
The Baptism of Jesus (9th January) *Epiphany 3 (23rd January)*

The weeks of Epiphany deepen our understanding of the Incarnation – God living among as a human being - as we celebrate the ‘epiphany’ or ‘showing’ of Jesus’ divine glory to the world.

Opening Sentence

John 1:14

We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

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

We have come together in the name of Christ to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive God’s holy word, to pray for the needs of the world, and to seek the forgiveness of our sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may give ourselves to the service of God.

Opening Responses

O Lord, open our lips:

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

O God make speed to save us:

O Lord make haste to help us.

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

Praise the Lord.

The Lord’s name be praised.

Hymn

Prayer of Preparation

Faithful one, whose word is life: come with saving power to free our praise, inspire our prayer and shape our lives for the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Invitation to Confession

As we kneel with the Kings before the new-born Christ child, we open our hearts in penitence and faith, and call to mind our sins.

Silence is kept

Let us return to the Lord our God and say to him:

Father, we have sinned against heaven and against you. We are not worthy to be called your children. We turn to you again. Have mercy on us, bring us back to yourself as those who were once dead but now have life through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour, forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Collect for the Baptism of Jesus

Heavenly Father, at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son: may we recognize him as our Lord and know ourselves to be your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Collect for Epiphany 3

*God of all mercy, your Son proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed: anoint us with your Holy Spirit and set all your people free to praise you in Christ our Lord. **Amen.***

Psalms: 46 (9th) 33:1-12 (23rd)

Bible Readings: Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22 (9th) Luke 14: 14-21 (23rd)

Address

Affirmation of Faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the church.

This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers

Let us pray in silence for our own needs and for the needs of others:

At the conclusion:

Lord, meet us in the silence. **And hear our prayer.**

Holy God, Make us transparent with your light and use our prayers to bring light to others. **Amen.**

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, as our Saviour has 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.

The Song of Simeon (Nunc Dimittis)

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:

your word has been fulfilled.

My own eyes have seen the salvation

which you have prepared in the sight of every people;

A light to reveal you to the nations

and the glory of your people Israel.

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.

Prayer

God of glory, you nourish us with your Word who is the bread of life: fill us with your Holy Spirit that through us the light of your glory may shine in all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Final Hymn

Blessing

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ shine in our hearts and fill our lives with his joy and peace; and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:

In the name of Christ, Amen.
