



THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

10 January 2016



**Sentence**

The Holy Spirit descended on Jesus in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.

*Luke 3.22*

**Collect of the day.**

Spirit of energy and change, in whose power Jesus was anointed to be the hope of the nations;  
be poured out also upon us  
without reserve or distinction,  
that we may have confidence and strength  
to implant your justice on the earth,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah**

*These words are among the most beautiful and comforting in the Hebrew scriptures. Perhaps they should be part of the baptismal service!*

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.'

*Is43.1-7*

**Reader** Hear the word of the Lord

**ALL** Thanks be to God

**Psalm 29 APBA, page 248**

*This hymn to the God of the storm affirms that above the tumult God reigns in majestic peace.*

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

*In Acts believers usually receive the Holy Spirit at baptism, or before. Here, it is the reverse and no explanation is offered. Clearly, to be fully effective baptism needs to take place within a community which has received 'the apostles' and their teaching and which will nurture the newly baptized in faith.*

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.

*Acts 8.14-17*

**Reader** May your word live in us

**ALL** And bear much fruit to your glory

**Gospel Acclamation**

**ALL** Alleluia, alleluia

A voice came from heaven,

'You are the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

**ALL** Alleluia, alleluia

**Reader** The Lord be with you

**ALL** And also with you

**Reader** A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

**ALL** Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

*Luke's telling of the story of Jesus' baptism includes reference to Jesus' prayer, a common occurrence in Luke. The words spoken by God 'you are my beloved, with you I am well pleased' would also be a good addition to the baptismal liturgy, don't you think?*

In the wilderness John proclaimed a baptism of repentance.

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.'

So, with many other exhortations, he 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.'

*Luke 3. 15-22*

Reader For the Gospel of the Lord

**ALL Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **PRAYER FOR THE WEEK**

Open the heaven, gracious God,

and pour out your Spirit upon your people gathered in prayer.

Renew the power of our baptismal cleansing and fill us with zeal for good deeds. Let us hear your voice once again, that we may recognise in your beloved Son our hope of inheriting eternal life.

grant this through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh,

who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

in the splendour of eternal light, God forever and ever. Amen.

*From Opening Prayers. Collects in contemporary Language. ICEL, 1999.*

### **Pray for the Faithful Departed**

We remember before God: Stanley Owen, Gregory Edmund Campion Gibson, Cynthia McInnes, Florence Scott, Ross Rampling, Elsie Frances Summons, Ethel Hawker-Blyth, Frederick Southcott, Kenneth Mountford, Daisy Searby, Bessie Dutra *whose anniversaries occur this week.*

### **BIBLE READINGS NEXT SUNDAY 17 January 2016**

Second Sunday after Epiphany Yr C.

Isaiah 62.1-5 Psalm 36.5-10 1 Cor. 12.1-11 John 2.1-11

### **COMMEMORATIONS OF THE WEEK.**

**January 13 Hilary of Poitiers (c. 315-368).** Bishop and teacher, and a strong defender of orthodoxy. He is called the 'Athanasius of the West' for his defence of a true understanding of Christ's humanity and divinity. **January 14 Sava, first bishop of the Serbian Church (c. 1176-1235).** Patron saint of Serbia. He became a monk at Mt. Athos in Greece, and in 1219 he established an independent Serbian Church, and became its first archbishop.

Our brother in Christ, **John Sylva** died peacefully last Sunday evening. We offer our love and prayers to Adrienne and all John's family and we will farewell him with our tears and alleluia's next Friday. On The Epiphany of our Lord (Wed. 6th) the new grandson that John knew was arriving soon, was born. Congratulations to the new parents and grandmother Adrienne. Blessed be God source of all life.

A prayer for the meeting of Anglican Primates in Canterbury commencing this week on 11 January.

Lord, this is a part of Your Church Militant.

You called us after redeeming us through Your Son's sacrificial death, triumphant resurrection and glorious

Ascension. Help us as a Communion to hear clearly

what You are saying to us in this age,

grant this gathering and meeting Your Spirit

that it may lead in such a way as to bring

honour and glory to Your name, peace and better understanding to Your church, growth and development to every part of the

Communion. We ask in Christ's name. **Amen.**