!**

### GOSPEL

(Lk 3:15-16.21-22)



The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

**Glorify to you, O Lord.**

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 heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **Profession of Faith**

*(Nicene Creed)*

**I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,**

*At the words that follow, up to and including  
and became man, all bow.*

**and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored  
and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*The priest introduces the Prayer of the Faithful.*

## **THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters),  
that my sacrifice and yours  
may be acceptable to God,  
the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands  
for the praise and glory of his name,  
for our good  
and the good of all his holy Church.**

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

Accept, O Lord, the offerings  
we have brought to honour the revealing of your  
beloved Son,  
so that the oblation of your faithful  
may be transformed into the sacrifice of him  
who willed in his compassion  
to wash away the sins of the world.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

## **Eucharistic Prayer II**

*(Preface of the Baptism of the Lord)*

The Lord be with you.  
**And with your spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right and just.**

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For in the waters of the Jordan  
you revealed with signs and wonders a new Baptism,  
so that through the voice that came down from heaven  
we might come to believe in your Word dwelling among us,  
and by the Spirit's descending in the likeness of a dove  
we might know that Christ your Servant  
has been anointed with the oil of gladness  
and sent to bring the good news to the poor.

And so, with the Powers of heaven,  
we worship you constantly on earth,  
and before your majesty  
without end we acclaim:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.  
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.**

You are indeed Holy, O Lord,  
the fount of all holiness.

Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray,  
by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall,  
so that they may become for us  
the Body and  $\times$  Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

At the time he was betrayed  
and entered willingly into his Passion,  
he took bread and, giving thanks, broke it,  
and gave it to his disciples, saying:

**TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,  
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,  
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.**

In a similar way, when supper was ended,  
he took the chalice  
and, once more giving thanks,  
he gave it to his disciples, saying:

**TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,  
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,  
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,  
WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY  
FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.**

**DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.**

The mystery of faith.

**Save us, Saviour of the world,  
for by your Cross and Resurrection  
you have set us free.**

Therefore, as we celebrate  
the memorial of his Death and Resurrection,

we offer you, Lord,  
the Bread of life and the Chalice of salvation,  
giving thanks that you have held us worthy  
to be in your presence and minister to you.

Humbly we pray  
that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ,  
we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.

Remember, Lord, your Church,  
spread throughout the world,  
and bring her to the fullness of charity,  
together with **N.** our Pope and **N.** our Bishop  
and all the clergy.

Remember also our brothers and sisters  
who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection,  
and all who have died in your mercy:  
welcome them into the light of your face.

Have mercy on us all, we pray,  
that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God,  
with blessed Joseph, her Spouse,  
with the blessed Apostles,  
and all the Saints who have pleased you throughout  
the ages,

we may merit to be coheirs to eternal life,  
and may praise and glorify you  
through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through him, and with him, and in him,  
O God, almighty Father,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honour is yours,  
for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

## THE COMMUNION RITE

At the Saviour's command ...

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, ...

**For the kingdom,  
the power and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.**

Lord Jesus Christ, ...

**Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And with your spirit.**

*The priest may invite the people to exchange a sign of peace  
and Christian fellowship. As the priest breaks the consecrated  
host the following is sung or said:*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
grant us peace.**

*Showing the Eucharist to the people, the priest says:*

Behold the Lamb of God,  
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**Lord, I am not worthy  
that you should enter under my roof,  
but only say the word  
and my soul shall be healed.**

**Communion Antiphon**

*(Jn 1:32.34)*

**Behold the One of whom John said:**

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

**Prayer after Communion**

Nourished with these sacred gifts,  
we humbly entreat your mercy, O Lord,  
that, faithfully listening to your Only Begotten Son,  
we may be your children in name and in truth.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## THE CONCLUDING RITES

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

May the God of all consolation order your days in  
his peace

and grant you the gifts of his blessing.

**Amen.**

May he free you always from every distress  
and confirm your hearts in his love.

**Amen.**

So that on this life's journey  
you may be effective in good works,  
rich in the gifts of hope, faith and charity,  
and may come happily to eternal life.

**Amen.**

And may the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, and the Son,  $\text{✠}$  and the Holy Spirit,  
come down on you and remain with you for ever.

**Amen.**

Go forth, the Mass is ended.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Personal Prayer

Lord Jesus, you did not need to be baptised. You were always sinless. You were baptised like the others for our sake, to remind us that you had become one of us, and that just as the Spirit of God came upon you at baptism, so does that same Spirit come on each one of us at our own baptism.

You were anointed with divine power at your baptism. In the power of this Spirit you brought new hope to the human race. The power of God that was in you was mightier than the spirit of evil that causes sin, suffering and death. You have given all who believe in you that same Spirit. You have told us not to fear, but to have courage, to recall at all times that the Holy Spirit within us can do great things for us.

We thank you, Lord Jesus, for your baptism and for ours. Help us to really believe in our baptism, and to live our baptismal promises. Amen.