

# The Order of Service for Home Worship

## THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST – *THE FIRST SUNDAY of EPIPHANY*



Hymn: O thou who camest from above.

1. O thou who camest from above  
The fire celestial to impart,  
Kindle a flame of sacred love  
On the mean altar of my heart.
2. There let it for thy glory burn  
With inextinguishable blaze,  
And trembling to its source return  
In humble prayer and fervent praise.
3. Jesus, confirm my hearts desire  
To work and speak and think for thee;  
Still let me guard the holy fire  
And still stir up the gift in me.
4. Ready, for all thy perfect will,  
My acts of faith and love repeat,  
Till death thy endless mercies seal,  
And make the sacrifice complete.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**  
Grace and peace be with you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Heavenly Father, all hearts are open to you. No secrets are hidden from you. Purify us with the fire of your Holy Spirit that we may love and worship you faithfully, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

As we come into the presence of our heavenly Father let us seek his forgiveness of our sins that we may know his peace is our hearts.

Lord Jesus, mighty God and Prince of Peace. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, Son of God and Son of Mary. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, Word made flesh and splendour of the Father.. **Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Alleluia, alleluia, glory be to God on high;  
Alleluia, to the Saviour who has gained the victory;  
Alleluia to the Spirit, fount of love and sanctity;  
Alleluia, Alleluia, to the Triune Majesty.**

**Collect:** Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant that we who are born again by water and the Spirit may rejoice to be called your 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. **Amen.**

**A reading from the book of the prophet 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 Saviour. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honoured, 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.

'This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 29

**Response: May the Lord bless his people with peace.**

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.  
Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;  
worship the Lord in holy splendour. (R)

The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders,  
the Lord, over mighty waters.

The voice of the Lord is powerful;  
the voice of the Lord is full of majesty. (R)

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;  
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.  
He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Sirion like a young wild ox. (R)

The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.  
The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;  
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. (R)

The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl,  
and strips the forest bare;  
and in his temple all say, 'Glory!' (R)

The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;  
the Lord sits enthroned as king for ever.  
May the Lord give strength to his people!  
May the Lord bless his people with peace (R)

### **A reading from the book of the Acts of the Apostles.**

**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.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **The Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!** A voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved, with you I am well pleased." **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## **Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint Luke**

**3. 15-17, 21-22**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' 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, O Christ.**

**Meditation** *Epiphany is the season of the revelation of Jesus, whose birth we celebrated just two weeks ago, as the Messiah. Our readings throughout the Epiphany season reveal something to us of the nature of Jesus as the Son of God, our Lord and Saviour. Today we celebrate the Baptism of Christ. We have jumped forward in Jesus' life. He is now a grown man and his Baptism is a solemn moment in the history of our salvation. Today as he queues among the crowds who flocked to the banks of the river Jordan, Jesus is baptised by John. As Jesus emerges from the waters Luke tells us how the Holy Spirit descends on him like a dove as the voice of God proclaims, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.' Here at the river Jordan Jesus begins his public ministry. By accepting baptism Jesus commits himself to the work of God, his heavenly father. It is a mission which will bring Jesus to Jerusalem and to the cross. As we celebrate the baptism of Christ we reflect on our own baptism and the vocation to which we are called as baptised disciples of Christ. For each of us, our baptism in the blessed water of the font, was as it was for Jesus the beginning of our journey through life with God. The seed of faith was planted in our hearts, the Holy Spirit made his home with us and God declared us his children. We were adopted by God and brought into his wonderful family which extends from heaven to earth and through all the ages. We are his beloved, the ones on whom his favour rests. At his baptism Jesus accepted his calling to make known the saving power of God's love to the world and we at our baptism and confirmation accepted the same calling. With Jesus Christ we are called to bring the good news of God's love to all among whom we live. We are called to bring the good news that all are loved by God, that all are important to him to all who hurt, all who despair, all who are lost. There is a great need for God's love to be made known, for God's love alone*

*brings freedom from our fears and anxieties, our feelings of guilt and forgiveness for our sins. God's love alone brings that deep sense of peace, hope and a belonging that world needs so much today. As we celebrate the baptism of our Lord and the beginning of his public ministry today we re—commit ourselves to joining him in that ministry. The special role to which God has called us is to announce Jesus, the Son of God to the world, bring the wonderful news of the love of God for all his children, that we all belong to him and in Jesus, Emmanuel, God is with us forever. Amen.*

#### **Intercessions:**

In the power of the Holy Spirit and in union with Christ let us bring our prayers for the Church and for the world to our heavenly Father.

We pray for the Church throughout the world, for the leaders of the Church among them Mary our Bishop. We pray for the clergy and people of our diocese and for our own ministry area; that the Church may faithfully work with Christ to proclaim the saving love of God to the world.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the people of the world, for the victims of violence and oppression, for all suffering the effects of natural disaster and for those suffering from famine or drought; may there be peace where there is conflict and hope where there is despair.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our own community, for our families, friends and neighbours. We give thanks for all who serve the needs of the vulnerable; may Christ make his home in our hearts that through us the light of his love may shine in our community.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are in need, for those who are sick, for those who are bereaved, for the lonely and isolated and for all in any kind of need. We hold in our hearts before God those known to us who are in need at this time and all whose names are recorded in our intercession books; may they be strengthened by the Holy Spirit and consoled with the love of Christ.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who have died. We remember before God our own departed loved ones and we pray for the recently departed and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time. May they share the eternal glory of heaven in the company of all the saints.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We bring all our prayers to our heavenly Father as we pray together:

**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.**

#### **The Peace:**

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace; of the increase of his government and of his peace there shall be no end. The peace of the Lord be with you and with all those whom you love.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray:

Refreshed by your holy Word, Lord God, we seek your mercy: that by listening faithfully to your only Son, and being obedient to the prompting of the Spirit, we may be your children in name and in truth through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### **The Blessing:**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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.**

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

**Hymn: Breathe on me, Breath of God.**

1. **Breathe on me, breath of God,  
Fill me with life anew,  
That I may love, what thou dost love,  
And do what thou wouldst do.**
2. **Breathe on me, breath of God,  
Until my heart is pure,  
Until with thee I will one will,  
To do and to endure.**
3. **Breathe on me, breath of God  
Till I am wholly thine,  
Until this earthly part of me,  
Glows with the fire divine.**
4. **Breathe on me, breath of God,  
So shall I never die,  
But live with thee the perfect life  
Of thine eternity.**