



SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

7th January 2023

The Baptism of the Lord

Let us watch Songs of Praise together on the ABC and then set the table for our shared meal.



- ***Setting our table for our Sunday lunch service.***

Sometimes we eat, in front of the TV either together or alone; we eat on the run; we eat out in restaurants or even in our car; but today we sit at a table that we have set for our Sunday lunch meal. It is our everyday altar of life-giving food.

- ***Prayerful and intentional preparation for a meal***

As we celebrate today let us define the occasion lighting a candle or similar in remembrance of our own Baptism. Give some thought to the presentation of our meal as a meditation on the importance of the time we are setting aside for worship.



Jesus is baptised by John the Baptist. Jesus didn't need to repent from sin, but in being baptised, the sanctification of his humanity made way for us to enter into the sanctification of his divinity. In basic terms our repentance opens us up for God's action in our lives. This means God accepts us as His worthy vessels. Like the spirit resting upon Jesus so we can receive the spirit of God in our lives. This is God's grace in living action that still applies today. True Repentance can transform one's destiny from disaster to infinite possibilities. From living in the mediocre to living in the miraculous.

- ***opening prayer — consciously drawing together in our mind our Parish community around our table.***

Be still and silent. Visualise in your mind, those whom you invited to share with you. Pray:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Here, and throughout the world,
We adore you O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. Amen**



Bless this food, both physical and spiritual.

Bless all who gather at your table, both seen and unseen, In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

- ***Let us read and reflect on our cycle of readings***

A reading from the book of Genesis, Chapter 1 beginning at Verse 1

1 In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, 2 the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. 3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. 4 And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the



light from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. [NRSV Genesis 1:1-5]

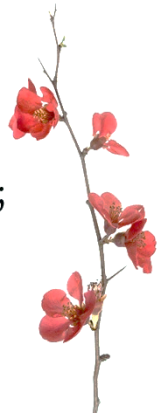
Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God**

Psalm 29

- 1 Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven:
ascribe to the Lord glory and might.
- 2 Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name:
O worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness.
- 3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters:
the God of glory thunders,
the Lord upon the great waters.
- 4 The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation:
the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.
- 5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar-trees:
the Lord breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.
- 6 He makes them skip like a calf:
Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild ox.
- 7 The voice of the Lord divides the lightning-flash:
the voice of the Lord whirls the sands of the desert,
the Lord whirls the desert of Kadesh.
- 8 The voice of the Lord rends the terebinth trees,
and strips bare the forests:
in his temple all cry 'Glory.'
- 9 The Lord sits enthroned above the water-flood:
the Lord sits enthroned as a king for ever.
- 10 The Lord will give strength to his people:
the Lord will give to his people the blessing of peace.

The Lord
gives
STRENGTH
to his people;
the Lord
blesses his
people with
PEACE.

-Psalm 29:11



A reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 19 beginning at Verse 1

1 While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. 2 He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." 3 Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." 4 Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." 5 On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied - 7 altogether there were about twelve of them. [NRSV Acts 19:1-7]



Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark, Chapter 1 beginning at Verse 4 Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

4 John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 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. 6 Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild



honey. 7 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. 8 I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 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. 11 And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." [NRSV Mark 1:4-11]

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sentence

God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; and he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

• eating reflectively and responding to the passage

Let us now engage in some quiet reflection, or conversation and sharing, responding to the Gospel passage. We may like to write down some key thoughts for further reflection.

They were baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit came on them. The Lord gives His strength to His people.

Repentance
is a change
OF  MIND
and
Heart 

The bottom line about sin is that humanity lives in deficit against the purity of goodness. Repentance is all about wanting a positive change in our lives. Repentance before God is about asking Him to be our guide. God leads us into a new hope and healing that restores us into the full potential He has for us. So, when John the Baptist calls the people to repent of their sins, he is telling them God has so much more for them. God is actually wanting to fill that deficit in our lives with Himself.

prayer-time

Now let us continue to offer our prayers and thanksgiving. We pray for healing of the world; We pray for all those who continue to be affected by violence and conflict around the world especially in Israel and Gaza and Ukraine. We pray that all parties will work towards an end of the conflict and move to find peaceful solutions,

God of peace, bearer of hope, we seek your help for the people caught in the middles of conflict. Quiet the clamour of war and guide us all in your ways of peace.

We pray for family; for members of the parish and wider community, for the life and ministry of the Church, for encouragement in our journey of faith.

We continue to pray alongside those in our parish asking for prayer, Jean N Brendas family Colin, Allison, Pat Foord, , Georgia (Sunaras Mum). Pat V David, Brenda, Joanie, Jo Jan, Joy I, Leanne, Daniella, Joyce and Ted, Mary R, Jac Bishop; Eileen Cook; Yvonne S; C Cooling; Ursula Pridham; Trish McD; Barbara Webber; Tom Arnold; Nicholas & Ben; Sue & Frank Thomas; Gordon Russell; Emily and her family; Trish Simon; Christina and any others we wish to remember, either silently or aloud.



Let us say the Lord's Prayer Together. Our Father

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Prayer of the Day

Eternal God,
at the baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan
you proclaimed him your beloved Son,
and anointed him with the Holy Spirit:
grant that all who are baptised into his name
may keep the covenant they have made,
and boldly confess him as Lord and Saviour;
who with you and the Holy Spirit
lives and reigns one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**



Conclude the meal with the following prayer together.

***May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be amongst us and remain with us always.
Amen.***

Intentional connection beyond your home

After our Table Service, make contact with others who may be alone or missing seeing their families and loved ones during the Christmas Season. Use the time to catch up with your family and friends who are interstate or overseas. Use email or face time or SMS to keep in contact and share with others the Joy of Christmas and the promise of a brighter and better future in 2024 Let God guide you to the person or persons with whom you should connect. Contact them. Start a conversation: Share with them the Joy of Christmas. Emmanuel - God is with us.

