

**Baptism of Jesus by John**  
Byzantine mosaic. Source unknown.

## **The Baptism of the Lord Jesus**

12 January 2025

## **GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME**

### **Welcome & Acknowledgement of Country**

### **Entry Hymn**

*Lord, your almighty word [TIS 447]*

### **The Invocation**

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.**

### **The Greeting**

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

**And also with you.**

### **Prayer of Preparation**

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name,  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Kyrie & Confession

Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and Prince of peace:  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are Son of God and Son of Mary:  
Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are Word made flesh and splendour of the Father:  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

May the God of all healing and forgiveness  
draw you to himself,  
that you may behold the glory of his Son,  
the Word made flesh,  
and be cleansed from all your sins,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Bethany-beyond-Jordan: Remains of a Byzantine Church erected at the traditional site of the Baptism of Jesus by John.

## **The Hymn of Praise, *Gloria in excelsis.***

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**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.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

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. **Amen.**

## THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

### First Reading

Isaiah 43:1–7

But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you;

I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Hear the word of the Lord,

**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 29

1 Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven:

**ascribe to the Lord glory and might.**

2 Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name:

**O worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness.**

3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters:

**the God of glory thunders,**

**the Lord upon the great waters.**

4 The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation:

**the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.**

- 5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar-trees:  
**the Lord breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.**
- 6 He makes them skip like a calf:  
**Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild ox.**
- 7 The voice of the Lord divides the lightning-flash:  
the voice of the Lord whirls the sands of the desert,  
**the Lord whirls the desert of Kadesh.**
- 8 The voice of the Lord rends the terebinth trees,  
and strips bare the forests:  
**in his temple all cry 'Glory.'**
- 9 The Lord sits enthroned above the water-flood:  
**the Lord sits enthroned as a king for ever.**
- 10 The Lord will give strength to his people:  
**the Lord will give to his people the blessing of peace.**

## **Second Reading**

Acts 8:14–17

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Hear the word of the Lord,  
**Thanks be to God.**

## The Gospel

Luke 3:18–22

Alleluia, alleluia.

This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.

**Alleluia**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew.

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

[John] proclaimed the good news to the people. But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Sermon

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine,**

**he did not cling to equality with God,**

**but made himself nothing.**

**Taking the form of a slave,**

**he was born in human likeness.**

**He humbled himself**

**and was obedient to death,**

**even the death of the cross.**

**Therefore God has raised him on high,**

**and given him the name above every name:**

**that at the name of Jesus**

**every knee should bow,**

**and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,**

**to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**



## THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

The celebrant introduces the prayers with these words:

Jesus calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.  
Washed clean by the waters of baptism,  
let us pray that we may live the life to which he has called us.

A minister continues

Lord Jesus, eternal Word,  
proclaimed as the Christ by John the forerunner,  
hear us as we pray for all who proclaim your word ...  
Lord of truth,  
**hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, baptizing with the Spirit and with fire,  
strengthen us to withstand all the trials of our faith ...  
Lord of truth,  
**hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, bringing forgiveness to all who repent,  
teach your Church dependence on your grace ...  
Lord of truth,  
**hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, fulfilment of the promises of old,  
give hope to all who suffer or are ignored ...  
Lord of truth,  
**hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, beloved Son of the Father,  
anoint us with the gifts of your Holy Spirit ...  
Lord of truth,  
**hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, bringer of hope,  
share with all the faithful the riches of eternal life ...  
Lord of truth,  
**hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
in you the Father makes us and all things new.  
Transform the poverty of our nature  
by the riches of your grace,  
and in the renewal of our lives  
make known your heavenly glory. **Amen.**

The celebrant concludes the prayers with these words.

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.  
**Grant that what we have asked in faith  
we may by your grace receive,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **THE GREETING OF PEACE**

We are the body of Christ.  
In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.  
Let us then pursue all that makes for peace  
and builds up our common life.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

## **Offertory Hymn**

*A man there lived in Galilee [TIS 235]*

The gifts of the people are brought to the Lord's Table.

Open the heavens, Holy Spirit,  
for us to see Jesus interceding for us;  
may we be willing to share his baptism,  
ready to share his cup  
and strengthened to serve him for ever. **Amen.**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.  
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.  
Accept and use our offerings for your glory  
and for the service of your kingdom.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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

You celebrated your new gift of baptism  
in signs and wonders at the Jordan.

Your voice was heard from heaven  
to awaken faith in the presence among us  
of your Word made flesh.

