

## Service of the Word for the Baptism of the Lord

### Introduction

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

*Welcome*

### Opening Responses

Come, let us listen to the voice of God,  
who out of love called order out of chaos,  
**and called light out of darkness,**  
who called out to Jesus 'You are my Son, the beloved'  
**and calls out continually to us in love.**

### Hymn Hail to the Lord's Anointed!

**Hail to the Lord's Anointed!  
Great David's greater Son;  
Hail, in the time appointed,  
His reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,  
To set the captive free;  
To take away transgression,  
And rule in equity.**

**He comes with succour speedy  
To those who suffer wrong;  
To help the poor and needy,  
And bid the weak be strong;  
To give them songs for sighing,  
Their darkness turn to light,  
Whose souls, condemned and dying,  
Were precious in his sight.**

**He shall come down like showers  
Upon the fruitful earth,  
Love, joy, hope, like flowers,  
Spring in his path to birth:  
Before him on the mountains  
Shall peace the herald go;  
And righteousness in fountains  
From hill to valley flow.**

**Kings shall fall down before him,  
And gold and incense bring;  
All nations shall adore him,  
His praise all people sing;  
To him shall prayer unceasing  
And daily vows ascend;  
His kingdom still increasing,  
A kingdom without end.**

**O'er every foe victorious,  
He on his throne shall rest,  
From age to age more glorious,  
All-blessing and all-blest:  
The tide of time shall never  
His covenant remove;  
His name shall stand for ever;  
That name to us is Love.**

*Tune: Crüger; Words: James Montgomery*

### **Confession & Absolution**

God is love and we are God's children.  
There is no room for fear in love.  
We love because he loved us first.  
Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

*Silence*

**God our Father, we confess to you  
and to our fellow members in the Body of Christ  
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed,  
and in what we have failed to do.**

**We are truly sorry.**

**Forgive us our sins,  
and deliver us from the power of evil,  
for the sake of your Son who died for us,  
Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

God, who is both power and love,  
forgive us and free us from our sins,  
heal and strengthen us by the Holy Spirit,  
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Anthem** *Sheppard* Reges Tharsis

## **Collect**

God of the tearing heaven, whose holiness is unveiled by one who is submerged in all the pain and sin of earth: give us faith to follow him who goes to the heart of darkness bearing only the Spirit of gentle, insistent peace; through Jesus Christ, the promised one. **Amen.**

*Steven Shakespeare, Prayers for an Inclusive Church*

## **Reading** Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 29**

Ascribe to God, you heavenly beings,  
ascribe to God glory and strength.

**Ascribe due honour to God's holy Name;  
worship the Most High in the beauty of holiness.**

The voice of God is upon the waters;  
the God of glory thunders;

**God is upon the mighty waters.**

The voice of God is a powerful voice;  
**the voice of God is a voice of splendour.**

The voice of God breaks the cedar trees;

**God breaks the cedars of Lebanon;**

God makes Lebanon skip like a calf  
**and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

The voice of God splits the flames of fire;  
the voice of God shakes the wilderness;

**God shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

The voice of God makes the oak trees writhe  
**and strips the forests bare.**

And in the temple of the Holy One,  
all are crying, 'Glory!'

**God sits enthroned above the flood,  
enthroned for evermore.**

God shall give strength to the people;  
God shall give the people the blessing of peace.

*St Helena Psalter*

## **Reading** Acts 19:1-7

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

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Hymn**

**Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,  
'My God and King!  
The heav'ns are not too high,  
God's praise may thither fly;  
the earth is not too low,  
God's praises there may grow.  
Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,  
'My God and King!**

**Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,  
'My God and King!  
The church with psalms must shout:  
no door can keep them out.  
But, more than all, the heart  
must bear the longest part.  
Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,  
'My God and King!**

## **Gospel** Mark 1:4-11

*When it is announced:* **Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And 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. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He 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. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And 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. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

*At the end:* Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.  
**Praise to Christ our Lord.**

**Sermon** The Provost

**Renewal of baptismal vows**

The Christian life means turning from evil and turning to Christ.  
On the Cross, Christ confronted the power of evil  
and, raised from the dead, declared the victory of God's love.  
Standing now with Christ, do you renounce all evil?

**We renounce all evil.**

Seeking now to follow him, do you turn to Christ?

**We turn to Christ.**

Following the Way of Christ,

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in God the Son?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic Church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen.**

In Christ, God has given us a new nature,  
so that day by day we might be renewed  
in the image of our Maker.

As disciples of Christ, will you continue  
in the Apostles' teaching and fellowship,

in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

**With the help of God, I will.**

Will you proclaim the good news by word and deed,  
serving Christ in all people?

**With the help of God, I will.**

Will you work for justice and peace,  
honouring God in all Creation?

**With the help of God, I will.**

This is the calling of the Church.

**This is our calling;**

**to live and work for the kingdom of God.**

**Anthem** *Gabriel Jackson Vidi Aquam*

**Intercessions**

*Prayer is offered for the world and all its people,  
particularly for those who suffer and those in need,  
and for the Church and its calling.*

**The Lord's Prayer**

As our Saviour Christ has commanded and taught us,  
we are bold 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.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen**

**Closing Prayer**

As the seed grows secretly in the earth,

As the yeast rises in the dough,

May the power of God be at work in us.

Like a city on a hill,

Like a lamp in the darkness,

May we witness to the glory of the kingdom.

**Hymn Be thou my vision**

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,  
Be all else but naught to me, save that thou art,  
Be thou my best thought in the day and the night,  
Both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word  
Be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord,  
Be thou my great Father, and I thy true son,  
Be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight,  
Be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might,  
Be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower,  
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,  
Be thou my inheritance now and always,  
Be thou and thou only the first in my heart,  
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,  
O grant me its joys after vict'ry is won,  
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

*Tune: Slane; Words: trans, Mary Byrne*

#### **Blessing & Dismissal**

Christ the Son of God gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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

#### **Voluntary**

