

# SUNDAY READINGS & PRAYERS

BAPTISM OF CHRIST (YEAR C)

## 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.**

## FIRST READING

*Isa 43.1-7*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

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.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*from Ps 29*



**R.** The Lord will bless his people with peace.  
(*All repeat*)



Ascribe to the Lord, you | powers of heaven,  
ascribe to the Lord glo-|ry and strength.  
Ascribe to the Lord the honour due un-|to  
his name;  
worship the Lord in the beau-|ty of holiness. **R.**

The voice of the Lord is up-|on the waters;  
the God of | glory thunders.  
The voice of the Lord is mighty in | operation;  
the voice of the Lord is a | glorious voice. **R.**

The Lord sits enthroned a-|bove the  
waterflood;  
the Lord sits enthroned as king for | evermore.  
The Lord shall give strength | to his people;  
the Lord shall give his people the bless-|ing  
of peace. **R.**

## SECOND READING

*Acts 8.14-17*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

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.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Mt 3.17*

**Alleluia.**

This is my Son, the Beloved:  
with whom I am well pleased.

**Alleluia.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel ✠ of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**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 Christ, John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, 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 heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

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PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Open the heavens, Lord God, and send your transforming Spirit on us and on these gifts. May we who are baptized into Christ be ready to share his cup of suffering and strengthened to serve him for ever; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit, complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

May the Father, whose voice bore witness to his beloved Son at the River Jordan, bestow upon you the Spirit of adoption as his children. **Amen.**

May Christ, who submitted to baptism at the hands of John, fulfil in you all righteousness and cleanse you from sin. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit, who came upon the Son at his baptism, pour out his gifts on you who have come to the waters of new birth. **Amen.**

And the blessing ...