Your Spirit was seen as a dove,  
revealing Jesus as your servant,  
and anointing him with the oil of gladness  
to preach the good news to the poor.

Therefore, as we celebrate the union of earth and heaven,  
we rejoice to echo the song of the angels in heaven  
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
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.**

Merciful God, we thank you  
for these gifts of your creation,  
this bread and wine,  
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,  
we who eat and drink them  
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;  
and when he had given you thanks  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying,  
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper he took the cup,  
and again giving you thanks  
he gave it to his disciples, saying,  
'Drink from this, all of you.

This is my blood of the new covenant  
shed for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Therefore, we do as our Saviour has commanded:  
proclaiming his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross,  
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming again,  
we celebrate with this bread and this cup,  
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice  
for the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit,  
unite us in the body of your Son,  
and bring us with all your people  
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
with whom, and in whom,  
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
we worship you, Father,  
in songs of never-ending praise.

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray,

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

### **The celebrant breaks the bread.**

As this broken bread was once many grains,  
which have been gathered together and made one bread:  
**So may your Church be gathered  
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.**

### ***Agnus dei*** (Lamb of God)

**Jesus, lamb of God, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.**

### The celebrant says

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Holy things for holy people.

Broken things for broken people.

## **AFTER HOLY COMMUNION**

### **Notices**

### **Mission Hymn**

*Sing to God with joy and gladness* [TIS 92]

## **THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

### **Prayer after Communion**

Lord of all time and eternity,  
you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father  
in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son:  
by the power of your Spirit  
complete the heavenly work of our rebirth  
through the waters of the new creation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Most loving God,

**you send us into the world you love.**

**Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage  
in the power of your Spirit.**

## Blessing and Dismissal

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. **Amen.**

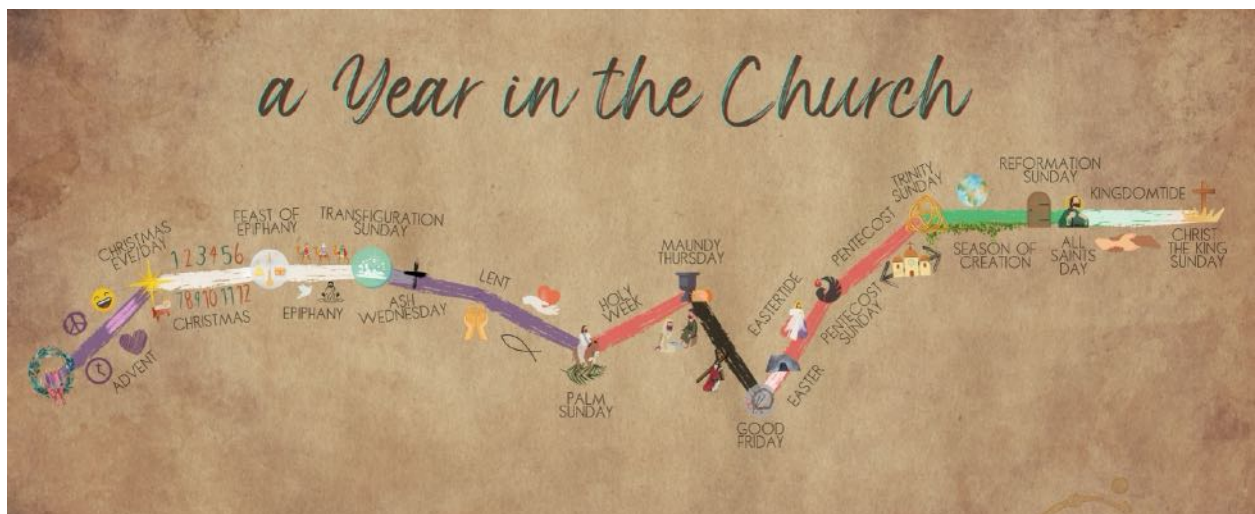
## The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

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## KEY DATES FOR EARLY 2025

5 Jan	Epiphany of our Lord
12 Jan	Baptism of the Lord
13 Jan	Parish Office re-opens
21 Jan	Joint Churchwardens Meeting
28 Jan	Interim Parish Council meeting
31 Jan	Reports for Annual General Meeting due
23 Feb	AGM
5 Mar	Ash Wednesday
13 Apr	Palm Sunday
17 Apr	Maundy Thursday
18 Apr	Good Friday
19 Apr	Holy Saturday / Easter Eve
20 Apr	Easter Day
8 Jun	Pentecost



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