

ICHTHUS

SUNDAY 10 JANUARY 2021

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Year B



Can you see the font in church? Think about the symbol of water and the new life of baptism.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

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.

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
who, when Christ had been baptised 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...

We say these words or sing a hymn as the priest approaches the altar.

We ask for God's help. Listen now to the priest as he offers this prayer.



DO YOU KNOW?

Today is the feast of **The Baptism of the Lord**. Jesus' baptism is the first time we see the **Trinity** in the Bible, together publically in the same story. **God the Father** tells us that **Jesus is God the Son** and the **Holy Spirit** is seen in the form of a dove. Now Jesus begins his three years of preaching and teaching.



FIRST READING ISAIAH 55:1-11

Imagine living in a hot country, where water is scarce, and feeling thirsty. Now imagine having a lovely, cool drink of water. How welcome that drink will be! Isaiah uses this image to tell us about God's love. Although we

need food and water, God's love is even more important for us. There is part of us that will always be empty, until we open ourselves to receive God's love. Let us listen to God's word and hear God telling us that we are loved.

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN.

God's love is given freely and generously.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM ISAIAH 12: 2-6

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

The cantor or psalmist sings or says the psalm. Listen to the verses, and then respond by using these words.



SECOND READING 1 JOHN 5:1-9

God loves us and we are all God's children. Love is not just something that feels good; love is about putting other people first. If we say we love God, we will want to do as God asks and follow the commandments.

By following Jesus' example, we will find out how to love. Jesus shows us how to put other people first. It will not be hard, because the Holy Spirit we received at our baptism will help us put our love into action.

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN.

God's children keep God's commandments, because they love God.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

John saw Jesus coming towards him, and said:
This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Alleluia!

We give a shout of praise to God, using these words taken from the Bible.



THINK

At some time, perhaps today, you will have dipped your fingers into the **holy water** and made the **sign of the cross**. This blessing is a **reminder of our baptism**. We are reminding ourselves that we are a **child of God**. We are all part of God's family and we are **loved by God** very, very much.



GOSPEL MARK 1:7-11

The Good News about Jesus is told to us by St Mark.

The people who come to John for baptism want to change their lives and make a new start. Like all these ordinary people, and like us, Jesus himself comes to be baptised. Jesus is making a new start and beginning his public ministry. John tells us that Jesus will baptise not only

with water, but with the Holy Spirit. Mark records how special Jesus' baptism is. As Jesus comes up from the water, the heavens open and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove comes down on Jesus. God the Father is heard saying that "this is my Son, the beloved."

STAND to LISTEN

to the priest or deacon as he prepares to read the Gospel. Before he reads the Gospel, what does the priest do to his forehead, his lips and his heart?



PRAY

Lord, you offer freedom to all people. Bless those who are in prison, their families and prison staff. Heal anyone who has been hurt because of crime. Help us all to forgive others. Amen.



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Dear Lord, I would like to pray for anyone who does not feel loved by their family. Help them to feel your love and to find people who will care for them. Lord, hear my prayer.

Listen to the reader as he or she encourages us to pray for situations and people in need. Here is a prayer you could say privately.



OFFERTORY PROCESSION

As we take our gifts of bread, wine and money to the altar, think of a time this week when you felt alone and then think of a time when you felt loved by someone in your family.

Say a little prayer offering these thoughts up to God.

Watch as the gifts are made ready and the priest washes his hands and prepares for the Eucharistic Prayer.



THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Today's special prayer thanks God for fulfilling all God's promises to us.

What can you give special thanks for today?

We listen to the prayer of praise and thanks to God.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

As the priest extends his hands, we say the prayer that Jesus taught us.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold the One of whom John said:
I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

You are invited to sing a Communion song or say this verse, which has been especially chosen for today's celebration.



MY PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Thank you, Jesus, for showing us what real love is. Help me live as God the Father asks and to put my love into action. Amen.



IXΘΥΣ

is the Greek word for "fish" and was used in the catacombs as a sign for early Christians. It is made up from the first letter of five Greek titles for the Lord:

- I (Jesus)
- X (Christos)
- Θ (Theou/God's)
- Υ (Uios/Son)
- Σ (Soter/Saviour)



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FSC logo



We take Jesus with us to carry on the work that he did on earth, until we meet again next Sunday.

Go in peace.

