

The Eucharist

8 January 2023 ✦ THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD / A



Today's feast celebrates an event which is recorded in the first three Gospels and implied in the fourth. Jesus appears to have offered himself to John for baptism as a way of expressing his interest in and agreement with the work of John. Secondly, John's baptism was accepted as a public profession of a wish to be in a right relationship with God. Since he was in such a state, Jesus allowed himself to be baptised.



'As soon as Jesus was baptised ... the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him.'

FIRST READING *(Isaiah 42:1-4.6-7)*

This excerpt is from a collection of passages referring to a servant of God. It was used by a prophet called Second-Isaiah who was writing in the Sixth Century B.C., during the exile. It highlights the special task of the servant, especially in bringing about justice as part of God's plan. In the final section God addresses the servant, reassuring him when he takes him by the hand and telling him directly what his message is.

SECOND READING *(Acts 10:34-38)*

Luke presents Peter as making a reference to Jesus' baptism by John at the start of his ministry. Jesus' main title, Christ or Messiah, means that he has been anointed. This passage makes clear that it is not oil which has been poured on him but the Holy Spirit and power. This is the source of Jesus' authority.

GOSPEL *(Matthew 3:13-17)*

In this dialogue between Jesus and John, Matthew makes it clear that Jesus has the greater understanding. John's objection to his being baptised is probably based on the fact that Jesus does not need to be made righteous before God as all others do. Jesus' acceptance of baptism underlines the fact that he knows he is in such a state.

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 Lord be with you. **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.

You were sent to heal the contrite of heart:
Lord, have mercy. **Or: Kyrie, eleison.**
Lord, have mercy. Or: Kyrie, eleison.

You came to call sinners:
Christ, have mercy. **Or: Christe, eleison.**
Christ, have mercy. Or: Christe, eleison.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us:
Lord, have mercy. **Or: Kyrie, eleison.**
Lord, have mercy. Or: Kyrie, eleison.

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

Gloria

Gloria 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 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,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

(Is 42:1-4.6-7)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord:

Here is my servant whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom my soul delights.
I have endowed him with my spirit
that he may bring true justice to the nations.

He does not cry out or shout aloud,
or make his voice heard in the streets.
He does not break the crushed reed,
nor quench the wavering flame.

Faithfully he brings true justice;
he will neither waver, nor be crushed
until true justice is established on earth,
for the islands are awaiting his law.

I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right;
I have taken you by the hand and formed you;
I have appointed you as covenant of the people and
light of the nations,
to open the eyes of the blind,
to free captives from prison,
and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Ps 28:1-4.9-10)

℟ The Lord will bless his people with peace.

- O give the Lord you sons of God,
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Adore the Lord in his holy court. **℟**
- The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,
the Lord on the immensity of waters;
the voice of the Lord, full of power,
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. **℟**
- The God of glory thunders.
In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!'
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits as king for ever. **℟**

SECOND READING

(Acts 10:34-38)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I
have now come to realise', he said, 'is that God does not
have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who
fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.

'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it
was to them that the good news of peace was brought by
Jesus Christ — but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must
have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about
Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John
had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with
the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with
him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had
fallen into the power of the devil.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Cf. Mk 9:8)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The heavens opened and the Father's voice
resounded:

'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.'
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

(Mt 3:13-17)



The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel
according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by
John. John tried to dissuade him. 'It is I who need baptism
from you,' he said, 'and yet you come to me!' But Jesus
replied, 'Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that
we should, in this way, do all that righteousness demands.'
At this, John gave in to him. As soon as Jesus was
baptised he came up from the water, and suddenly the
heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending
like a dove and coming down on him. And a voice spoke
from heaven, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests
on him.'

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

Offering the bread, the priest says:

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,
for through your goodness we have received
the bread we offer you:
fruit of the earth and work of human hands,
it will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Offering the chalice, the priest says:

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,
for through your goodness we have received
the wine we offer you:
fruit of the vine and work of human hands,
it will become our spiritual drink.

Blessed be God for ever.

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 III (*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,
and all you have created
rightly gives you praise,
for through your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,
by the power and working of the Holy Spirit,
you give life to all things and make them holy,
and you never cease to gather a people to yourself,
so that from the rising of the sun to its setting
a pure sacrifice may be offered to your name.

Therefore, O Lord, we humbly implore you:
by the same Spirit graciously make holy
these gifts we have brought to you for consecration,
that they may become the Body and \times Blood
of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,
at whose command we celebrate these mysteries.

For on the night he was betrayed
he himself took bread,
and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing,
broke the bread 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, giving you thanks, he said the blessing,
and gave the chalice 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, O Lord, as we celebrate the memorial
of the saving Passion of your Son,
his wondrous Resurrection
and Ascension into heaven,
and as we look forward to his second coming,
we offer you in thanksgiving
this holy and living sacrifice.

Look, we pray, upon the oblation of your Church
and, recognizing the sacrificial Victim by whose death
you willed to reconcile us to yourself,
grant that we, who are nourished
by the Body and Blood of your Son
and filled with his Holy Spirit,
may become one body, one spirit in Christ.

May he make of us
an eternal offering to you,
so that we may obtain an inheritance with your elect,
especially with the most Blessed Virgin Mary,

Mother of God,
with blessed Joseph, her Spouse,
with your blessed Apostles and glorious Martyrs
(with Saint N.: *the Saint of the day or Patron Saint*)
and with all the Saints,

on whose constant intercession in your presence we rely for unfailing help.

May this Sacrifice of our reconciliation, we pray, O Lord, advance the peace and salvation of all the world. Be pleased to confirm in faith and charity your pilgrim Church on earth, with your servant **N.** our Pope and **N.** our Bishop, the Order of Bishops, all the clergy, and the entire people you have gained for your own.

Listen graciously to the prayers of this family, whom you have summoned before you: in your compassion, O merciful Father, gather to yourself all your children scattered throughout the world.

To our departed brothers and sisters and to all who were pleasing to you at their passing from this life, give kind admittance to your kingdom. There we hope to enjoy for ever the fullness of your glory through Christ our Lord, through whom you bestow on the world all that is good.

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 and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**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, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

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

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity

in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

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, ...

Showing the Host 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 peace of God,
which surpasses all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, **✠** 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 our God, in our baptism you forgive our sins and we thank you.

You also pour on us the great gift of your Holy Spirit to be our lifelong companion and comforter. Make us aware of this form of the divine presence especially in the dark moments of our life. May we realise the dignity that you have given to us by so great a gift.

I adore you as my first beginning and long for you as my last end: praise you as my constant benefactor and call upon you as my gracious protector.

Guide me by your wisdom, restrain me by your justice, comfort me by your mercy, defend me by your power.

I offer you, Lord, my thoughts, to be fixed on you; my words, to have you for their theme; my actions, to be done according to your will; my hardships, to be endured for your sake. Amen.