

**Evening Prayer on Sunday 10 January 2021,  
The Baptism of Christ**

A star leads the wise three to the infant King of all.

**Alleluia.**

In the waters of baptism Jesus is revealed as Christ.

**Alleluia.**

In the water made wine Christ revealed a new creation.

**Alleluia.**

Let us worship the Lord whose Glory streams towards us.

Blessed are you, Sovereign God,  
our light and our salvation,  
to you be glory and praise for ever.

You gave your Christ as a light to the nations,  
and through the anointing of the Spirit  
you established us as a royal priesthood.

As you call us into your marvellous light,  
may our lives bear witness to your truth  
and our lips never cease to proclaim your praise.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God for ever**

*Silence is kept.*

*Psalm 46*

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble;

**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains tremble in the heart of the sea;**

Though the waters rage and swell, and though the mountains quake at the towering seas.

**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place of the dwelling of the Most High.**

God is in the midst of her; therefore shall she not be removed; God shall help her at the break of day.

**The nations are in uproar and the kingdoms are shaken, but God utters his voice and the earth shall melt away.**

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

**Come and behold the works of the Lord, what destruction he has wrought upon the earth.**

He makes wars to cease in all the world; he shatters the bow and snaps the spear and burns the chariots in the fire.

**‘Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.’**

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

**God of Jacob, when the earth shakes and the nations are in uproar, speak, and let the storm be still; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

*A reading from the Gospel of Mark*

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.’

*Responses*

Christ, Splendour of the Father’s glory,  
sustaining the worlds by your Word of power,  
**renew your Presence in our lives.**

Christ, begotten of the Father before time, born at Bethlehem in time,  
**make us a sign of simplicity and joy.**

Christ, our bright Morning Star, when this world’s darkness is past,  
**bring us into your eternal light.**

*Sermon*

*Music for reflection*

*The Magnificat (Luke 1.46-55)*

- 1 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.**
  - 2 From this day all generations will call me blessed; the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his name.**
  - 3 He has mercy on those who fear him, from generation to generation.**
  - 4 He has shown strength with his arm and has scattered the proud in their conceit,**
  - 5 Casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.**
  - 6 He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.**
  - 7 He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, to remember his promise of mercy,**
  - 8 The promise made to our ancestors, to Abraham and his children for ever.**
- Glorify to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

*Intercessions using the response*

Let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, in your mercy, hear us**

*Silence may be kept.*

*Collect*

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.  
**Amen.**

Believing the promises of God, as our Saviour taught us, so we 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.  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

May Christ, who sends us to the nations,  
give us the power of his Spirit.  
**Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**