

Rochford 10 January 2021

A Service for the Festival of the Baptism of Christ

Hymn 451 Songs of thankfulness & praise

The president greets the people, saying

Grace, mercy and peace

from God our Father

and the Lord Jesus Christ

be with you

All and also with you.

Grant us, Lord, who behold your glory,

to drink from the waters of the new creation

flowing from the river of life at your baptism.

Give us the wings of the Spirit,

that we may hasten to meet you at your coming,

and praise you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit,

now and for ever.

All Amen.

This day Jesus is revealed as the Christ in the waters of baptism.

I will take you from the nations,

All and gather you from all the countries.

I will sprinkle clean water upon you,

All and you shall be clean from all your uncleanness.

A new heart I will give you,

All and put a new spirit within you.

You shall be my people,

All and I will be your God.

Blessed are you,

Lord our God, King of the universe:
you bring waters out of the stony rock.
For with you is the well of life,
and in your light shall we see light.

All Blessed be God for ever.

Acts 19.1-7

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He 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.' ³Then he said, 'Into what then were you baptized?' They answered, 'Into John's baptism.' ⁴Paul 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.' ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—
⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Mark 1.4-11

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And 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. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He 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. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'
⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And 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. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

The president says

Let us pray.

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.

All Amen.

After the Collect, the water is poured out with these or other suitable words

God in Christ gives us the water welling up for eternal life.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

All Lord, give us this water, and we shall thirst no more.

The president stands before the water and says

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

Father, for your gift of water in creation

All we give you thanks and praise.

For your Spirit, sweeping over the waters, bringing light and life

All we give you thanks and praise.

For your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, baptized in the river Jordan

All we give you thanks and praise.

For your new creation, brought to birth by water and the Spirit

All we give you thanks and praise.

For your grace bestowed upon us your children, washing away our sins

All we give you thanks and praise.

So, Father, accept our sacrifice of praise.

By the power of your life-giving Spirit
bless these waters of your new creation.

All Lord, receive our prayer.

May we your servants who have been washed in them
be made one with your Son, who took the form of a servant.

All Lord, receive our prayer.

May your Holy Spirit, who has brought us to new birth
in the family of your Church,
raise us in Christ, our anointed Lord,
to full and eternal life.

All Lord, receive our prayer.

For all might, majesty and dominion are yours, now and for ever.

All Alleluia. Amen.

The Prayers

Prayers may be offered here for the ministry and mission of the Church, and for the world which the Church is called to serve.

Believing the promises of God,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

All Our Father, who art in heaven ...

The president says

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.

All Amen.

These words may be used

Remember your baptism into Christ Jesus.

All Thanks be to God.

Hymn 394 O Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness

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.

All Amen.

A minister says

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.